CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—SENATE May 25, 1999

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, today I submit a concurrent resolution which would express the Sense of the Congress that the third Monday in April be designated “In Memory Day.” In Memory Day will be a time for family and friends to gather and commemorate the supreme sacrifice made by their loved ones as their names are read from the In Memory Honor Roll at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, as was done most recently on April 19, 1999. I feel this to be a small yet fitting tribute to those whose lives were ultimately claimed by the war in Vietnam. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial is a solemn reminder that the defense of liberty is not without loss. The 58,214 servicemembers who gave their lives in Vietnam will forever be memorialized in a most fitting manner. Their names, inscribed in granite walls, symbolize the reality that our nation’s military personnel protects America behind walls built with the blood of patriots. We must keep them in our memory always.

Not all of those who died, however, are commemorated on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Unaccounted for are those succumbed to the ravages of psychological wounds upon their return home. Unaccounted for are all those who died after war’s end, yet whose deaths were intrinsically linked to wartime service. Their family members and loved ones have no wall to go to; no names to touch; no memorial to share.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) runs an “In Memory Program” to honor these silent fallen. As part of this program, the VVMF keeps an “In Memory Honor Roll” to commemorate those who served and died prematurely, but whose deaths do not fit the parameters for inclusion upon the Wall. It is time for Congress to do its part in honoring these brave soldiers and their families.

Whereas to date 633 Americans have met the criteria for eligibility to be honored by the “In Memory” Program; and
Whereas the Americans who have been named by the “In Memory” Program are honored each year during a ceremony at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial: Now, therefore, be it
Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring). That it is the sense of Congress that “In Memory” Day should be observed on the third Monday in April each year, the day on which Patriots Day is also observed, in honor of the men and women of the United States whose deaths had a basis in their service in Vietnam during the Vietnam War and who are thereby true examples to the Nation of patriotism and sacrifice.

AMENDMENT NO. 377
At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SMITH), the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INOUYE), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN), and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. FITZGERALD) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 377 proposed to S. 1059, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2000 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 383
At the request of Mr. THURMOND, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 383 proposed to S. 1059, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2000 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 34—RELATING TO THE OBSERVANCE OF “IN MEMORY” DAY
Mr. SPECTER submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. CON. RES. 34
Whereas many of the individuals who served in the Armed Forces and in civilian roles in Vietnam during the Vietnam War have since died, in part as the result of illnesses and conditions associated with service in Vietnam during that war;
Whereas these men and women, whose ultimate health conditions had a basis in their service in Vietnam during the Vietnam War, sacrificed their lives for their country in a very real sense;
Whereas under criteria established by the Department of Defense, the deaths of these men and women do not qualify as Vietnam War deaths;
Whereas under Department guidelines, these men and women also do not meet the criteria for eligibility to have their names inscribed on the Memorial Wall of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in the District of Columbia;
Whereas “In Memory” Day was established several years ago in order to honor the Americans who died in service to their country as a result of service in Vietnam but had not otherwise been honored for doing so;
Whereas “In Memory” Day is now a project of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund;

Whereas to date 633 Americans have met the criteria for eligibility to be honored by the “In Memory” Program; and
Whereas the Americans who have been named by the “In Memory” Program are honored each year during a ceremony at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial: Now, therefore, be it
Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring). That it is the sense of Congress that “In Memory” Day should be observed on the third Monday in April each year, the day on which Patriots Day is also observed, in honor of the men and women of the United States whose deaths had a basis in their service in Vietnam during the Vietnam War and who are thereby true examples to the Nation of patriotism and sacrifice.

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AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED
NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2000

HUTCHISON AMENDMENT NO. 389
(Ordered to lie on the table.)