

the Senate will begin consideration of two resolutions that were introduced today regarding education. The Lott and Daschle resolutions will be debated concurrently for 2 hours, and the Senate will then proceed to two stacked votes. Therefore, Senators can expect the first vote on Monday at approximately 5:30 p.m. Following the votes, the Senate may begin consideration of any conference reports, appropriations bills, or nominations available for action.

#### ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I now ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order following the remarks of Senator COVERDELL.

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

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative assistant proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

#### NATIONAL SURVIVORS FOR PREVENTION OF SUICIDE DAY

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 283, Senate Resolution 99.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 99) designating November 20, 1999, as "National Survivors for Prevention of Suicide Day."

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

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

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

The resolution was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution (S. Res. 99), with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 99

Whereas the 105th Congress, in Senate Resolution 84 and House Resolution 212, recognized suicide as a national problem and suicide prevention as a national priority;

Whereas the Surgeon General has publicly recognized suicide as a public health problem;

Whereas the resolutions of the 105th Congress called for a collaboration between public and private organizations and individuals concerned with suicide;

Whereas in the United States, more than 30,000 people take their own lives each year;

Whereas suicide is the 8th leading cause of death in the United States and the 3rd major cause of death among young people aged 15 through 19;

Whereas the suicide rate among young people has more than tripled in the last 4 decades, a fact that is a tragedy in itself and a source of devastation to millions of family members and loved ones;

Whereas every year in the United States, 200,000 people become suicide survivors (people that have lost a loved one to suicide), and there approximately 8,000,000 suicide survivors in the United States today;

Whereas society still needlessly stigmatizes both the people that take their own lives and suicide survivors;

Whereas there is a need for greater outreach to suicide survivors because, all too often, they are left alone to grieve;

Whereas suicide survivors are often helped to rebuild their lives through a network of support with fellow survivors;

Whereas suicide survivors play an essential role in educating communities about the risks of suicide and the need to develop prevention strategies; and

Whereas suicide survivors contribute to suicide prevention research by providing essential information about the environmental and genetic backgrounds of the deceased: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1)(A) designates November 20, 1999, as "National Survivors for Prevention of Suicide Day"; and

(B) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling on Federal, State, and local administrators and the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities;

(2) encourages the involvement of suicide survivors in healing activities and prevention programs;

(3) acknowledges that suicide survivors face distinct obstacles in their grieving;

(4) recognizes that suicide survivors can be a source of support and strength to each other;

(5) recognizes that suicide survivors have played a leading role in organizations dedicated to reducing suicide through research, education, and treatment programs; and

(6) acknowledges the efforts of suicide survivors in their prevention, education, and advocacy activities to eliminate stigma and to reduce the incidence of suicide.

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

#### THE CLOSE OF THE YEAR

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, earlier this week we have heard again the chiming of the celestial clock, the autumnal equinox sounded the arrival of fall and the harvest season. In Washington, the skies today are sapphire blue and they look like parchment marked only with wispy glyphs of aircraft contrails. The air is crisp and the air is clear, with none of the steaminess that burdened

our torrid summer days. Evenings serve up the glorious gradations of vivid colors from a palette only God could paint. Night comes earlier and night is cooler. The hum of air conditioners is giving way to the weight of blankets on the bed. In the words of Humbert Wolfe:

Listen! The wind is rising,  
and the air is wild with leaves.  
We have had our summer evenings,  
now for October eves!

The year is advancing, cycling into its season of greatest abundance as crops mature and are harvested—such crops as they are. I have to add that, in the light of the terrible drought that has afflicted the eastern part of the United States, from Vermont to Tennessee. But as the crops, such as they are—mature and are harvested against the coming of winter. Branches are bent over with crisp apples and succulent pears, foretelling the apple butter festivals to come.

Mr. President, we have great apple butter festivals in West Virginia. Go to Berkeley Springs in Morgan County, just an hour and a half's drive from here. Go to the apple butter festival there. And there are apple butter festivals in other parts of West Virginia.

In my backyard, the squirrels and the chipmunks are gathering, and I play a little game with those squirrels and chipmunks. My wife, Erma, always sees to it that I have a large bag of peanuts. And when I look out the window and see squirrels, I go to the door, softly unlock the door, but the squirrels, they hear. And when they hear the little noises at the door they perk up, they sit up on their haunches and they look at the door, and then they break out into a run. They run to the door—my door, my door that opens on the back porch of my house—they run to the door because they sense that there is about to be a peanut that will emerge from a tiny crack when the door is opened. And they pounce upon that peanut.

The chipmunk also runs for the peanut. Sometimes he wins and gets there first, but many times he doesn't get there first, and I can just sense the disappointment on his little face as he becomes very excited and runs here and there, thither and yon, looking for a peanut which the squirrel was first to get. So I throw out another peanut and the chipmunk gets that one.

The squirrels and chipmunks are gathering and storing acorns and peanuts and every bit of corn and birdseed that they can steal from my feeders. Erma and I average about 40 pounds of bird food a week that we put in our bird feeders.

The tomato plants—aha, my tomato plants, great farmer that I am—I, every year, put out a half-dozen tomato plants. This year was a terrible year for tomatoes. The tomato plants that I cultivate in my backyard are