

notifies a shelter. The shelter sends a volunteer counselor to talk to the youth, offer advice and evaluate the problem. The volunteer, who is the same gender as the young person, will transport the youth to the shelter if more counseling is necessary or if the young person would like a safe place to stay. If the youth decides to stay at the shelter, parents will be notified that the young person is all right.

Project Safe Place is a national program that operates locally. It is a unique collaborative effort between youth service agencies, a network of volunteers and local businesses to make help available to youth quickly and in their own neighborhood. Safe Place aims to return young people to a healthy emotional environment. That could mean seeing that the family receives counseling or that could mean finding a place outside the house for the youth to live.

In addition to enhancing outreach programs to area youth, the distinct Safe Place signs increase awareness of the plight of troubled youths. They remind adults of problems in the community and often inspire people to volunteer. They demonstrate to businesses that the private sector can play a positive role and usually lead to more Safe Place sites.

Since its beginning in Louisville, Kentucky in 1983, acknowledgment of Project Safe Place has been crucial to letting young people know that the service is available to them and inspiring others to create more Safe Places. In March 1998, many Senators helped pass Senate Resolution 96, making the third week to March 1998 "National Safe Place Week." Since then, sites grew from 6,000 to 8,000. Today, more than 30,000 young people and their families have been helped. Even if your state is not one of the 34 that has at least one Safe Place, the program has probably still affected your state. It is likely that a runaway from your state has been returned to his or her family through this program. Counseling initiated by the program may have involved a parent who lives in your state.

My goal is to have at least one Safe Place in every state by the end of the decade. I urge all my colleagues to champion this plan and to begin by co-sponsoring this resolution making the second week of March "National Safe Place Week." The designation of time is a crucial step in promoting awareness of this effective program. Your support will help continue the valuable partnership between government and the private sector as we move toward a society with happier and safe young people.

NOTICE OF HEARING

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL
RESOURCES

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of

the Senate and the public that an oversight hearing has been scheduled before the Subcommittee on National Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The purpose of this hearing is to review the President's proposed Fiscal Year 2001 Budget for the operation of the National Park Service system.

The hearing will take place on Tuesday, February 29, 2000 at 9:30 a.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, D.C.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send two copies of their testimony to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, SD-364 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510-6150.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, be allowed to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, February 10, 2000. The purpose of this meeting will be to discuss the findings of the President's working group's report on "Over the Counter Derivatives Markets and the Commodity Exchange Act."

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

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, February 10, 2000 at 9:30 a.m., in open session, to receive testimony on the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2001 and the future years defense plan.

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

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be granted permission to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, February 10, for purposes of conducting a Full Committee business meeting which is scheduled to begin at 9:00 a.m. The purpose of this business meeting is to consider pending calendar business.

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

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Sen-

ate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, February 10 at 10:00 a.m. to receive testimony on S. 1797, a bill to amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, to provide for a land conveyance to the city of Craig, Alaska and for other purposes; S. 1925, the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act; S. 1664, a bill to clarify the legal effect on the United States of the acquisition of a parcel of land in the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve in the State of Utah; S. 1665, a bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to release reversionary interests held by the United States in certain parcels of land in Washington County, Utah, to facilitate an anticipated land exchange; H.R. 2863, a bill to clarify the legal effect on the United States of the acquisition of a parcel of land in the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve in the State of Utah; H.R. 2862, a bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to release reversionary interests held by the United States in certain parcels of land in Washington County, Utah, to facilitate an anticipated land exchange; and S. 1936, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to sell or exchange all or part of certain administrative sites and other National Forest System land in the State of Oregon and use the proceeds derived from the sale or exchange for National Forest System purposes.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, February 10, 2000, at 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. to hold two hearings.

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

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, February 10, 2000 at 10:00 a.m., for a hearing regarding the Rising Cost of College Tuition and the Effectiveness of Government Financial Aid.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet to conduct a markup on Thursday, February 10, 2000, at 10:00 a.m., in SD226.

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, February 10, 2000 at 2:00 p.m. to hold a closed hearing on intelligence matters.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on East Asia and Pacific Affairs of the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, February 10, 2000, at 1:30 pm to hold a joint hearing with the House Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific of the House International Relations

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration be authorized to meet to conduct a hearing on Thursday, February 10, 2000, at 2:00 p.m., in SD226.

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

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent during the introduction of my bill, that congressional fellow Terry Ceravolo and intern Ernest White be allowed privileges of the floor.

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

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that an intern in my office, Mr. Chris Polaszek, be allowed floor privileges during the introduction of S. 2058.

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

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

THE 81ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

• Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, it is a privilege for me to rise today to join with nearly 1 million Lithuanian-Americans in commemorating the 81st anniversary of an independent Lithuania. On February 16, it is customary for those of Lithuanian heritage, and their friends and supporters to celebrate the proclamation of a progressive and independent Republic of Lithuania, which was reestablished after more than seven centuries of struggle. Lithuania's democratic hopes were realized once before this century, yet freedom was abruptly revoked in 1940, after 22 years of democratic governance. While February 16th reminds us of Lithuania's long and difficult period, it also affords us the opportunity to commend the determination and courage of the citizens of Lithuania and other Baltic nations. Their strong commitment to democratic values serves as an incentive for us all to rededicate ourselves

to the principles for which this important day stands, liberty and freedom.

The history of this nation has been marked by constant struggle against aggressors. Through countless invasions, Lithuanian defenders have stood resolutely against their foes and have demonstrated their commitment to independence. After well over a century of domination, the people of Lithuania proclaimed their independence and reestablished their sovereignty as a nation on February 16, 1918. For more than two decades, this young nation prospered economically and lived at peace with its neighbors. The events of World War II brought this period to an end when, in 1940, Lithuania was occupied by Soviet Armed forces. Our thoughts must turn to those Lithuanians who suffered under the brutality of the Nazi and Soviet occupations. Many risked and lost their lives for the rights and freedoms that Lithuanians today are privileged to enjoy. Their steadfast determination and courage eventually prevailed, providing hope for all peoples who dreamt someday of being free.

In 1990, following the collapse of the Soviet Union, Lithuania rejoined the international community of democratic nations and embraced political and economic reforms. Lithuania experienced a peaceful transfer of civilian rule, despite a difficult period of transition, and has committed to pursuing economic reforms which offer the possibility of greater prosperity, a bright future and sustainable growth for years to come. To this end, Lithuania has chosen to engage with its neighbors and other democracies by joining The Baltic Economic Cooperation Agreement and the Council of Europe and through their desire to join the European Union.

The Lithuanian people have drawn their strength from a sense of nationhood. This has been most evident here in the United States, where we have witnessed the dedication of Lithuanian Americans to the freedom of their native land. Their perseverance has encouraged many of us to stand in this body over the last several decades and proclaim our support for a Lithuanian republic.

We in Maryland, and our Nation, are particularly fortunate to have such an active Lithuanian-American community. Longstanding traditions of self-help, volunteerism and the dedication to democratic ideals that have prevailed in the community have truly enriched the history of our country. In areas ranging from business, to academia, to the arts, Lithuanian-Americans consistently make significant contributions across the Nation.

Every year Lithuanians gather in their capital, Vilnius, to commemorate this anniversary. I am proud that we in the United States have continued to stand with them on this occasion, both

in years when there was much to celebrate and in years when there were only dreams of a better future. I am confident that we will continue to celebrate this anniversary in the future with the same optimism that we do this year. •

ACKNOWLEDGING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE 150TH FIGHTER WING

• Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President I rise today to salute the 150th Security Forces Squadron and the 150th Civil Engineering Squadron of the New Mexico Air National Guard.

Federally recognized on July 7, 1947 as the 188th Fighter Bomber Squadron, the "Tacos" have contributed significantly to U.S. military operations in Korea, Vietnam, Bosnia, Iraq, and are scheduled to deploy to Turkey next January as part of Operation Northern Watch. During their 52-year history, the Tacos were the first Air National Guard unit to be converted to the F-100 aircraft in 1958 and the A-7D aircraft in 1973. Since 1970, when the 150th Fighter Wing evolved into a joint support force, the Tacos have been utilized by every branch of our Armed Forces except for the Coast Guard.

The Tacos are characteristic of the many exceptional units that comprise our Nation's Reserve and National Guard, and I have no doubt that they will continue to ensure the success of our military missions both domestically and abroad. I would ask that my colleagues join me in thanking them for their dedicated service.

I recently received a letter from General A.C. Zinni, the U.S. Marine Corps Commander in Chief commending the Tacos for their distinguished service and the substantial role they played in the success of Operation Southern Watch. I ask that General A.C. Zinni's letter be printed in the RECORD.

The letter follows:

U.S. CENTRAL COMMAND,
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF,
MacDill Air Force Base, FL, January 20, 2000.
Hon. PETE V. DOMENICI,
U.S. Senate, Hart Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR DOMENICI: I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the deployment this past year by members of the 150th Security Forces Squadron and the 150th Civil Engineering Squadron, New Mexico Air National Guard, to the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility. These units are but two of many outstanding Reserve and National Guard units to deploy to Central Command's area of responsibility and contribute to the success of Operation SOUTHERN WATCH.

The capability and enthusiasm demonstrated by the members of the 150th Security Forces Squadron and the 150th Civil Engineering Squadron reflected great credit on themselves and the professionalism of Reserve and National Guard units throughout the nation. The participation of units like these significantly contributes to our overall effort in support of Operation SOUTHERN