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 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.

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 armor 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 shivering. . . . They never 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, and American forces did not give in. They pushed on. They were met with brutality.

On December 17th, 140 Americans were taken prisoner at Baugnez. 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 James 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 men who fought like him, 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, including Hitler’s troops, were pushed back to 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 these 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 that 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