to agree to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 118) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. Res. 118

WHEREAS approximately 80,000 infants, children, teenagers, and young adults of families living throughout the United States die each year from myriad causes;

WHEREAS the death of an infant, child, teenager, or young adult of a family is considered to be one of the greatest tragedies that a parent or family will ever endure during a lifetime; and

WHEREAS a supportive environment and empathetic and understanding caregivers are considered critical factors in the healing process of a family or family that is coping with and recovering from the loss of a loved one; Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF NATIONAL CHILDREN’S MEMORIAL DAY.

The Senate—

(1) designates December 12, 1999, as "National Children’s Memorial Day"; and

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities in remembrance of the many infants, children, teenagers, and young adults of families in the United States who have died.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I also note that the Senator from Nevada is the chief sponsor of this resolution designating December 12 as "National Children’s Memorial Day." I wanted to recognize his efforts.

DESIGNATING A DAY TO "GIVE THANKS, GIVE LIFE"

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from consideration of S. Res. 225 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 225) to designate November 23, 2000, Thanksgiving Day, as a day to "Give Thanks, Give Life" and to discuss organ and tissue donation with other family members.

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

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I am delighted to join with my distinguished colleagues, Senators FRIST, DEWINE, KENNEDY, LEVIN and others in supporting the passage of Senate Resolution 225, which designates November 23, 2000, Thanksgiving Day, as a day for families to discuss organ and tissue donation with other family members and to Give Thanks, Give Life. The purpose of this legislation is to encourage discussions concerning family members' intentions to donate their organs so that informed decisions can be made in the occasion to donate arises.

As we prepare to recess for the Thanksgiving holiday, we are all aware that this is one of the few times throughout the year for families to take time out of their busy lives to come together and give thanks for the many blessings in their lives. This occasion presents an ideal opportunity for family members to have frank discussions about their intentions on the issue of organ and tissue donation. This is a discussion about life and sharing the gift of life and fits perfectly with the theme of Thanksgiving Day. Although family members may have already designated themselves as organ donors, this year everyone can make a bold and important decision of whether or not to donate. Their willingness to become informed organ donors is an important next step to promoting the dialogue between willing donors and their families, so that family members will know their loved ones' wishes long before the issue arises.

We have received a great outpouring of support for this resolution from many of the national organ and tissue donation organizations, including the American Heart Association, American Kidney Foundation, American Lung Association, American Society of Transplant Surgeons, American Thoracic Society, Association of Organ Procurement Organizations, Coalition on Donation, Eye Bank Association of America, James Redford Institute for Transplant Awareness, National Kidney Foundation, National Minorities Organ and Tissue Transplant Education Program (MOTTEP), Transplant Recipients International Organization (TRIO), United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS), and the Wendy Marks Foundation for Organ Donor Awareness. The tireless efforts of these groups and others have been critical in increasing donor awareness and education of the public on this extremely important cause. Their willingness to become involved with the Give Thanks, Give Life resolution and to provide their expertise in the development and implementation of a national campaign targeted at Thanksgiving Day will be invaluable in making this a national event with far-reaching effects.

The adoption of this resolution is a small victory for the organ donation awareness cause, but we must not forget the many casualties who have died awaiting a donated organ. One tragic loss that so many of us can relate to is the recent death of Walter Payton, an American hero. He contracted a rare liver disease that is often cured if the patient can receive a liver transplant. In Payton's case, the risk of death complications grew too quickly for him to be saved. He likely would have had to wait for years for his life-saving organ. The prevention of deaths like that of this great man and of so many other silent heroes is why our efforts in this life-saving cause must continue. A day must come when no one dies because there is no available liver, kidney, heart, lung or other organ to save his or her life.

Mr. President, I thank all of my colleagues for joining me in supporting this worthwhile resolution designating Thanksgiving day of 2000 as a day for
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families to discuss organ and tissue donation with other family members, a day to "Give Thanks, Give Life."

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution and the preamble be agreed to, en bloc, 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 resolution (S. Res. 225) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. Res. 225

Whereas traditionally, Thanksgiving is a time for families to take time out of their busy lives to come together and to give thanks for the many blessings in their lives; Whereas approximately 21,000 men, women, and children in the United States are given the gift of life each year through transplantation surgery, made possible by the generosity of organ and tissue donors; Whereas approximately 3,600 Americans are awaiting their chance to prolong their lives by finding a matching donor; Whereas nearly 5,000 of these patients each year (or 13 patients each day) die while waiting for a donated heart, liver, kidney, or other organ; Whereas nationwide there are up to 15,000 potential donor donors annually, but families' consent to donation is received for less than 6,000; Whereas the need for organ donations greatly exceeds the supply available; Whereas designation as an organ donor on a driver's license or voter's registration is a valuable step, but does not ensure donation when an occasion arises; Whereas the demand for transplantation will likely increase in the coming years due to the growing safety of transplantation surgery and advances in technology that allow for drug developments, prolonged life expectancy, and increased prevalence of diseases that may lead to organ damage and failure, including hypertension, alcoholism, and hepatitis C infection; Whereas the need for a more diverse donor pool, including a variety of racial and ethnic minorities, will continue to grow in the coming years; Whereas the final decision on whether a potential donor can share the gift of life usually is made by surviving family members regardless of the patient's initial intent; Whereas many Americans have indicated a willingness to donate their organs and tissues but have not discussed this critical matter with the family members who are most likely to make the decision, if the occasion arises, as to whether that person will be an organ and tissue donor; Whereas some family members may be reluctant to give consent to donate their deceased loved one's organs and tissues at a very difficult time in their lives if the patient has not clearly expressed a desire or willingness to do so; Whereas the vast majority of Americans are likely to spend Thanksgiving Day with some of those family members who would be approached to make such a decision; and Whereas it is fitting for families to spend a portion of that day discussing how they might give life to others on a day devoted to giving thanks for their own blessings; Now, therefore, be it,

Resolved, That the Senate designates November 23, 2000, Thanksgiving Day, as a day to "Give Thanks, Give Life", and to discuss organ and tissue donation with family members so that informed decisions can be made if the occasion to donate arises.

RECOGNIZING CONTRIBUTIONS OF OLDER PERSONS

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 224 recognizing the contribution of older persons to their communities, submitted earlier today by Senator BAYH and others.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. 224) recognizing the contribution of older persons to their communities and encouraging the voice and support the efforts of these organizations and agencies.

The most important goals of the year are to increase awareness about aging within countries and across national boundaries and to foster and programs to promote the well-being of older persons. The principles highlighted by the resolution include independence, participation, care, self-fulfillment, and dignity. The purpose of the year is to empower people to spend their senior years happy and healthy. Although the goals and principles of this year have been advanced internationally, we need to particularly acknowledge that the United States has been well represented by several organizations such as the Federal Committee to Prepare for the International Year of Older Persons, the Leadership Council of Aging Organizations, and the American Association for International Aging.

While America's senior organizations have been deeply involved, it is my hope is this resolution will serve as a signal that it is important for Congress to take the goals set forth this year and continue to advocate for them. Congress should take the leadership the United Nations has provided on this issue and continue to build momentum. We need to not only recognize and assist those spreading the message but implement legislation that actively addresses the needs of seniors. As a member of the Special Committee on Aging, I have learned about the issues that seniors face and have explored viable administrative and legislative solutions.

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, today I rise as the author of the International Year of the Older Persons resolution to recognize the contributions of all the individuals, organizations and agencies that have worked hard to participate in the International Year of Older Persons. Since 1999 has been declared the Year of the Older Persons, around the world seniors, organizations active in senior issues, and representatives of all generations have spread the message that collectively we should create an environment in which seniors can remain active in their communities during each and every stage of their life. This resolution pays tribute to the United States' participants for representing our country in the various events held in celebration of the International Year of the Older Persons. They have been active throughout the year. It is time Congress added its voice and support the efforts of these organizations and individuals. This resolution serves as a first step in the role Congress can play to assist those spreading the message and continue the efforts to achieve the goals.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be printed in the Record. The preamble be agreed to, en bloc, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the Record.