

Whereas, by 1900, one in five American families decorated a tree during the Christmas season, while, by 1930, a decorated Christmas tree had become a nearly universal part of the American Christmas celebration;

Whereas 32.8 million households in the United States purchased a live-cut Christmas tree in 2005;

Whereas the placement and decoration of live-cut Christmas trees in town squares across the country have become an American tradition;

Whereas, for generations, American families have traveled hundreds and even thousands of miles to celebrate the Christmas season together around a live-cut Christmas tree;

Whereas 36 million live-cut Christmas trees are produced each year, and 98 percent of these trees are shipped or sold directly from Christmas tree farms;

Whereas North Carolina, Oregon, Michigan, Washington, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, New York, Minnesota, Virginia, California, and Ohio are the top producers of live-cut Christmas tree, but Christmas trees are grown in all 50 States;

Whereas there are more than 21,000 growers of Christmas trees in the United States, and approximately 100,000 people are employed in the live-cut Christmas tree industry;

Whereas many Christmas tree growers grow trees on a part-time basis to supplement their other farm and non-farm income;

Whereas growing Christmas trees provides wildlife habitat;

Whereas more than a half million acres of land were planted in Christmas trees in 2005;

Whereas 73 million new Christmas trees will be planted in 2006, and, on average, over 1,500 Christmas trees can be planted per acre; and

Whereas the retail value of all Christmas trees harvested in 2005 was \$1.4 billion: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Congress—

(1) recognizes the important contributions of the live-cut Christmas tree industry, Christmas tree growers, and persons employed in the live-cut Christmas tree industry to the United States economy; and

(2) urges the Secretary of Agriculture to establish programs to raise awareness of the importance of the live-cut Christmas tree industry.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 591—CALLING FOR THE STRENGTHENING OF THE EFFORTS OF THE UNITED STATES TO DEFEAT THE TALIBAN AND TERRORIST NETWORKS IN AFGHANISTAN AND TO HELP AFGHANISTAN DEVELOP LONG-TERM POLITICAL STABILITY AND ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself and Mr. KERRY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 591

Whereas global terrorist networks, including those that attacked the United States on September 11, 2001, continue to threaten the security of the United States and are recruiting new members and developing the capability and plans to attack the United States and its allies throughout the world;

Whereas winning the fight against terrorist networks requires a comprehensive and global effort;

Whereas, according to the Final Report of the National Commission on the Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States, "The U.S. government must identify and prioritize actual or potential terrorist sanctuaries. For each, it should have a realistic strategy to keep possible terrorists insecure and on the run, using all elements of national power.";

Whereas a democratic, stable, and prosperous Afghanistan is a vital security interest of the United States;

Whereas a strong and enduring strategic partnership between the United States and Afghanistan must continue to be a primary objective of both countries to advance a shared vision of peace, freedom, security, and broad-based economic development in Afghanistan and throughout the world;

Whereas the long-term political stability of Afghanistan requires sustained economic development, and the United States has an interest in helping Afghanistan achieve this goal;

Whereas section 101(1) of the Afghanistan Freedom Support Act of 2002 (22 U.S.C. 7511(1)) declares, "The United States and the international community should support efforts that advance the development of democratic civil authorities and institutions in Afghanistan and the establishment of a new broad-based, multi-ethnic, gender-sensitive, and fully representative government in Afghanistan.";

Whereas the Government of Afghanistan continues to make progress in developing the capacity to deliver services to the people of Afghanistan, yet 40 percent of the population is unemployed and 90 percent of the population lacks regular electricity;

Whereas stability in Afghanistan is being threatened by antigovernment and Taliban forces that seek to disrupt political and economic developments throughout the country;

Whereas the Afghan National Army and the Afghan National Police have made some progress but still lack the ability to establish security throughout Afghanistan;

Whereas, despite the efforts of the international community, the United Nations, and the Government of Afghanistan, on September 2, 2006, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime reported that in 2006 opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan increased 59 percent over 2005 levels and reached a record high;

Whereas the number of attacks waged by the Taliban on central, provincial, and local-level government officials and establishments, the Afghan National Army, the Afghan National Police, and North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and United States military personnel increased significantly during 2006 over the number of such attacks that occurred during 2005;

Whereas the number of suicide bombings in Afghanistan doubled and the number of suicide attacks more than tripled from 2005 to 2006;

Whereas the number of United States troops in Afghanistan is approximately 23,000, approximately 1/2 of the number of troops currently in Iraq;

Whereas Osama bin Laden and Ayman al-Zawahiri are still at large and have been reported to be somewhere in the Afghanistan-Pakistan border region;

Whereas Afghan President Hamid Karzai said, "The same enemies that blew up themselves in . . . the twin towers in America are still around.";

Whereas, on September 12, 2006, the United States Secretary of State said, "[A]n Afghanistan that does not complete its democratic evolution and become a stable ter-

rorist-fighting state is going to come back to haunt us. . . . [I]t will come back to haunt our successors and their successors."; and "If we should have learned anything, it is that if you allow that kind of vacuum, if you allow a failed state in that strategic a location, you're going to pay for it.";

Whereas, on September 21, 2006, the Secretary General of NATO called for additional troops for Afghanistan, saying, "more can be done and should be done," and on September 18, 2006, the top United Nations official in Afghanistan said that more troops and economic aid are still needed, saying, "These are difficult times for Afghanistan. . . . If we want to succeed in Afghanistan, the answer is clear: Afghanistan needs more sustained support from the international community.";

Whereas United States assistance to Afghanistan was cut by approximately 30 percent in fiscal year 2006 and the President's request for fiscal year 2007 cut that amount by an additional 67 percent;

Whereas only 50 percent of the money pledged by the international community for Afghanistan between 2002 and 2005 has actually been delivered;

Whereas, on September 20, 2006, NATO's Supreme Allied Commander for Europe said, "Narcotics [are] at the core of everything that can go wrong in Afghanistan if it's not properly tackled." and "We're not making progress—we're losing ground.";

Whereas, if the United States does not strengthen efforts to defeat the Taliban and to create long-term stability in Afghanistan and the region, Afghanistan will become what it was before the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, a haven for those who seek to harm the United States, and a source of instability that threatens the security of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the United States must strengthen its commitment to establishing long-term stability and peace in Afghanistan;

(2) the United States, in partnership with the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and the Government of Afghanistan, must immediately increase its efforts to eradicate the Taliban, terrorist organizations, and criminal networks currently operating in Afghanistan, including by increasing United States military and other personnel and equipment in Afghanistan as necessary;

(3) the United States, in consultation with ISAF and the Government of Afghanistan, should consider all options necessary to implement a comprehensive new program to eliminate opium production in Afghanistan, including sending additional resources to Afghanistan and an increased role for the United States military and North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) forces in counternarcotics efforts;

(4) the United States should work aggressively to hold members of the international community accountable for delivering on the financial pledges they have made to support development and reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan;

(5) the United States and the international community, in concert with the Government of Afghanistan, should increase efforts to strengthen the legitimacy of the Government of Afghanistan and its ability to provide services to the people of Afghanistan;

(6) the United States, in support of the Government of Afghanistan, should significantly increase the amount of economic assistance available for reconstruction, social and economic development, counternarcotics efforts, and democracy promotion activities in Afghanistan;

(7) the President, through the Secretary of State, should develop a comprehensive inter-agency stabilization and reconstruction strategy in coordination with the international community and the Government of Afghanistan that—

(A) aligns humanitarian, development, economic, political, counterterrorism, and regional strategies to achieve the objectives of the United States and Afghanistan in Afghanistan; and

(B) orients current and future programs to meet the objectives set forth in this strategy;

(8) the President, through the Secretary of Defense, should evaluate the impact that United States military operations in Iraq are having on the capability of the United States Government to effectively carry out its mission to support reconstruction efforts and to conduct an effective counterterrorism and counterinsurgency campaign in Afghanistan; and

(9) the President, not later than 6 months after the date this resolution is agreed to, should present to Congress a status report on the items referred to in paragraphs (2) through (8), including a projection of future challenges and the resource requirements necessary to continue to support counterterrorism and counternarcotic efforts and Afghanistan's transition to a peaceful, democratic country.

SENATE RESOLUTION 592—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 5 THROUGH 11, 2006, AS “LONG-TERM CARE AWARENESS WEEK”

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

S. RES. 592

Whereas individuals in need of long-term care should have the opportunity to age with respect and dignity, selecting and receiving services of their choice;

Whereas the United States should seek to ensure that the people of the United States who will require long-term care are able to preserve their independence and receive high-quality care, preventing considerable burdens from being placed on families, communities, businesses, or government programs.

Whereas long-term care spending from all public and private sources was about \$180,000,000,000 for persons of all ages in 2002 and those costs are expected to double by 2025;

Whereas nearly 1 out of every 4 households in the United States provides long-term care assistance to someone 50 years of age or older;

Whereas a significant number of people in the United States are already involved in providing long-term care services for elderly people as well as educating and offering financial planning options, and this number will increase as the average age of the population of the United States increases; and

Whereas the majority of the people of the United States are not planning for or prepared to meet their long-term care needs: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of November 5 through 11, 2006, as “Long-Term Care Awareness Week”; and

(2) urges the people of the United States to use this week as an opportunity to learn more about the potential risks and costs associated with long-term care and the options available to help meet their long-term care needs.

SENATE RESOLUTION 593—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL CHILDREN AND FAMILIES DAY TO ENCOURAGE THE ADULTS OF THE UNITED STATES TO SUPPORT AND LISTEN TO CHILDREN AND TO HELP CHILDREN THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES ACHIEVE THEIR HOPES AND DREAMS

Mr. ALLEN (for himself and Mr. WARNER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 593

Whereas the citizens of the United States celebrate National Children and Families Day on the fourth Saturday of June;

Whereas research has shown that spending time together as a family is critical to raising strong and resilient children;

Whereas strong and healthy families assist in the development of children;

Whereas strong and healthy families improve the quality of life of children;

Whereas it is essential for the adults of the United States to celebrate and reflect upon—

(1) the important role that all families play in the lives of children; and

(2) the positive effect that strong and healthy children will have on the future of the United States; and

Whereas the greatest natural resource of the United States is the children of the Nation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Children and Families Day; and

(2) encourages the adults of the United States—

(A) to support, listen to, and encourage children throughout the United States;

(B) to reflect upon the important role that all families play in the lives of children; and

(C) to recognize that strong and healthy families—

(i) assist in the development of children; and

(ii) improve the quality of life of children.

SENATE RESOLUTION 594—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT SENATOR PAUL WELLSTONE SHOULD BE REMEMBERED FOR HIS COMPASSION AND LEADERSHIP ON SOCIAL ISSUES AND THAT CONGRESS SHOULD ACT TO END DISCRIMINATION AGAINST CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES WHO LIVE WITH A MENTAL ILLNESS BY MAKING LEGISLATION RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH PARITY A PRIORITY FOR THE 110TH CONGRESS

Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. REED, Mr. DODD, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. LAUTENBERG) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 594

Whereas Paul Wellstone served with distinction as a Senator from the State of Minnesota;

Whereas, for more than 20 years, Paul Wellstone inspired the students of Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota;

Whereas Paul Wellstone was a loving father and husband, a loyal citizen of the United States, and a compassionate person;

Whereas Paul Wellstone dedicated his life to bringing equal access to education, economic opportunity, and comprehensive healthcare to all citizens of the United States;

Whereas Paul Wellstone worked tirelessly to advance mental health parity for all citizens of the United States;

Whereas more than 44,000,000 citizens of the United States suffer from some form of a mental health-related condition;

Whereas only 1/3 of those citizens seek or receive treatment for their mental health-related condition;

Whereas 34 States have enacted laws that require some form of access to mental health treatments that is similar to physical health coverage; and

Whereas the tragic and premature death of Paul Wellstone on October 25, 2002, silenced 1 of the leading voices of the Senate who spoke on behalf of the citizens of the United States who live with a mental illness: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) on the fourth anniversary of his passing, Senator Paul Wellstone should be remembered for his compassion and leadership on social issues throughout his career;

(2) Congress should act to help citizens of the United States who live with a mental illness by enacting legislation to provide for equal coverage of mental health benefits with respect to health insurance coverage unless comparable limits are imposed on medical and surgical benefits; and

(3) mental health parity legislation should be a priority for consideration in the 110th Congress.

SENATE RESOLUTION 595—RECOGNIZING THE LAWRENCE BERKELEY NATIONAL LABORATORY AS 1 OF THE PREMIER SCIENCE AND RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS OF THE WORLD

Mr. DOMENICI (for himself, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mrs. BOXER, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) submitted the following resolution; which was:

S. RES. 595

Whereas the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory was founded on August 26, 1931, by Ernest Orlando Lawrence, winner of the 1939 Nobel Prize in physics for his invention of the cyclotron, a circular particle accelerator that opened the door to modern high-energy physics;

Whereas the belief of Mr. Lawrence that scientific research is best done through teams of individuals with different fields of expertise left a legacy that has yielded rich dividends for the United States in basic knowledge and applied technology;

Whereas that distinguished legacy of accomplishment includes 10 Nobel Laureates associated with the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, and a dozen scientists of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory who have won the National Medal of Science;

Whereas, in 2006, the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory continues to be used to conduct research across a wide range of scientific disciplines with key efforts in fundamental studies of the universe, quantitative biology, nanoscience, new energy systems, environmental solutions, and the use of integrated computing as a tool for discovery;