

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

The resolution (H. Con. Res. 108) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE CAPITOL GROUNDS

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 74.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 74) authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the 20th annual National Peace Officers' Memorial Service.

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

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 74) was agreed to.

HONORING THE "WHIDBEY 24"

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Armed Services Committee be discharged from consideration of S. Res. 80 and the Senate then proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 80) honoring the "Whidbey 24" for their professionalism, bravery, and courage.

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

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution and preamble be agreed to en bloc, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 80) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 80

Whereas the Electronic Countermeasures Squadron One (VQ-1) at Whidbey Island Naval Air Station performs an electronic reconnaissance mission for the defense of our Nation;

Whereas on April 1, 2001, a VQ-1 EP-3E Ariels II electronic surveillance plane collided with a Chinese fighter jet and made an emergency landing at the Chinese military airfield on Hainan Island;

Whereas the 24 crew members on board the plane (referred to in this resolution as the

"Whidbey 24") displayed exemplary bravery and courage and the highest standards of professionalism in responding to the collision and during the ensuing 11 days in detention in the People's Republic of China;

Whereas Navy Lieutenant, Shane J. Osborn, displayed courage and extraordinary skill by safely landing the badly damaged EP-3E; and

Whereas each member of the "Whidbey 24" embodies the selfless dedication it takes to defend our Nation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses relief at the release and safe return of the "Whidbey 24" and shares in their families' joy;

(2) applauds the selfless devotion to duty of the "Whidbey 24" who risked their lives to defend our Nation;

(3) praises the "Whidbey 24" for their professionalism and bravery and expresses the admiration and gratitude of our Nation; and

(4) acknowledges the sacrifices made every day by the members of our Nation's Armed Forces as they defend and preserve our Nation.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANT ROLE PLAYED BY THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 86, submitted earlier by Senator BOND for himself and others.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 86) to express the sense of the Senate recognizing the important role played by the Small Business Administration on behalf of the United States small business community.

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

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, as has been the tradition for the past 38 years, the President of the United States has issued a proclamation calling for the celebration of Small Business Week. Today, we are in the middle of Small Business Week 2001, which is being sponsored by the Small Business Administration. The purpose of this week's celebration is to honor over 25 million businesses that make up the U.S. small business community. It is very appropriate for us, today, to recognize the importance of America's small businesses, and the significant role played by the Small Business Administration, SBA, in our Nation's economic growth.

Congress established the SBA in 1953 to provide financial and management assistance to start-up and growing small businesses. Over the past 48 years, the success of SBA in meeting its missions is legend. It maintains a portfolio of guaranteed small business loans and disaster loans totaling more than \$45 billion. And the Agency has guaranteed another \$13 billion in venture capital investments to small businesses. To compliment its successful credit programs, the SBA's manage-

ment assistance programs were delivered to more than one million small businesses during the past fiscal year.

Over the past decade of record economic growth and prosperity, U.S. small businesses have been the engine driving our economy. More than 99% of all employers in the United States are small businesses, providing nearly 75% of the net new jobs added to our workforce. Small businesses have proven, year-in and year-out, that they are a potent force in the economy, accounting for 51% of the private sector output. And their sights are not set just at home; leading the way toward a global economy, the small business community represents 96% of all U.S. exporters.

Over the past 6 years I have been the chairman of the Committee on Small Business, and I have witnessed the enormous potential of America's small businesses at work. They are flexible; they are creative; they give us jobs; they provide economic growth; and most importantly, they provide hope and a future for millions of families and communities across our great nation.

The resolution now before the Senate recognizes the critical role played by small businesses and the Small Business Administration in this business community. It is appropriate that we take a moment from our hectic lives to acknowledge the success of small businesses and to encourage our federal government to continue to provide its help to insure future successes.

I urge each of my colleagues to vote for the Small Business resolution as a way to thank the SBA and the small business community for its contributions to our Nation.

IMPORTANCE OF THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I speak today in strong support of the sense of the Senate resolution introduced by Chairman BOND and myself, recognizing the important role played by the Small Business Administration on behalf of the United States small business community. I am pleased to say that nearly every Senator on the Small Business Committee has cosponsored this important Resolution. I would like to thank Senators BURNS, LEVIN, BENNETT, HARKIN, SNOWE, LIEBERMAN, ENZI, WELLSTONE, CRAPO, CLELAND, ENSIGN, LANDRIEU, EDWARDS, and CANTWELL for showing their support for America's small businesses by cosponsoring this Resolution.

Mr. President, small businesses keep the U.S. economy moving. They are responsible for employing more than 52 percent of the private workforce; for generating more than 51 percent of the nation's gross domestic product; and are the principal source of new jobs. They were also responsible for helping