

Whereas Big Brothers and Big Sisters have given countless hours and forever changed the lives of America's children, contributing over 10,500,000 volunteer hours at an estimated value of \$190,000,000 in 2004;

Whereas evidence-based research has shown that Big Brothers Big Sisters mentoring model improves a child's academic performance and relationships with teachers, parents, and peers, decreases the likelihood of youth violence and drug and alcohol use, and raises self-confidence levels;

Whereas 454 local Big Brothers Big Sisters agencies are currently contributing to the quality of life of at-risk youth in over 5,000 communities across the United States; and

Whereas the future of Big Brothers Big Sisters depends not only on its past impact, but also on the future accomplishments of its Little Brothers and Little Sisters and the continued commitment to its Big Brothers and Big Sisters: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) recognizes the second century of Big Brothers Big Sisters, supports the mission and goals of the organization, and commends Big Brothers Big Sisters for its commitment to helping children in need reach their potential through professionally supported one to one mentoring relationships with measurable results;

(2) asks all Americans to join in marking the beginning of Big Brothers Big Sisters' second century and support the organization's next 100 years of service on behalf of America's children; and

(3) encourages Big Brothers Big Sisters to continue to strive towards serving 1,000,000 children annually.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 2, 2005, at 4 p.m., in closed session to receive a briefing on training of Iraqi security forces.

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

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet on Wednesday, February 2, 2005, at 10 a.m. on the U.S. Tsunami Warning System and S. 50, Tsunami Preparedness Act of 2005.

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

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to meet on Wednesday, February 2, 2005 at 9:15 a.m., to conduct a legislative hearing on S. 131, "The Clear Skies Act of 2005".

The hearing will be held in SD 406.

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

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session on Wednesday, February 2, 2005 at 10 a.m., to hear testimony on the Long Term Outlook for Social Security.

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

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet in executive session for its organizational meeting during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 2, 2005 at 10 a.m., in SD-430.

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

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet on Wednesday, February 2, 2005 at 10 a.m., to consider the nomination of Michael Chertoff to be Secretary of Homeland Security.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet to conduct a hearing on Wednesday, February 2, 2005 at 9:30 a.m., on "Asbestos: The Mixed Dust and FELA Issues." The hearing will take place in the Dirksen Senate Office Building Room 226.

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

AUTHORIZING SENATE COMMITTEE TO ESCORT THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES INTO THE HOUSE CHAMBER

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Presiding Officer of the Senate be authorized to appoint a committee on the part of the Senate to join with a like committee on the part of the House of Representatives to escort the President of the United States into the House Chamber for the joint session to be held tonight, Wednesday, February 2nd, 2005, at 9 p.m.

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

PROVIDING FOR AN ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 39 which was received from the House.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (H. Con. Res. 39) providing for an adjournment of the House of Representatives.

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

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

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

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 39) was agreed to.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent when the Senate completes its business today, it recess until 8:40 p.m. tonight, at which time the Senate will proceed as a body to the House Chamber for the President's State of the Union address; provided that upon the dissolution of the joint session, the Senate adjourn until 9 a.m. on Thursday, February 3rd.

I further ask that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved, and the Senate then begin a period of morning business for up to 2 hours, with the first hour under the control of the Democratic leader or his designee and the second hour under the control of the majority leader or his designee; provided that following morning business the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the nomination of Alberto Gonzales to be Attorney General as provided under the previous order; provided that during the first 2 hours of debate tomorrow, the first 30 minutes be under the control of the majority, and following that the time alternate every 30 minutes.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. McCONNELL. Tomorrow, following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Alberto Gonzales to be Attorney General for a total of 8 hours of debate remaining with the time equally divided between the chairman and the ranking member of the Judiciary Committee. It is my hope that some time will be yielded back, allowing us to proceed to a vote earlier in the afternoon. We have had full debate on this nomination. We all appreciate the orderly fashion in which we have conducted the debate.

Again, Senators are reminded to gather at 8:30 this evening in the Senate Chamber. The Senate will proceed as a body promptly at 8:40 tonight and to the Hall of the House of Representatives for the President's 9 p.m. address.