WHEREAS the Government of the People's Republic of China has issued a decree declaring a wide range of activities illegal and subject to prosecution, including distribution of Falun Gong materials, gatherings or silent sit-ins, marches or demonstrations, and other activities to promote Falun Gong and has begun the trials of several Falun Gong practitioners;

WHEREAS the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China on October 30, 1999, adopted a new law banning and criminalizing groups labeled by the Government of the People's Republic of China as cults; and

WHEREAS the Government of the People's Republic of China has officially labeled the Falun Gong meditation group a cult and has formally charged at least four members of the Falun Gong under this new law.] Now, therefore, be it

Resolved: That the Senate calls on the Government of the People's Republic of China to—

(a) release all prisoners of conscience and put an immediate end to the harassment, detention, physical abuse, and imprisonment of Chinese citizens exercising their legitimate rights to free belief, expression, and association; and

(b) demonstrate its willingness to abide by internationally accepted norms of freedom of belief, expression, and association by repealing or reforming and decreeing that restrictions those freedoms and proceeding promptly to ratify and implement the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. President, I rise in support of S. Res. 217, which calls upon the Government of the People's Republic of China to release all prisoners of conscience, to end its persecution of people of faith, and to abide by internationally accepted human rights standards. This resolution is co-sponsored by Senators LOTT, NICKLES, MACK, COVERDELL, COLLINS, FETINGOLD, DURBAN, LEAHY, SNOWE, GORTON, and WELLSTONE.

Mr. President, the crackdown in China is escalating. The most immediate target is Falun Gong—a movement which combines traditional breathing exercises with elements of Buddhism and the beliefs of its founder, since April, when more than 10,000 practitioners of Falun Gong shocked the Chinese government by gathering in front of the leadership compound in Beijing, the Chinese government has tried to systematically eradicate the practice.

The Beijing regime rounded up thousands of practitioners, arrested its leaders, ransacked homes, confiscated and burned Falun Gong materials, and forced adherents to renounce their beliefs. The government then banned the movement and the beliefs of its founder un officially labeled it a cult as part of a nationwide propaganda campaign to discredit practitioners. But this was not enough. On October 30, 1999, in a perverse maneuver, the National People's Congress raised the stakes of persecution by adopting a new law banning and criminalizing groups deemed by the Chinese government to be cults—perverse because this is the Chinese government's way of legitimizing their abuses of human rights—perverse because the law is being applied retroactively.

Protestors of this law faced police who beat, kicked, and yanked the hair of several elderly women protestors. Practitioners of Falun Gong and its adherents were arrested, convicted, and sent to re-education programs or labor camps. Now, at least four leaders have been convicted, with sentences ranging from two to twelve years. Many more will be convicted.

The truth of the matter is that the Chinese government has wasted no time in arresting Falun Gong practitioners and charging them under this new law. As of November 9, 1999, according to Chinese officials, 111 people had been formally arrested on charges ranging from disrupting state security to stealing state secrets. Many more have been detained and are kept in detention centers or in detention centers or in detention centers or in detention centers.

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In August, police detained a 65-year-old bishop of China's underground Roman Catholic Church in Hebei province and convicted seven lay members of the underground Catholic church in Jiangxi province.

In October, in Guangzhou, some 200 police officers demolished a shelter used by House Church Christians. They detained, brutalized, and warned five prominent House Church leaders against preaching or practicing their faith. I am extremely concerned about the well-being of Christians who are suffering in detention for their faith, including Pastor Li Dexiong, one of the Guangzhou House Church leaders, Zhang Honglian from Henan, and Zheng Xinqi from Anhui.

These incidents are simply anecdotal. They reflect a greater pattern of ongoing religious persecution.

Mr. President, at the same time that the Chinese government is cracking down on its own citizens, at the same time it is authorizing harsher punishments for believing outside of government control, the Beijing regime is flouting international norms, and even tossing aside its own constitution, which supposedly provides for the freedom of religious belief and the freedom not to believe.

The freedoms of thought, conscience, religion, expression, and assembly are not "western values" or "American values" that we are trying to impose on China. These values have been embraced by the international community, and it is up to the international community to uphold them when they are being trampled—to speak out in the face of injustice.

This resolution is part of our responsibility. With this resolution, we urge the Chinese government to step back into the realm of international standards, to end its crackdown, and to review its police's conscience, to end its crackdown, and to review its police's conscience, to end its crackdown, and to review its police's conscience.

Mr. President, I expect that this resolution will be adopted. I also expect that the Clinton Administration will not offer silence as a hidden concession for the WTO agreement signed with China but will instead use this statement by the Senate to strengthen its hand in advocating an end to persecution in China.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be adopted, and any statements relating to this resolution be laid upon the table.

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

The amendments to the preamble were agreed to.

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, as amended, reads as follows:

[The resolution was not available for printing. It will appear in a future edition of the RECORD.]

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I note that I am proud to be a cosponsor of this resolution which was introduced by my colleague, Senator Hutchinson of Arkansas, who has been a real leader on this issue.

RECOGNIZING 75 YEARS OF SERVICE OF UNITED STATES BORDER PATROL

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 122, which is at the desk.

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

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

The amendments to the preamble were agreed to.

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, as amended, reads as follows:

[The resolution was not available for printing. It will appear in a future edition of the RECORD.]

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I note that I am proud to be a cosponsor of this resolution which was introduced by my colleague, Senator Hutchinson of Arkansas, who has been a real leader on this issue.

RECOGNIZING 75 YEARS OF SERVICE OF UNITED STATES BORDER PATROL

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 122, which is at the desk.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:
A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 122) recognizing the United States Border Patrol’s 75 years of service since its founding.

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

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 390, H. Con. Res. 141.

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

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 122) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

CELEBRATING ONE AMERICA

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 390, H. Con. Res. 141.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 141) celebrating One America.

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

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, 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 concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 141) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I commend Representative RANGEL for authorizing the "One America" resolution, H. Con. Res. 141, which we just passed.

VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 371, H. J. Res. 65.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (H. J. Res. 65) commending the World War II veterans who fought in the Battle of the Bulge, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. President, I rise today in support of H. J. Res. 65, which commends the World War II veterans who fought bravely in the Battle of the Bulge. This resolution was passed unanimously by the House on October 5, 1999 and mirrors S. J. Res. 32, which I introduced this year.

Mr. President, in mid-1944, the Allies were hopeful. The Russian Red Army was closing in on the German army on the Eastern front and German cities were being devastated by American bombing. The Allies had taken Paris, Casablanca, Tripoli, Naples, and Rome, and they were looking toward an end to the war in Europe. Hitler was on the run.

In desperation, Hitler planned a surprise counterattack on the Allies on an 80 mile front running from southern Belgium to the middle of Luxembourg. Hitler hoped to break through this thinly held line in the Ardennes forest region, cripple Allied fuel supply lines, and inflame tensions within the alliance.

On the harsh winter morning of December 16, 1944, five months after the Allied landings at Normandy, France, eight German armoured divisions and thirteen German infantry divisions launched a brutal onslaught against five divisions of the United States First Army. A screaming hail of artillery fire sent many men to their deaths. Roger Rutland, First Sergeant in the 106th Infantry, described the devastation. "We lost many men that first day. An infantry company was approximately 200 men. A company was 21 men after the first day. C Company could account for 59 men, and in my company, I lost only 28 men the first day. Every company commander was missing the first day except my company's commander... some of my better men in garrison were some of the first to crack under combat conditions. They were like hugging each other and just shook after they had seen such a thing before." The American forces were pushed back. Many ran out of ammunition. After three days of fighting, more than 4,000 of the 106th were forced to surrender. But the American forces regrouped and pressed on.

For forty-one days, American forces fought against two enemies, German forces and the worst European winter in memory. Freezing conditions made it difficult to see more than ten or twenty yards ahead, much less fight out of frozen foxholes. Halfway through the battle, American troops were still waiting for the main shipment of winter boots. Men became cut off from their division. They lost the feeling in their feet as their toes froze. Some had to have their feet amputated at the ankles. Fifteen thousand soldiers were taken off the line because they suffered from frostbite. Some wounded soldiers froze to death. The 106th Infantry Regiment lost 125 of its own men.

On December 17th, 140 Americans were taken prisoner at Baugez. While on the road headed for Malmedy, 86 of these unarmed American soldiers were shot by their German captors in cold blood in what is now known as the Malmedy Massacre.

In spite of this horror, American soldiers fought on and took the key Belgian town of Bastogne. One of the heroes at Bastogne was Private Hendrix, a private in the 53rd Armored Infantry Battalion. 4th Armored Division and a native of Lepanto, Arkansas. On the night of December 26th, Private Hendrix was part of the leading elements in the final thrust to break through to Bastogne. He and his fellow soldiers were met with fierce artillery and small arms fire. But he did not back down. Instead, he advanced against two 88mm guns and overpowered them. He saved two of his fellow soldiers who were wounded, helpless, and at the mercy of intense machine gun fire. He fought on and in another selfless act, Private Hendrix ran through sniper fire and exploding mines to pull a soldier out of a burning half-track. Because of his courage and valor, because of the heroic efforts of the 101st Airborne. American forces fought successfully at Bastogne. Private Hendrix was later awarded a Medal of Honor for his selfless heroism.

When the skies cleared at the end of December, Allied air forces were able to assist the ground forces. By early January 1945, Allied forces were pushing Hitler's troops back. At the end of January, American troops made their way back to the lines they had held when the battle began. Three months later, Allied forces put an end to Nazi Germany. Six hundred thousand American troops, 55,000 British soldiers, and other Allied participated in the Battle of the Bulge. With catastrophic casualties, the Army constantly had to find new men to take the place of fallen soldiers. Training was cut. Physical standards were lowered. Many of these soldiers were only 18 or 19 years old. At the end of this forty-one days, over 80,000 American soldiers were maimed, captured, or killed. Nineteen thousand gave their lives to stave off the forces of tyranny. They made sure that we could live in freedom today. I believe that Ronald Reagan put it well when he said, "If we look to the answer as to why for so many years we achieved so much, prospered as no other people of Earth, it was because here in this land we unleashed the energy and individual genius, man to do more than has ever been done before. Freedom and the dignity of the individual have been more available and assured here than in any other place on Earth. The price for this freedom at times has been high. But we have never been unwilling to pay that price."

Mr. President, the soldiers who fought in the Battle of the Bulge