

Whereas the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor in the Nation, was established in 1945 to appropriately recognize Americans who have made an especially meritorious contribution to the security or national interests of the United States, world peace, or cultural or other significant public or private endeavors: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that the President should award the Presidential Medal of Freedom posthumously to Dr. Benjamin Elijah Mays in honor of his distinguished career as an educator, civil and human rights leader, and public theologian and his many contributions to the improvement of American society and the world.

Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce legislation that would honor Benjamin Elijah Mays for his distinguished career as an educator, civil and human rights leader, and public theologian. Among his many accomplishments, Dr. Benjamin E. Mays earned a master's degree and a doctorate of philosophy from the University of Chicago, served as president of Morehouse College and mentored Martin Luther King, Jr., and received numerous awards and honors during his lifetime. In recognition of his many accomplishments and contributions to the citizens of this nation and the world, I believe the President should award the Presidential Medal of Freedom to the late Benjamin E. Mays.

Dr. Benjamin Elijah Mays' achievements are even more extraordinary given the circumstances and social climate in the United States at the turn of the 20th Century. Dr. Mays, the son of former slaves, encountered prejudice and obstacles at every stage of his early education and pursued his dream of a college education despite hostile, and sometimes violent, opposition. Although he faced the frustrations inherent in segregation, Dr. Mays finished high school at South Carolina State College in three years and graduated as class valedictorian. Based on his will to learn, his motivation to succeed, and his strong strength of character, Dr. Mays then went on to graduate from Bates College in Maine and received his graduate degrees from the University of Chicago.

As dean of the School of Religion at Howard University and later as President of Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia for 27 years, Benjamin Mays overcame seemingly insurmountable obstacles to offer quality education to all Americans, especially African-Americans. One of Dr. Mays' own inspirations was Mahatma Gandhi, whom he met in Mysore, India for 90 minutes and who shaped Mays' views on non-violence as a means of political protest. Dr. Mays greatly influenced his students and, one in particular, Martin Luther King, Jr. sought the advice and counsel of his mentor before and during the civil rights movement. Dr. Mays was instrumental in the elimination of segregated public facilities in Atlanta and promoted the cause of nonviolence

through peaceful student protests during a time in this nation that was often marred by racial violence. Another student from Morehouse, Ira Joe Johnson, published a book about Dr. Mays' scholarship program for African-American medical students in the early 1940s.

Dr. Mays once said that "[e]very man and woman is born into the world to do something unique and something distinctive and if he or she does not do it, it will never be done." This nation owes a great debt to the late Dr. Benjamin E. Mays and it is certainly appropriate and timely to honor his achievements and his contributions to the citizens of the United States and the world by awarding him a Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, I rise today to bring the country's attention to one of its most gifted educators, civil rights leaders and theologians, the late Dr. Benjamin Elijah Mays, and to again encourage the President to award Dr. Mays a Presidential Medal of Freedom. Dr. Mays lived an extraordinary life that began in a very unextraordinary setting. The son of slaves, Dr. Mays grew up in the rural community of Epworth, South Carolina where poverty and racism were everyday realities and the church was sometimes the only solace to be found. Yet, as the title of Dr. Mays' autobiography, "Born to Rebel" reveals, he was never satisfied with the status quo and looked to education as the key to his own success, and later the key to sweeping social change.

After working his way through South Carolina College, Bates College and a doctoral program at the University of Chicago, Dr. Mays worked as a teacher, an urban league representative and later dean of the School of Religion at Howard University here in Washington. Then, in 1940, he took the reins at Morehouse College and—to borrow a phrase—the rest was history. As President of Morehouse, Dr. Mays took an ailing institution and transformed it into one of America's most vital academic centers and an epicenter for the growing civil rights movement. He was instrumental in the elimination of segregated public facilities in Atlanta and promoted the cause of nonviolence through peaceful student protests in a time often marred by racial violence. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and other influential 20th century leaders considered Dr. Mays a mentor and scores of colleges and universities—from Harvard University to Lander University in South Carolina—have acknowledged his impressive achievements by awarding him an honorary degree.

After retiring from Morehouse after 27 years, Dr. Mays did not fade from the spotlight—far from it. He served as president of the Atlanta Board of Education for 12 years, ensuring that new generations of children received the

same quality education he had fought so hard to obtain back in turn-of-the-century South Carolina. Dr. Mays said it best in his autobiography: "Foremost in my life has been my honest endeavors to find the truth and proclaim it." Now is the time for us to proclaim Dr. Benjamin Mays one of our nation's most distinguished citizens by awarding him a posthumous Presidential Medal of Freedom.

SENATE RESOLUTION 24—HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS.

Mr. SANTORUM (for himself, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. VOINOVICH, and Mr. COCHRAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, as follows:

S. RES. 24

Whereas America's Catholic schools are internationally acclaimed for their academic excellence, but provide students more than a superior scholastic education;

Whereas Catholic schools ensure a broad, values-added education emphasizing the life-long development of moral, intellectual, physical, and social values in America's young people;

Whereas the total Catholic school student enrollment for the 1999-2000 academic year was 2,653,038, the total number of Catholic schools is 8,144, and the student-teacher ratio is 17 to 1;

Whereas Catholic schools provide more than \$17,200,000,000 a year in savings to the Nation based on the average public school per pupil cost;

Whereas Catholic schools teach a diverse group of students and over 24 percent of school children enrolled in Catholic schools are minorities;

Whereas the graduation rate of Catholic school students is 95 percent, only 3 percent of Catholic high school students drop out of school, and 83 percent of Catholic high school graduates go on to college;

Whereas Catholic schools produce students strongly dedicated to their faith, values, families, and communities by providing an intellectually stimulating environment rich in spiritual, character, and moral development; and

Whereas in the 1972 pastoral message concerning Catholic education, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops stated, "Education is one of the most important ways by which the Church fulfills its commitment to the dignity of the person and building of community. Community is central to education ministry, both as a necessary condition and an ardently desired goal. The educational efforts of the Church, therefore, must be directed to forming persons-in-community; for the education of the individual Christian is important not only to his solitary destiny, but also the destinies of the many communities in which he lives." Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals of Catholic Schools Week, an event sponsored by the National Catholic Educational Association and the United States Catholic Conference and established to recognize the vital contributions of America's thousands of Catholic elementary and secondary schools; and

(2) congratulates Catholic schools, students, parents, and teachers across the Nation for their ongoing contributions to education, and for the key role they play in promoting and ensuring a brighter, stronger future for this Nation.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 14, 2001, at 11 a.m., in closed session to receive a briefing from the navy on the submarine accident near Hawaii.

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

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 14, 2001, to conduct a hearing on "Establishing an Effective, Modern Framework for Export Controls."

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

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 14, 2001, to conduct a hearing on "Saving Investors Money and Strengthening the SEC."

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

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 14, 2001, to hear testimony regarding Education Tax and Savings Incentives.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet to conduct a hearing on Wednesday, February 14, 2001 at 10 a.m. in SD226.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Communications of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet on Wednesday, February 14, 2001, at 9:30 a.m. on ICANN Governance.

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

PRESIDENTIAL VISIT TO MEXICO

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Con. Res. 13 that I submitted earlier.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 13) expressing the sense of Congress with respect to the upcoming trip of President George W. Bush to Mexico to meet with newly elected President Vicente Fox, and with respect to future cooperative efforts between the United States and Mexico.

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

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, we are facing a unique time in the history of U.S.-Mexico relations. Mexico's election and inauguration last year of an opposition candidate as president—Vicente Fox Quesada—has overturned 71 years of executive branch domination by the Institutional Revolutionary Party, PRI. And now, with the inauguration of our new president—George W. Bush—both nations have the unprecedented opportunity to implement positive changes and create lasting progress for our entire Western Hemisphere.

Because of Mexico's critical importance to our nation and hemisphere, it is not at all surprising that President Bush has chosen to travel to Mexico for his first official foreign trip as President. It is with that in mind that I am introducing a resolution today, along with Senators HELMS, LOTT, DODD, MCCAIN, LANDRIEU, GRASSLEY, BREAUX, CHAFEE, VOINOVICH, and LEAHY to express our bipartisan interest in America's current relationship with Mexico and to suggest several issues of particular importance that President Bush should raise during his upcoming meeting with President Fox.

Our resolution acknowledges the vital nature of our relationship with Mexico and calls for policies that promote cooperation, enhance the security and prosperity of both nations, and enable both countries to establish mutually agreed-upon goals in at least four areas: one, economic development and trade; two, the environment; three, immigration; and, four, law enforcement and counter-drug policy.

In each of these areas, both countries should pursue realistic and practical steps that will build confidence in our partnership and help set the stage for future discussions and future progress.

No one can deny the importance of our involvement with Mexico—a nation with which we share over 2,000 miles of common borders. Additionally, over 21.4 million Americans living in this country are of Mexican heritage—that's 67 percent of our total U.S.

Latino population. Indeed, many people and many issues bind our nations together. And, it is in both nations' interest to make that bond even stronger.

That is why we want to see President Fox succeed. And, he is off to a good start. For the first time in two decades, economic crisis has not marred Mexico's transition period in between presidencies. Instead, President Fox's election has been received as a positive step in Mexico's maturing economy and has fueled new investment in the country, raising expectations for better economic opportunities for the Mexican people.

President Fox's election also has raised expectations here in Washington for better opportunities to improve U.S.-Mexico bilateral cooperation on a wide range of issues. An advocate of free trade in the Americas, President Fox currently recognizes that a strong, steady economy in Mexico can be the foundation to help solve many of our shared challenges, such as immigration, environmental quality, violent crime, and drug trafficking.

Furthermore, thanks to the economic cooperation spearheaded by the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), trade between the United States and Mexico amounts to \$200 billion annually, making our neighbor to the south our second largest trading partner behind Canada. Over the last decade, U.S. exports to Mexico have increased by 207 percent. In 1999, alone, the United States exported \$86.9 billion to Mexico—that is more than we exported to France, Germany, and the United Kingdom combined: \$84.1 billion!

Overall progress in our partnership cannot occur, though, absent continued progress in Mexico's economy. Although Mexico is in its fifth consecutive year of recovery following the 1994-1995 peso crisis, improved living standards and economic opportunities have not been felt nationwide. Lack of jobs and depressed wages are particularly acute in the interior of the country, even in President Fox's home state of Guanajuato. As long as enormous disparities in wages and living conditions exist between the United States and Mexico, our own nation will not fully realize the potential of Mexico as an export market nor will we be able to deal adequately with the resulting problems of illegal immigration, border crime, and drug trafficking.

In keeping with the market-oriented approach we began with NAFTA, the United States can take a number of constructive steps to continue economic progress in Mexico and secure its support for a Free Trade Agreement with the Americas:

First, we can encourage growth and development by devising, for example, a common strategy to improve the flow of credit and U.S. investment opportunities in Mexico and by increasing