CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—SENATE

November 19, 1999

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 waiting for the gift of life each year through transplantation surgery, made possible by the generosity of organ and tissue donations;

Whereas 8,000 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 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 due to improvements in technology that can overcome 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 if the person has not clearly expressed a desire or willingness to do so;

Whereas the vast majority of Americans are likely to be observed on 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. 234 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 reads as follows:

A resolution (S. 234) recognizing the contributions of older persons to their communities and commending the work of organizations that participate in programs assisting elderly persons and that promote the goal of the International Year of Older Persons.

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

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 United Nations declared “International Year of the 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 with the advancement of this year’s theme and goals.

The theme of the year, a “society for all ages,” recognizes that longevity is relevant to all stages of the life cycle, and that successful aging is a product of long-term planning, lifelong decisions. It is important for the world to reflect upon this theme. Too often in America we focus on the negative images associated with aging and not the contributions that are made when people remain productive throughout their life, celebrating their needs.

The most important goals of the year are to increase awareness about aging within countries and across national boundaries and to explore viable administrative and legislative solutions.

I know America needs to be better prepared for its future aging population. Currently, about 12.8 million Americans report needing long-term care. By 2018, it is estimated that there will be 3.6 million elderly persons in need of a nursing home bed, an increase of two million from the current future. By 2030, the number of Americans in nursing homes will double and the cost of caring for them will quadruple. Part of creating a society for all ages includes addressing the needs of all ages.

Long-term care insurance is an option that should be more widely discussed among younger people as they begin to prepare for their retirement or senior years. However, often we need to encourage and encourage people to take responsibility. That is why I support a tax deduction for the purchase of long-term care insurance. In addition, with an increasing number of people needing long-term care, we should make various options for long-term care more available and affordable.

While long-term care insurance for community-based care is one option, being cared for by a loved one at home should remain another option. Therefore, in August, I introduced S. 1518, the Caregivers Assistance and Resources Enhancement (CARE) tax credit. It takes courage and dedication to take care of
a loved one at home and the least we can do is make the process less financially burdensome. Research indicates that the services provided by family caregivers annually are valued at $196 billion. The care these families provide at home is not only more compassionate, it saves the government billions of dollars. Annually, we spend $33 billion in nursing home care and $32 billion in formal home health care, we should thank caregivers by providing them with some economic relief.

There is still a great deal of work that can be done to take care of current seniors and prepare for the future. We need to have the difficult discussions and search for the solutions.

I want to thank Senator Grassley and Senator Breaux for their support and involvement on this resolution and for their leadership on the Special Committee on Aging.

I commend all the organizations and individuals who have worked so hard throughout the year to help spread the message associated with the International Year of the Older Persons. As America works the remainder of this year and in the years to come to achieve the goals set forth by the International Year of the Older Persons, we need to seriously consider what we in Congress can do to create a society for all ages.

Ms. Collins. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution and preamble be agreed to, en bloc, 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 clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The resolution (S. Res. 234) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution (S. Res. 196) was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

Whereas the submarine force of the United States was founded with the purchase of the U.S.S. HOLLAND on April 11, 1900;

Whereas overwhelming destruction resulting from the attack of United States forces at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on December 7, 1941, and difficulties with defective torpedoes, the submarine force destroyed 1,314 enemy ships in World War II (weighing a cumulative 5,300,000 tons), which accounts for 55 percent of all enemy ships lost in World War II;

Whereas 16,000 United States submariners served with courage during World War II, and 7 United States submariners were awarded Congressional Medals of Honor for their distinguished gallantry in combat above and beyond the call of duty;

Whereas in achieving an impressive World War II record, the submarine force suffered the highest casualty rate of any combatant submarine service of the warring alliances, losing 375 officers and 3,131 enlisted men in 52 submarines;

Whereas from 1948 to 1955, the submarine force, with leadership provided by Admiral Hyman Rickover and others, developed an industrial base in a new technology, pioneered new materials, designed and built a prototype reactor, established a training program, and took to sea the world’s first nuclear-powered submarine, the U.S.S. NAUTILUS, thus providing America undersea superiority;

Therefor subsequent to the design of the U.S.S. NAUTILUS, the submarine force continued to develop America’s most advanced and capable submarines, which were vital to maintaining our national security during the Cold War;

Whereas the United States Navy, with leadership provided by Admiral Red B. Boreham, developed the world’s first operational ballistic missile submarine, which provided an invaluable asset to our Nation’s strategic nuclear deterrent capability, and contributed directly to the eventual conclusion of the Cold War; and

Whereas in 1999, the submarine force provided the United States Navy with the ability to operate around the world, independent of outside support, from the open ocean to the littorals, carrying out multimission taskings on tactical, operational, and strategic levels: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, (a) That the Senate—

(1) commends the past and present personnel of the submarine force of the United States Navy for their technical excellence, accomplishments, professionalism, and sacrifices; and

(2) congratulates those personnel for the 100 years of exemplary service that they have provided the United States.

(b) It is the sense of the Senate that in the next millennium, the submarine force of the United States Navy should continue to comprise an integral part of the Navy, and to carry out missions that are key to maintaining our great Nation’s freedom and security as the most superior submarine force in the world.

ORDER FOR REVISION OF STANDING RULES OF THE SENATE AND PRINTING OF A SENATE DOCUMENT

Ms. Collins. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Rules and Administration be directed to prepare a revised edition of the Standing Rules of the Senate and that such Standing Rules be printed as a Senate document. I further ask unanimous consent that the usual number, 2,500 additional copies of this document be printed for the use of the Committee on Rules and Administration.

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

AUTHORIZING THE PRINTING OF A REVISED EDITION OF THE SENATE ELECTION LAW GUIDEBOOK

Ms. Collins. Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 235, submitted earlier by Senator McConnell.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 235) to authorize the printing of a revised edition of the Senate Election Law Guidebook.

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

Ms. Collins. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution...