

On Dec. 4, 1991, I proposed in a column that a new national holiday be established to commemorate the end of the Cold War. I asked readers to participate in a contest to: 1. Name it; 2. pick a date; and 3. propose a method of celebration.

Several hundred submissions came in. Some of the most imaginative entries for a name were: "Defrost Day," "Thaw Day," "Ronald Reagan Day," "Gorbachev Day," "Borscht Day," "Peace Through Strength Day," "E Day" (which would stand for "Evil Empire Ends Day"), "E2D2" ("Evil Empire Death Day"), "Jericho Day," "Pax Americana Day" and "Kerensky Future Freedom Day" (recalling that Mr. Yeltsin was not the first pro-democratic leader of Russia).

Scores of respondents offered "Liberty Day," "Democracy Day," and, mostly, "Freedom Day." In June of 1992, I publicly proclaimed "Freedom Day" the winner.

One suggestion for the date of the new holiday was June 5, for Adam Smith's birthday. But the most votes went for Nov. 9, the day the wall fell. So today I proclaim that date Freedom Day.

There were ideas about how to celebrate and commemorate Freedom Day: Build a sibling sculpture to the Statue of Liberty; eat potatoes, the universal food; build a tunnel to Russia across the Bering Strait; thank God for peace; welcome immigrants; meditate; issue a U.N. stamp; build ice sculptures; send money to feed Russians; and do something you can't do in an unfree country—make a public speech, see a dirty movie, celebrate a religion, travel across a border.

I propose that discussion on the matter of how to celebrate be put on hold until we get the holiday established.

How? Because all the major presidential candidates participated in the Cold War, they should endorse the holiday. Legislators ought to push for it. Anyone who worked in a defense industry, or paid federal taxes from 1945 to 1989, ought to support it. President Clinton ought to go to the Reagan Library to endorse it.

I met with Mark Burman of the Reagan Presidential Foundation. He says they are on board for a campaign. The other great presidential libraries—Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford and Carter—should join in.

So should anyone concerned with the teaching of American history. The holiday will remind American children that their recent ancestors preserved freedom. The Cold War generation may not be "the greatest" but they did their job—victory without a major hot war.

Americans can only create an American holiday. But we ought to invite all other countries to join in, Russia first. The citizens of Russia won the Cold War as surely as we did. If I were a Chinese dissident I'd promote the idea; it might give their leaders a clue.

If you like the idea, or have ideas, you may e-mail me at Watmail@aol.com. I'll pass the correspondence along to the appropriate persons, as soon as I figure out who they are.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 231—REFER-
RING S. 1456 ENTITLED "A BILL
FOR THE RELIEF OF ROCCO A.
TRECOSTA OF FORT LAUDER-
DALE, FLORIDA" TO THE CHIEF
JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES
COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS
FOR A REPORT THEREON**

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

S. RES. 231

Resolved,

SECTION 1. REFERRAL.

S. 1456 entitled "A bill for the relief of Rocco A. Trecosta of Fort Lauderdale, Florida" now pending in the Senate, together with all the accompanying papers, is referred to the chief judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims.

SEC. 2. PROCEEDING AND REPORT.

The chief judge shall—

(1) proceed according to the provisions of sections 1492 and 2509 of title 28, United States Code; and

(2) report back to the Senate, at the earliest practicable date, providing—

(A) such findings of fact and conclusions that are sufficient to inform the Congress of the nature, extent, and character of the claim for compensation referred to in such bill as a legal or equitable claim against the United States or a gratuity; and

(B) the amount, if any, legally or equitably due from the United States to Rocco A. Trecosta of Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 232—MAKING
CHANGES TO SENATE COMMIT-
TEES FOR THE 106TH CONGRESS**

Mr. LOTT (for himself and Mr. DASCHLE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 232

Resolved, That notwithstanding the provisions of S. Res. 400 of the 95th Congress, or the provisions of rule XXV, the following changes shall be effective on those Senate committees listed below for the 106th Congress, or until their successors are appointed:

Committee on Intelligence: effective the 2nd session of the 106th Congress, remove Mr. DeWine, and Mr. Kerrey.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED

**PRIVACY PROTECTION STUDY
COMMISSION ACT OF 1999**

**KOHL (AND TORRICELLI)
AMENDMENT NO. 2777**

(Ordered referred to the Committee on the Judiciary)

Mr. KOHL (for himself and Mr. TORRICELLI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by them to the bill (S. 1901) to establish the Privacy Protection Study Commission to evaluate the efficacy of the Freedom of Information Act and the Electronic Freedom of Information Act Amendments of 1996, to determine whether new laws are necessary, and to provide advice and recommendations; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Privacy Protection Study Commission Act of 1999".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) the right of privacy is a longstanding personal right embedded in United States history and jurisprudence;

(2) the openness of Government records, procedures, and actions has become increasingly important in recent years, and should remain so in a free and democratic society;

(3) the use of electronic data collection, storage, communications, transfer, and usage has increased exponentially, thus heightening the potential impact upon individual privacy;

(4) national surveys indicate that the growth and expansion of technology has resulted in concern regarding electronic data privacy for more than 80 percent of United States citizens;

(5) currently, there is no uniform Government policy addressing either Government or private sector uses of personal data;

(6) the right of individual privacy must be weighed against legitimate uses of personal information that benefit the public good; and

(7) the private sector has made notable efforts to self-regulate privacy protection, especially in the online environment, but there remains room for improvement.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to establish a study commission to—

(1) examine the implications of new and existing technologies on individual privacy;

(2) ensure appropriate privacy protection of both Government and private sector uses of personal information, recognizing that a balance exists between individual rights and the public good including the legitimate needs of law enforcement;

(3) identify Government efforts to establish privacy policy, including recommendations for improved coordination among Government agencies, and foreign governments, and if necessary, legislative proposals;

(4) evaluate new technology (i.e. biometrics) to enhance electronic data privacy; and

(5) study the extent, need, and feasibility of individual control over personal information.

SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a commission to be known as the Privacy Protection Study Commission (hereafter in this Act referred to as the "Commission").

(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) COMPOSITION.—The Commission shall be composed of 9 members of whom—

(A) 3 shall be appointed by the President of the United States;

(B) 2 shall be appointed by the Majority Leader of the Senate and 1 shall be appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate; and

(C) 2 shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and 1 shall be appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.

(2) QUALIFICATIONS.—Members of the Commission shall be chosen based on their knowledge and expertise in law, civil rights and liberties, privacy matters, government, business, telecommunications, media, or information technology.

(3) CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN.—The Commission shall elect a Chairman and Vice Chairman from among its members. The Chairman, or a member appointed by the Chairman, shall be the official spokesperson of the Commission in its relations with Congress, Government agencies, other persons, and the public.

(4) TERM OF APPOINTMENT; VACANCIES.—

(A) APPOINTMENT.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Members shall initially be appointed not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(ii) TERM.—Members shall be appointed for the life of the Commission.

(B) VACANCY.—Any vacancy in the Commission shall not affect its powers and shall