

(1) the achievements of Angela Raish and her more than 21 years of service to the Senate and Senator Domenici be honored and celebrated;

(2) the love and affection that Angela's friends and colleagues share for her be recognized; and

(3) Angela's pride in work and home be recognized as the standard to which all should aspire.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, we have just adopted a resolution paying our respects, without any doubt in my mind, to one of the most wonderful women who has worked in the Senate, Angela Raish. She has worked in my office for 21 years. Many hundreds of people in the Senate and many thousands out in my State and around the Nation know her as one of the best women who has ever served in this institution. She served this Senator well, but in doing that, she also has helped literally hundreds of people who none of us are even aware of. We are going to pay tribute to her later in the week with an event here in the Senate, and there will be a lot of people who will come to say thank you to Angela.

I wanted to take with us to that event this resolution where the Senate recognized her 21-year effort. The resolution accurately depicts much about her life and what she has accomplished, the many outstanding jobs she has held, and obviously the longest tenure in my office working for the Senate. I thank the Senate for passing this resolution.

NATIONAL CHILDREN'S MEMORIAL DAY

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 513, S. Res. 193.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 193) designating September 13, 1998, as "National Children's Memorial Day."

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

Mr. DOMENICI. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution and preamble be agreed to en bloc, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD at the appropriate place as if read.

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

The resolution was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution (S. Res. 193) with its preamble reads as follows:

S. RES. 193

Whereas approximately 79,000 infants, children, teenagers, and young adults die each year in the United States;

Whereas the death of a child is one of the greatest tragedies suffered by a family; and

Whereas support and understanding are critical to the healing process of a bereaved family; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates December 13, 1998, as "National Children's Memorial Day"; and

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation designating December 13, 1998, as "National Children's Memorial Day" and calls on the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities in remembrance of infants, children, teenagers, and young adults who have died.

Mr. DOMENICI. I thank the Senate. I yield the floor. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, on behalf of the majority leader, I ask the Chair to lay before the Senate Calendar No. 440, S. 2237, the fiscal year 1999 Interior appropriations bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2237) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes.

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

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. GORTON. I ask unanimous consent that Bruce Evans, Ginny James, Anne McInerney, Leif Fonnesebeck, Kevin Johnson, Kurt Dodd, and Carole Geagley of the Appropriations Committee staff; Chuck Berwick and Kari Vander Stoep of my personal staff; and Hank Kashdan, Mary Ellen Mueller, and Craig Leff, detailees with the Appropriations Committee, be granted privileges of the floor during consideration of S. 2237.

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

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, it is my pleasure to bring before the Senate the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 1999. The bill provides \$13.4 billion in discretionary budget authority for agencies and programs under the subcommittee's jurisdiction, an increase of \$265 million above the FY 98 freeze level, but \$660 million less than the President's budget request.

As always, putting this bill together has been a great challenge. The subcommittee received more than 2,000 individual requests from Senators regarding particular projects or programs, the majority of which were requests for additions to the President's budget request, which I have already mentioned is well in excess of the amounts available to the Subcommittee. While Senator STEVENS has been as

generous with the Interior Subcommittee as I could reasonably expect him to be given the constraints of the discretionary spending caps, the subcommittee's allocation is such that the FY 1999 bill in large part continues programs at or near the current year level. There are significant, but modest, increases for a handful of high priority programs, but for the most part there are few surprises or dramatic new funding initiatives.

As Members consider whether particular programs in this bill have been treated fairly within the constraints of the subcommittee's allocation, I hope they will consider two factors. First, for the first time since Fiscal Year 1995, this bill does not mandate a sale of oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to pay for the costs of operating the reserve. An oil sale at current price levels would be unwise to say the least. But the fact that this bill does not include an oil sale means that the Subcommittee had to find \$155 million for operation of the Reserve that was not included in last year's base. As a consequence, the increase in the Subcommittee's allocation is effectively only \$110 million above the freeze level.

The second factor of which I want my colleagues to be aware when evaluating this bill is the impact of increases in Federal pay, benefits and other fixed costs. The Interior bill as a whole is one of the most personnel-intensive of the appropriations bills, supporting tens of thousands of park rangers, foresters, Indian health professionals and other Federal workers. Each year the agencies funded in this bill must accommodate increases in pay and benefits for these workers, and similar cost increases over which the Subcommittee has no direct control. In FY 1999, these "uncontrollable costs" will amount to more than \$200 million.

Lest any of my colleagues feel these costs are attributable to a bloated bureaucracy, I note that Department of the Interior staffing in Washington, D.C. is 17% below its 1993 base—despite a significant expansion since that time in the number of parks, refuges, and other Interior programs, most of which have been authorized by Congress. This 17% reduction is the second greatest among all civilian cabinet agencies. While the Subcommittee continues to seek efficiencies and to terminate wasteful programs, yearly increases in pay and related costs for core Federal employees continue to consume most or all of any increases that the Subcommittee may receive in its allocation.

Having noted two of the major factors impacting funding levels in this year's bill, I want to highlight some priority programs where we were able to provide modest—but significant—increases. The bill includes a \$55 million increase for operation of the national park system, including increases over the current year level of \$18 million for park maintenance, \$15 million for special need parks, and \$10 million for an