

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today in support of this bill that would provide critical funding that is needed to preserve the operations of existing Women's Business Centers that currently serve women entrepreneurs in almost every State and territory.

Women-owned businesses breathe new life into our economy, grow at twice the rate of all firms, and create jobs with pace-setting results. With 10.6 million women-owned businesses across the Nation, employing more than 19 million Americans, and generating nearly \$2.5 trillion in revenue—indeed, they are nothing short of an economic powerhouse!

Part of our job is to make sure that Government programs continue to help small and women-owned businesses. We can't afford to ignore, or reduce, the extraordinary contributions America's business women are making to our economy, our society, and our future.

The Small Business Administration's Women's Business Center has been a tremendous resource to women-owned businesses across the Nation. Since the program was introduced through the Small Business Ownership Act of 1988, and made permanent in 1997, Congress has agreed seven times that this program is critical for women business owners. In fact, the program's unique training and counseling helped clients generate more than \$235 million in revenue and create or retain over 6,500 jobs in 2003. This program clearly has a record of success, fostering job growth and providing American small businesses with the opportunity to thrive.

If we look at the centers that are achieving the greatest impact, it is the established centers. The results of their outreach and one-on-one assistance has made it possible for the Small Business Administration to achieve its goals as it measures the success of the products and programs offered by these centers.

However, 11 of our longest standing Women's Business Centers located in California, Colorado, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Mexico, Oregon, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin now face the possibility of closing their doors. The Federal Government has invested 10 years helping to establish these centers which, in turn, have helped women-owned businesses start and existing businesses grow.

In accordance with outdated legislation, the SBA plans to award 92 competitive grants to regular and sustainable women's business centers in September with the fiscal year 2005 appropriations. However, our 11 longest standing centers will not be eligible to compete for these grants. This was not the intent of the Senate. Last Congress, the Senate agreed to transform the women's business center program into a 3-year competitive grant program which is reflected in my bill, S. 1375, The Small Business Administration's 50th Anniversary Reauthorization Act of 2003. While the House failed to pass their version of the bill, limited

provisions of the bill were included in the fiscal year 2005 Omnibus package. However, the women's business center provisions, among others, failed to make the omnibus bill and this program now operates under outdated legislation.

This emergency legislation temporarily solves this problem and preserves our investment by simply making the women's sustainability grant funding available for these 11 existing centers only during fiscal year 2005. While we must fix the funding problem in the long-run, we also face a crisis today. With this legislation, existing centers that have been established for the longest period of time would be able to operate without disruption in funding and could continue the programs and services they currently offer. Moreover, this provision does not require any additional appropriations but only reallocates current funds.

As Chair of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, I take great pride in the fact that my own State of Maine leads the way for women-owned businesses. Today, there are more than 63,000 women-owned firms in Maine, employing over 75,000 Mainers and generating more than \$9 billion in sales. We must all be committed to multiplying that story of success in every State in America.

It is our duty to ensure that Americans have the necessary resources to start, grow and develop a business. I am committed to resolving the temporary funding crisis through this bill and I am committed to working with my colleagues to ensure the long-term viability of the program for today's women entrepreneurs and those of tomorrow.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read the third time and 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 (S. 1517) was read the third time and passed, as follows:

S. 1517

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. WOMEN'S BUSINESS CENTERS.

Section 29(k) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 656(k)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(5) **PRIOR RECIPIENTS.**—Notwithstanding subsection (1)(1), any recipient of a grant under subsection (1) whose 5-year project ended in fiscal year 2004, is eligible to apply to receive the funds for grants to continue Women's Business Centers in sustainability status for fiscal year 2005, made available by Public Law 108-447 (118 Stat. 2911).”

RECOGNIZING THE GREATEST GENERATION HOME COMING WEEKEND

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Sen-

ate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 216, which was submitted earlier today.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 216) expressing gratitude and appreciation to the men and women of the United States Armed Forces who served in World War II, commending the acts of heroism displayed by those servicemembers, and recognizing the “Greatest Generation Homecoming Weekend” to be held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 216) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 216

Whereas World War II began on September 1, 1939, when Nazi Germany invaded Poland without a declaration of war and then moved, following the surrender of Poland, to invade and occupy Denmark, Norway, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, and Belgium;

Whereas following the premeditated invasion by Japan on the United States at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on December 7, 1941, the United States declared war on Japan and entered World War II on the side of freedom and democracy;

Whereas when the fate of the free world was in jeopardy as a direct result of the desire of Adolf Hitler and the Nazi regime for world conquest, the servicemembers of the United States Armed Forces known as the “Greatest Generation” assumed the task of freeing the world of Nazism, fascism, and tyranny;

Whereas more than 16,000,000 Americans served in the United States Armed Forces during World War II, and millions more supported the war effort at home;

Whereas more than 400,000 brave Americans made the ultimate sacrifice during World War II in the name of freedom and in defense of the ideals that the people of the United States hold dear;

Whereas units of the United States Army, such as the 1st Infantry Division known as the “Big Red One”, the 3rd Infantry Division known as the “Rock of the Marne”, the 10th Armored Division known as the “Tiger Division”, and the “Flying Tigers” of the 14th Air Force, valiantly fought to defeat the oppression and tyranny of the Axis Powers;

Whereas the great tragedy of World War II was the defining event of the 20th century, when the brave men and women of the United States Armed Forces fought for the common defense of the United States and for the broader causes of peace and freedom from tyranny throughout the world; and

Whereas the members of the United States Armed Forces, including the “Greatest Generation” of World War II, made sacrifices and displayed bravery and heroism in the name of freedom and democracy throughout the world; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses appreciation to the members of the United States Armed Forces who served during World War II, for—

(A) the selfless service of those servicemembers to the United States;

(B) restoring freedom to the world; and

(C) defeating the elements of evil and oppression;

(2) commends the heroism and bravery displayed by the members of the United States Armed Forces who served during World War II, known as the "Greatest Generation", in the face of death and severe hardship, and honors those servicemembers who made the ultimate sacrifice;

(3) proudly honors the members of the "Greatest Generation" on the occasion of the forthcoming 60th anniversary of the end of World War II, and in conjunction with the "Greatest Generation Homecoming Weekend" in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania;

(4) proudly honors all members of the United States Armed Forces, past and present, who defend the freedom of the United States in times of both war and peace; and

(5) commends the participants of the "Greatest Generation Homecoming Weekend" that takes place from September 2, 2005 through September 5, 2005 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

NATIONAL MARINA DAY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 217, submitted earlier today.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 217) designating August 13, 2005 as "National Marina Day".

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution and preamble be agreed to, en bloc, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 217) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 217

Whereas the people of the United States value highly recreational time and the ability to access the waterways of the United States, one of the country's greatest natural resources;

Whereas in 1928, the National Association of Engine and Boat Manufacturers first used the word "marina" to describe a recreational boating facility;

Whereas the United States is home to more than 12,000 marinas that contribute substantially to local communities by providing safe and reliable gateways to boating;

Whereas the marinas of the United States serve as stewards of the environment and actively seek to protect surrounding waterways for the enjoyment of this generation and generations to come;

Whereas the marinas of the United States provide communities and visitors with a place where friends and families, united by a passion for the water, can come together for recreation, rest, and relaxation; and

Whereas the Association of Marina Industries has designated August 13, 2005 as "National Marina Day" to increase awareness among citizens, policymakers, and elected officials about the many contributions that marinas make to communities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates August 13, 2005 as "National Marina Day";

(2) encourages the people of the United States to observe "National Marina Day" with appropriate programs and activities; and

(3) urges the marinas of the United States to continue to provide environmentally friendly gateways to boating for the people of the United States.

NATIONAL HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES WEEK

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration and the Senate proceed to S. Res. 158.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 158) expressing the sense of the Senate that the President should designate the week beginning September 11, 2005, as "National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week".

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 158) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 158

Whereas there are 105 historically Black colleges and universities in the United States;

Whereas historically Black colleges and universities provide the quality education essential to full participation in a complex, highly technological society;

Whereas historically Black colleges and universities have a rich heritage and have played a prominent role in the history of the United States;

Whereas historically Black colleges and universities have allowed many underprivileged students to attain their full potential through higher education; and

Whereas the achievements and goals of historically Black colleges and universities are deserving of national recognition: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved,

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF NATIONAL HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES WEEK.

(a) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that the President should designate the week beginning September 11, 2005, as "National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week".

(b) PROCLAMATION.—The Senate requests the President to issue a proclamation—

(1) designating the week beginning September 11, 2005, as "National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week"; and

(2) calling on the people of the United States and interested groups to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs to demonstrate support for historically Black colleges and universities in the United States.

NATIONAL AIRBORNE DAY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 86.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 86) designating August 16, 2005, as National Airborne Day.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the amendment at the desk be agreed to, the resolution, as amended, be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The amendment (No. 1628) was agreed to, as follows:

On page 5 strike lines 1 through 5, and insert the following:

(2) requests that the people of the United States observe "National Airborne Day" with appropriate programs, ceremonies and activities.

The resolution (S. Res. 86), as amended, was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

(The resolution will be printed in a future edition of the RECORD.)

PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF HELSINKI FINAL ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be discharged from further consideration of S.J. Res. 19 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the joint resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 19) calling upon the President to issue a proclamation recognizing the 30th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the joint resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the joint resolution be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table and that any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.