CRASH OF THE UNITED NATIONS WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME AIRCRAFT

Mr. DURBAN. Mr. President, on Friday, November 12, a United Nations World Food Programme airplane carrying 24 people crashed in northern Kosovo, killing all on board. The plane departed Rome bound for Pristina, Kosovo—the wreckage was found only 20 miles from its destination. The passengers, mainly humanitarian aid workers, were on a routine flight run by the World Food Programme.

The World Food Programme is the world's largest international food aid organization that provides food aid to 75 million people worldwide through development projects and emergency operations.

The WFP fights both the acute hunger that grips a family fleeing civil conflicts and the chronic hunger that slowly gnaws away at life. Hunger affects one out of every seven people on earth. 800 million people are malnourished. Starvation threatens at least another 50 million victims of man-made and natural disasters. In 1998, the WFP delivered 2.8 million tons of food to 60 countries. These projects are enormous undertakings, and are sometimes not without human costs.

The WFP has lost more employees than any other UN agency in work-related accidents, illnesses or attacks. Fewer than 20 Border Patrol field agents are expected to be responsible for four large Midwestern states—Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois, an area covering hundreds of miles of border. This small number of Border Patrol agents must assess the risk, to easing the suffering of others.

THE UNITED STATES BORDER PATROL

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, it is my pleasure to rise as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 74, a resolution which recognizes the United States Border Patrol's 75 years of service to this country. The U.S. Border Patrol is a special force—day in and day out, as both defenders and ambassadors of our nation. With professionalism, civility and a watchful eye, members of the United States Border Patrol watch out for illegal immigrants and the entry of illegal drugs.

It is a difficult task, Mr. President. But one that our Border Patrol Agents perform well. And these duties are not just difficult, Mr. President. Often times they are dangerous as well. Particularly in this era of well-armed thugs and smugglers, Border Patrol Agents may find themselves outnumbered as they protect our nation's borders. 86 Border Patrol Agents and Pilots have lost their lives in the line of duty—6 in 1998 alone.

We all owe our Border Patrol our thanks for their bravery and their willingness to put in long, hard hours in service to their country.

I would like to make special note, Mr. President, of the membership of the Detroit Sector of the U.S. Border Patrol. These fine individuals perform with grace in the face of very difficult assignments. In the Detroit sector, fewer than 20 Border Patrol field agents are expected to be responsible for four large Midwestern states—Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois, an area covering hundreds of miles of border.