

confront common threats, including organized crime, corruption, and trafficking in illicit narcotics;

Whereas the people of Mexico have struggled for decades for a true representative democracy, accountability, and the rule of law and, in recent years, they have sought and obtained significant political and electoral reforms in pursuit of those objectives;

Whereas the Federal Electoral Institute and its regional councils, now genuinely independent and representative bodies, were responsible for organizing the federal elections on July 2, 2000, in which nearly 1,000,000 citizens participated directly in conducting the balloting for a new president, a new national congress, and state or local officials in Mexico City as well as 10 states;

Whereas the July 2nd elections were observed by approximately 2,500,000 domestic monitors and 850 foreign visitors, including delegations of the United States-based International Republican Institute for International Affairs and the National Democratic Institute;

Whereas in the July 2nd elections, Vicente Fox Quesada of the Alliance for Change (consisting of the National Action Party and the Mexican Green Party) was elected President of the United Mexican States, receiving 42.5 percent of the 37,600,000 votes cast, according to preliminary results released by the Federal Electoral Institute; and

Whereas, according to the Federal Electoral Institute and domestic and international observers, the July 2nd elections were unprecedented in their degree of fairness and transparency, forming the foundation for a genuinely democratic and pluralistic government that represents the will and sovereignty of the people of Mexico: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved,

SECTION 1. CONGRATULATING THE PEOPLE OF MEXICO ON THE OCCASION OF THE DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS HELD IN MEXICO.

(a) CONGRATULATING THE PEOPLE OF MEXICO.—The Senate, on behalf of the people of the United States, hereby—

(1) congratulates the people of Mexico for their long, courageous, and fruitful struggle for representative democracy and the rule of law;

(2) congratulates Vicente Fox Quesada for his electoral triumph and extends to him genuine best wishes for great success in his formation of a new government; and

(3) congratulates Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de Leon, current President of the United Mexican States, for his historic commitment to ensure the peaceful and stable transition of power.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that the United States should seek to—

(1) expand and intensify its cooperation with the newly elected Government of Mexico to promote economic development and to reduce poverty to achieve an improved quality of life for citizens of both countries;

(2) confront common threats such as the trafficking in illicit narcotics; and

(3) act in solidarity to actively promote representative democracy and the rule of law throughout the world.

SEC. 2. TRANSMITTAL OF RESOLUTION.

The Secretary of the Senate shall transmit a copy of this resolution to—

(1) Vicente Fox Quesada, President-elect of the United Mexican States;

(2) Luis Felipe Bravo Mena, president of the National Action Party of Mexico;

(3) the International Republican Institute for International Affairs and the National Democratic Institute; and

(4) the Secretary of State with the request that the Secretary further transmit such

copy to Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de Leon, President of the United Mexican States.

GOLD MEDAL TO POPE JOHN PAUL II

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of H.R. 3544, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3544) to authorize a gold medal to be presented on behalf of the Congress to Pope John Paul II in recognition of his many and enduring contributions to peace and religious understanding, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read the third time, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 3544) was read the third time and passed.

A GOLD MEDAL TO NANCY AND RONALD REAGAN

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 578, H.R. 3591.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3591) to provide for the award of a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to former President Ronald Reagan and his wife Nancy Reagan in recognition of their service to the Nation.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, tonight, we pass and clear for the President's signature a fitting tribute for a pair of American heroes, the Congressional Gold Medal. I am privileged and deeply honored to have been joined and supported by so many of my colleagues and others in this effort.

In his first inaugural address, President Reagan encouraged a nation by stating, "Let us begin an era of national renewal. Let us renew our determination, our courage, and our strength. And let us renew our faith and our hope."

Former President Ronald Reagan spoke these words almost two decades ago at his first inauguration ceremony, inspiring a generation. During his 8 years as President of the United States, Ronald Reagan successfully reshaped America's hope and sparked a national renewal, marked by unprecedented global peace, economic growth, military superiority, and the spread of freedom and liberty.

Serving as the leader of the world's greatest superpower, President Reagan

preferred to see himself as a simple citizen who had been called upon to aid the Nation he so loved. He believed fervently in the American dream and wanted the American people to realize it fully.

Through every historic fight and landmark decision, the ever-gracious First Lady, Nancy, was by President Reagan's side. A distinguished leader in her own right, she traveled tirelessly throughout the country promoting her famous "Just Say No" campaign. The project is aimed at preventing alcohol and drug use among our youth.

In his tenure, President Reagan restored America's sense of pride and set us squarely on the course of prosperity we still enjoy today. He facilitated the collapse of the Soviet Union that brought an end to the cold war. Who could forget his ringing challenge from Berlin's Bradenburg Gate, "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this Wall!" By 1989, to the amazement of the world, Germany was unified, and the Wall was a memory. Reagan's character, wit, and eloquence as the "Great Communicator" brought honor to the Office of the President and endeared him to all Americans and, indeed, all the world.

Former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher once commented, "Not since Lincoln, or Winston Churchill in Britain, has there been a President who has so understood the power of words to uplift and inspire." Mr. President, I couldn't agree more.

His one-time rival for superpower dominance, Mikhail Gorbachev, described honoring the Reagans with the Congressional Gold Medal as "... a fitting tribute to the fortieth President of the United States, who will go down in history as a man profoundly dedicated to his people and committed to the values of democracy and freedom."

Together, the Reagans selflessly dedicated their lives to promoting national pride and bettering the quality of life in America. Together, they continue their battle with Alzheimer's disease, displaying the dignity for which they are famous. Mrs. Reagan remains committed to community service. In his honor, she has become a national advocate for heightening Alzheimer's disease awareness. Their fight inspires hope in millions of Americans who share their struggle.

The leadership and dedication that President and Mrs. Reagan provided this Nation undeniably abides with us still. It is fitting for a grateful people and Nation to say, "Thank you."

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read the third time, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 3591) was read the third time and passed.