

the Hmong Veterans Naturalization Act pass through Congress and become law. Hmong widows should have been included when this legislation was first passed and they were not. This amendment simply corrects something that should have been done long ago. I urge its swift passage.

Mr. ASHCROFT:

S. 3061. A bill to require the President to negotiate an international agreement governing the recall by manufacturers of motor vehicles and motor vehicle equipment with safety-related defects; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

INTERNATIONAL CONSUMER SAFETY
INFORMATION ACT

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the International Consumer Safety Information Act. As we are all aware, there has been a tragic loss of life associated with defects in Firestone tires.

The loss of 88 lives in the United States alone from defects in Firestone tires is extremely tragic. The death toll in other countries from this U.S. product is reportedly more than 50. Each of these people had dreams that will not be realized. There is nothing we can do that will ever compensate for the loss of one life.

However, we have a responsibility to the American people and to consumers worldwide to do everything we can to create accountability and to ensure that innocent people are not put at such a high risk in the future. By quickly alerting consumers about motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment recalls around the globe, we will equip people with potentially life-saving information.

American consumers should be provided with immediate, life-saving information on motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment recalls, regardless of whether the recall originated in the United States or another country. As the chairman of the Consumer Affairs and Foreign Commerce Subcommittee, I intend to do what I can on this issue. My consumer protection plan would provide consumers—via the Internet—with more immediate information about recalls of motor vehicles or motor vehicle equipment.

U.S. drivers are just not finding out about the Firestone tire defects, but there were tire failures in Venezuela as far back as 1998, and in Saudi Arabia, 1999. It is simply unacceptable that American officials abroad did not inform the American public. My proposal would ensure that this does not happen again.

Under the legislation I am introducing today, the President would negotiate an international agreement requiring foreign countries and the United States to maintain an Internet site to inform consumers worldwide of recalls of motor vehicle or motor vehi-

cle equipment. My bill includes the following key provisions:

The international agreement would have countries include on an Internet site the names of companies that have issued recalls, the companies' contact information, the specific products that are being recalled, the countries in which the recalls are effective, and the date of the recall.

In addition, the international agreement would set up guidelines for a company that initiate a recall of motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment to ensure that they disclose all relevant information to consumers and federal authorities in all countries it sells its products.

Finally, the bill would make the Administration accountable for disclosing information on foreign recalls by ensuring that Congress is notified and by posting the information on an Internet site for the public.

It is my hope that the Senate Commerce Committee will act quickly on this measure. At a Commerce Committee hearing this last Tuesday, I pointed out another harm that can come from a lack of adequate information about recalls.

Almost half of all Ford Explorers, which was a model that used defective Firestone tires, that are assembled in the U.S. are made at a plant in Hazelwood, Missouri. I want to visit the workers employed at this plant. The plant has been closed the past two weeks and will not reopen to assemble the popular Ford Explorer until next Monday. Most of the 2,000 workers are not reporting to work and are unsure about their future. Their overtime is nonexistence, and due to the 15,000 Explorers that will not be produced, their profit-sharing is threatened. However, they did not complain about Ford's decision to close the plant in order to get tires out to consumers as quickly as possible. In fact, they were proud that the company was willing to take such a drastic measure to serve their customers. Most importantly, they want us all to realize that what we do and what we say up here makes a difference. It makes a difference in their lives, and it affects consumer confidence in the produce these workers sweat and toil to produce.

My efforts today are intended to shine light on recalls worldwide. Consumers should know if there are recalls in other countries, and the Federal government should facilitate this transparency. The bill I am introducing today will hopefully ensure that consumers in the U.S.—and consumers worldwide—obtain updated information about recalls around the globe.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 136

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey

(Mr. TORRICELLI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 136, a bill to provide for teacher excellence and classroom help.

S. 522

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 522, a bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to improve the quality of beaches and coastal recreation water, and for other purposes.

S. 1020

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) and the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1020, a bill to amend chapter 1 of title 9, United States Code, to provide for greater fairness in the arbitration process relating to motor vehicle franchise contracts.

S. 1391

At the request of Mr. INOUE, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1391, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve benefits for Filipino veterans of World War II, and for other purposes.

S. 1726

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1726, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat for unemployment compensation purposes Indian tribal governments the same as State or local units of government or as nonprofit organizations.

S. 1851

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1851, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to ensure that seniors are given an opportunity to serve as mentors, tutors, and volunteers for certain programs.

S. 1900

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. MILLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1900, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit to holders of qualified bonds issued by Amtrak, and for other purposes.

S. 2698

At the request of Mr. MOYNIHAN, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. EDWARDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2698, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an incentive to ensure that all Americans gain timely and equitable access to the Internet over current and future generations of broadband capability.

S. 2731

At the request of Mr. FRIST, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2731, a bill to amend title

III of the Public Health Service Act to enhance the Nation's capacity to address public health threats and emergencies.

S. 2858

At the request of Mr. GRAMS, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. BREAU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2858, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure adequate payment rates for ambulance services, to apply a prudent layperson standard to the determination of medical necessity for emergency ambulance services, and to recognize the additional costs of providing ambulance services in rural areas.

S. RES. 342

At the request of Mr. ROBB, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 342, a resolution designating the week beginning September 17, 2000, as "National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week."

S. RES. 355

At the request of Mr. JEFFORDS, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 355, a resolution commending and congratulating Middlebury College.

NOTICE OF HEARING

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FORESTRY, CONSERVATION,
AND RURAL REVITALIZATION

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Subcommittee on Forestry, Conservation, and Rural Revitalization will meet on September 18, 2000 at 10 a.m. in Norristown, PA. The purpose of this hearing will be to examine the Farmland Protection Program (FPP).

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FORESTS AND PUBLIC LANDS

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Forests and Public Lands of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Friday, September 15, at 10 a.m. to conduct an oversight hearing. The subcommittee will receive testimony on Federal agency preparedness for the summer 2000 wildfires.

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

THE CALENDAR

CHILDREN'S INTERNET SAFETY MONTH

NATIONAL HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES WEEK

NATIONAL OVARIAN CANCER AWARENESS WEEK

NATIONAL MAMMOGRAPHY DAY

COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from consideration of the following resolutions; further, the Senate proceed to their consideration en bloc: S. Res. 294, S. Res. 342, S. Res. 347, S. Res. 353, and S. Res. 355.

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

The Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions.

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with the above occurring en bloc.

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

The resolutions (S. Res. 294, S. Res. 342, S. Res. 347, S. Res. 353, and S. Res. 355) were considered and agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

The resolutions, with their preambles, are as follows:

S. RES. 294

Whereas the Internet is one of the most effective tools available for purposes of education and research and gives children the means to make friends and freely communicate with peers and family anywhere in the world;

Whereas the new era of instant communication holds great promise for achieving better understanding of the world and providing the opportunity for creative inquiry;

Whereas it is vital to the well-being of children that the Internet offer an open and responsible environment to explore;

Whereas access to objectionable material, such as violent, obscene, or sexually explicit adult material may be received by a minor in unsolicited form;

Whereas there is a growing concern in all levels of society to protect children from objectionable material;

Whereas the technological option for parents or guardians to filter, block, or review objectionable Internet material is available and effective;

Whereas information on Internet filtering or blocking technology is unavailable to many parents or guardians; and

Whereas the Internet is a positive educational tool and should be seen in such a manner rather than as a vehicle for entities

to make objectionable materials available to children: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 2000 as "Children's Internet Safety Month" and supports its official status on the Nation's promotional calendar; and

(2) supports parents and guardians in promoting the creative development of children by encouraging the use of the Internet in a safe, positive manner with the aid of Internet filtering and blocking technologies.

S. RES. 342

Whereas there are 105 historically black colleges and universities in the United States;

Whereas black colleges and universities provide the quality education so essential to full participation in a complex, highly technological society;

Whereas black colleges and universities have a rich heritage and have played a prominent role in American history;

Whereas black colleges and universities have allowed many underprivileged students to attain their full potential through higher education; and

Whereas the achievements and goals of historically black colleges and universities are deserving of national recognition: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week beginning September 17, 2000, as "National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week"; and

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States and interested groups to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs to demonstrate support for historically black colleges and universities.

S. RES. 347

Whereas 1 out of every 55 women will develop ovarian cancer at some point during her life;

Whereas over 70 percent of women with ovarian cancer will not be diagnosed until ovarian cancer has spread beyond the ovary;

Whereas prompt diagnosis of ovarian cancer is crucial to effective treatment, with the chances of curing the disease before it has spread beyond the ovaries ranging from 85 to 90 percent, as compared to between 20 and 25 percent after the cancer has spread;

Whereas several easily identifiable factors, particularly a family history of ovarian cancer, can help determine how susceptible a woman is to developing the disease;

Whereas effective early testing is available to women who have a high risk of developing ovarian cancer;

Whereas heightened public awareness can make treatment of ovarian cancer more effective for women who are at-risk; and

Whereas the Senate, as an institution, and members of Congress, as individuals, are in unique positions to help raise awareness about the need for early diagnosis and treatment for ovarian cancer: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of September 17, 2000, through September 23, 2000, as National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Week; and

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Week with appropriate recognition and activities.