

S. RES. 223

Whereas, since September 1999, the Russian Federation has conducted a military operation against Chechnya that has resulted in the deaths of thousands of innocent civilians and the displacement of more than 200,000 people;

Whereas the Russian armed forces is launching repeated bombing attacks on the capital city of Grozny;

Whereas the recent conflict in Chechnya represents a continuation of the use of military force by Russia in 1994-1996, which caused the deaths of approximately 100,000 citizens of Russia;

Whereas neither the use of force in 1994-1996, nor the current use of force in Chechnya enhances the prospects for a peaceful resolution of the status of Chechnya;

Whereas the United States condemns terrorism in all forms, including the bombing attacks of apartment buildings in Moscow and Volgograd in the summer of 1999;

Whereas the appropriate manner to combat terrorist attacks is not through the use of indiscriminate force against civilians;

Whereas on November 4, 1999, Elena Bonner, Chairman of the Andrei Sakharov Foundation, testified before the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate that "carpet bombing and shelling of cities, villages, and refugee convoys attempting to escape the war zone constitute a grave violation of the Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War and the Additional Protocols and demonstrate the Russian government's complete disregard for these extremely important international agreements";

Whereas the United States believes that the recent targeting of ethnic minorities by local Russian officials, including blanket detentions and expulsions, calls into question the commitment of the Government of Russia to pluralism in the process of democratic reform in that country;

Whereas the Government of Russia has limited media access to and coverage of the conflict in Chechnya to preserve Russian popular support for the military operation;

Whereas the Government of Russia has openly violated its commitments under the Flank Document to the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe with its deployments of military equipment in and around Chechnya; and

Whereas the conduct of the Russian armed forces in Chechnya threatens to destabilize the southern part of the Russian Federation as well as the region of the Caucasus as a whole: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the use of indiscriminate force by the Russian armed forces against civilians in Chechnya;

(2) urges the Russian Federation—

(A) to assist those persons who have been displaced from Chechnya as a result of the conflict; and

(B) to allow representatives of the international community access to the internally displaced persons for humanitarian relief; and

(3) calls upon Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Prime Minister Vladimir Putin to devote every effort, including the use of third-party mediation, to the peaceful resolution of the conflict in Chechnya.

SENATE RESOLUTION 224—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE TO DESIGNATE NOVEMBER 11, 1999, AS A SPECIAL DAY FOR RECOGNIZING THE MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES AND THE CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES OF THE UNITED STATES WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE RECENT CONFLICT IN KOSOVO AND THE BALKANS

Mr. CLELAND submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 224

Whereas approximately 39,000 members of the Armed Forces and civilian employees of the United States were deployed at the peak of the 1999 conflict in Kosovo;

Whereas approximately 700 United States aircraft were deployed and committed to combat missions during that conflict;

Whereas approximately 37,000 combat sorties were flown by aircraft of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) during that conflict;

Whereas approximately 25,000 combat sorties were flown by United States aircraft during that conflict;

Whereas more than 5,000 weapons strike missions were completed during that conflict;

Whereas that conflict was the largest combat operation in the history of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization;

Whereas the United States and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization achieved all the military objectives of that conflict;

Whereas there were no United States or North Atlantic Treaty Organization combat fatalities during that conflict; and

Whereas that conflict was the most precise air assault in history: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the Sense of the Senate—

(1) to designate November 11, 1999, as a special day for recognizing and welcoming home the members of the Armed Forces (including active component and reserve component personnel), and the civilian personnel of the United States, who participated in the recently-completed operations in Kosovo and the Balkans, including combat operations and humanitarian assistance operations;

(2) to designate November 11, 1999, as a special day for remembering the members of the Armed Forces deployed in Kosovo and throughout the world, and the families of such members;

(3) to make the designations under paragraphs (1) and (2) on November 11, 1999, in light of the traditional celebration and recognition of the veterans of the United States on November 11 each year;

(4) to acknowledge that the members of the Armed Forces who served in Kosovo and the Balkans responded to the call to arms during a time of change in world history;

(5) to recognize that we live in times of international unrest and that the conflict in Kosovo was a dangerous military operation, as all combat operations are; and

(6) to acknowledge that the United States owes a debt of gratitude to the members of the Armed Forces who served in the conflict in Kosovo, to their families, and to all the members of the Armed Forces who place themselves in harm's way each and every day.

SENATE RESOLUTION 225—TO DESIGNATE NOVEMBER 23, 2000, THANKSGIVING DAY, AS A DAY TO "GIVE THANKS, GIVE LIFE" AND TO DISCUSS ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION WITH OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS

Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. FRIST, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. DORGAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. MACK, Mr. DODD, and Mr. THURMOND) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 225

Whereas traditionally, Thanksgiving is a time for families to take time out of their busy lives to come together and to give thanks for the many blessings in their lives;

Whereas approximately 21,000 men, women, and children in the United States are given the gift of life each year through transplantation surgery, made possible by the generosity of organ and tissue donations;

Whereas more than 66,000 Americans are awaiting their chance to prolong their lives by finding a matching donor;

Whereas nearly 5,000 of these patients each year (or 13 patients each day) die while waiting for a donated heart, liver, kidney, or other organ;

Whereas nationwide there are up to 15,000 potential donors annually, but families' consent to donation is received for less than 6,000;

Whereas the need for organ donations greatly exceeds the supply available;

Whereas designation as an organ donor on a driver's license or voter's registration is a valuable step, but does not ensure donation when an occasion arises;

Whereas the demand for transplantation will likely increase in the coming years due to the growing safety of transplantation surgery due to improvements in technology and drug developments, prolonged life expectancy, and increased prevalence of diseases that may lead to organ damage and failure, including hypertension, alcoholism, and hepatitis C infection;

Whereas the need for a more diverse donor pool, including a variety of racial and ethnic minorities, will continue to grow in the coming years;

Whereas the final decision on whether a potential donor can share the gift of life usually is made by surviving family members regardless of the patient's initial intent;

Whereas many Americans have indicated a willingness to donate their organs and tissues but have not discussed this critical matter with the family members who are most likely to make the decision, if the occasion arises, as to whether that person will be an organ and tissue donor;

Whereas some family members may be reluctant to give consent to donate their deceased loved one's organs and tissues at a very difficult and emotional time if that person has not clearly expressed a desire or willingness to do so;

Whereas the vast majority of Americans are likely to spend part of Thanksgiving Day with some of those family members who would be approached to make such a decision; and

Whereas it is fitting for families to spend a portion of that day discussing how they might give life to others on a day devoted to giving thanks for their own blessings: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate designates November 23, 2000, Thanksgiving Day, as a day to "Give Thanks, Give Life" and to discuss organ and tissue donation with other family