

Dennis Cluff Merrill, of Oregon, to be United States Marshal for the District of Oregon for the term of four years.

John Schickle, of Kentucky, to be United States Marshal for the Eastern District of Kentucky for the term of four years.

William R. Whittington, of Louisiana, to be United States Marshal for the Western District of Louisiana for the term of four years.

Stephen Gilbert Fitzgerald, of Wisconsin, to be United States Marshal for the Western District of Wisconsin for a term of four years.

J.C. Raffety, of West Virginia, to be United States Marshal for the Northern District of West Virginia for a term of four years.

James Anthony Rose, of Wyoming, to be United States Marshal for the District of Wyoming for the term of four years.

James Loren Kennedy, of Indiana, to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of Indiana for the term of four years.

Theophile Alceste Duroncelet, of Louisiana, to be United States Marshal for the Eastern District of Louisiana for the term of four years.

James Thomas Plousis, of New Jersey, to be United States Marshal for the District of New Jersey for the term of four years.

Charles R. Reavis, of North Carolina, to be United States Marshal for the Eastern District of North Carolina for the term of four years.

Timothy Dewayne Welch, of Oklahoma, to be United States Marshal for the Northern District of Oklahoma for the term of four years.

Michael Robert Regan, of Pennsylvania, to be United States Marshal for the Middle District of Pennsylvania for the term of four years.

Jesse Seroyer, Jr., of Alabama, to be United States Marshal for the Middle District of Alabama for the term of four years.

Gregory Allyn Forest, of North Carolina, to be United States Marshal for the Western District of North Carolina for the term of four years.

John R. Edwards, of Vermont, to be United States Marshal for the District of Vermont for the term of four years.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session.

#### INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Mr. DASCHLE. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 223, submitted earlier today by Senators BIDEN, BOXER, DODD, and others.

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. 223), designating March 8, 2002, as "International Women's Day".

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

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, today I introduced a Senate resolution designating March 8 as International Women's Day. A similar resolution will be introduced in the House of Representatives by Representative SCHAKOWSKY with the support of the Women's Cau-

cus. International Women's Day was first observed in 1909, and since then it has provided an opportunity for us to take a moment to remember, celebrate and honor the remarkable steps women have made in their fight for equality all over the globe. This year, Afghan women are the symbol of International Women's Day. Afghan women are triumphant examples of women empowered and able to transform their lives.

We have much to admire in the courage and endurance of Afghan women. Afghan women withstood for more than 5 years systemic oppression by the Taliban. For more than 5 years, women in Afghanistan—solely because they were women—were silenced, forbidden to enter public life, forbidden to be seen unaccompanied on city streets, forbidden to teach or attend schools, forbidden to seek health care and forbidden to work. If women disobeyed, they were beaten. The threat of violence kept women quiet and compliant.

Since the downfall of the Taliban, the veil has lifted for women in Afghanistan. Today we see news clips of women walking the streets of Kabul without burkas and girls learning to read in a city school. Women are resuming their jobs as teachers, government workers and doctors. The Health Minister in the new interim government is a Tajik woman surgeon from Kabul. There is a new Ministry of Women's Affairs led by Dr. Sima Samar who is steadily pushing and pulling to restore women's rights. These are enormous strides to regain women's rights in Afghanistan and a testament to the strength of Afghan women.

The collaboration, persistence and support of international women's groups to expose the Taliban's oppression should also be recognized. While the plight of Afghan women surfaced on the cover of American magazines only this year, many women's groups have been working on the situation for years—writing letters, pressing for action, and supporting refugees. Indeed, in December, an incredible array of international women's groups gathered in Brussels from all over the world to discuss and strategize ways to change Afghanistan. The international women's community understands that this is a long and complicated process for change, and they remain strongly beside Afghan women. International Women's Day gives us an opportunity to acknowledge their tireless efforts and achievements.

As we have seen in Afghanistan, an essential component to achieving gender equality is ending violence against women—an issue about which I care deeply. Women cannot fully participate in a society when they live in fear of violence. Supporting International Women's Day means supporting an end to violence against women.

Without a doubt, we must start in our living rooms. Unfortunately, there is still much to be done in the United States. But steadily we are making sig-

nificant improvements. According to United States Justice Department data, the overall rate of intimate partner violence against all females decreased a dramatic 41 percent between 1993 and 1999. I am proud to say that some of the improvements come directly from my bill, the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, and its reauthorization in 2000. We have transformed a "private" family matter into a serious, public crime.

Now we are setting our sights on cultural changes and creating a society that has zero tolerance for violence against women. Men who hit or assault women must become the pariahs of our society. We need to teach our young men and boys that violence against girls is completely and utterly unacceptable. And then spread the word around the globe.

International Women's Day reminds us that as we are fighting to end violence against women in America, we need to extend our reach, and fight violence against all women. The range of gender-related violence is staggering. It occurs in every segment of society, without regard for class, color, ethnicity, or country. The violence includes honor killings, sexual trafficking in women, dowry-related violence, female infanticide, sexual assault, and domestic violence. Studies indicate that 1 out of every 3 women in the world has been battered by an intimate partner. Data on rape indicates that as many as 1 in 5 women worldwide are victims of rape, with young women as the most frequent targets. Women everywhere cannot fully participate in society until the violence ends.

We will get there. Despite the threat of violence, women have made incredible strides. Worldwide, there is a closing gender gap in primary and secondary school education. In 1998, 8 percent of the world's cabinet ministers were women, compared to 4 percent in 1994. All over the world women are actively engaged in the economy as workers, producers, traders, managers, and owners. On International Women's Day let us imagine what women can accomplish when they no longer fear violence.

Mr. President, I sincerely hope that all of my colleagues join me to support this resolution to designate March 8 as International Women's Day, to celebrate the enormous progress of women and to reaffirm our commitment to end violence and discrimination against women.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, today I rise to commemorate International Women's Day. For nearly a century, women's groups worldwide have paused on this day to celebrate the achievements and contributions of women around the globe. It is a special occasion to remember the progress women have made and to reflect upon the injustices and hardships women still face in the struggle for total equality.

International Women's Day is recognized in many countries around the

world, and in some cases, is celebrated as a national holiday. This past week, the Senate has marked this holiday with a Senate resolution urging the President to designate March 8 as International Women's Day in the United States. Also, in honor of this day, there have been series of briefings and discussions about violence and discrimination against women for Members of Congress and their staff. I hope my colleagues have had an opportunity to participate in these discussions and view the exhibits.

Women have made tremendous strides in the last century. In the United States, more and more women are attending college and earning postgraduate degrees. Consequently, more women are entering the workforce, and starting their own companies. Women all over the world are increasingly becoming more active in the political process, having earned the right to vote, being elected to office, and appointed to positions of power. In the year 2000, 11 countries were lead by women.

In our own country, while much progress has been made in the struggle for equality, there are many cases where women are still at a disadvantage. Women continue to earn less than men. Equal pay for equal work is the law of the land, but that promise remains unfulfilled for many. Although some progress has been made in narrowing the gender wage-gap since Congress enacted the Equal Pay Act in 1963, unfair wage disparities continue to be a problem. Wage discrimination is costing families thousands of dollars each year. I am proud to support legislative efforts to correct this discrepancy.

We cannot forget women and children when the Senate considers reauthorization of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families later this year. Too often, women and children fall through the cracks of the system. While many women are going to work, many have to sacrifice time spent with their children in order to afford child care, education, and health care for their kids.

Unfortunately, violence against women is still all too prevalent in our country. Domestic violence is the leading cause of injury among women of child-bearing age. One out of every six American women have been victims of a rape or an attempted rape. Many rapes go unreported, and more than half of the women attacked knew their assailant. Only recently have states begun to recognize crimes such as stalking or marital rape.

Today, we must also consider the challenges facing women abroad. Women in the developing world are more likely to live in poverty, suffer from malnutrition and lack access to education. Despite the expansion of women's health care research and practices in the last two decades, women still have unequal access to these services.

The HIV/AIDS crisis in Africa is particularly alarming. As chairman of the

Senate Foreign Relations Committee's Subcommittee on African Affairs, I have had the opportunity to travel to numerous countries in Africa and see firsthand the devastating toll that HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases are taking on the people of this continent. According to United Nations reports, over 25 million adults and children in Africa are infected with the HIV virus, the majority of them in Sub-Saharan Africa. Sub-Saharan Africa is the only region in which women are infected with the virus at a higher rate than men. UNAIDS, the United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS, reports that women make up an estimated 55 percent of the HIV-positive adult population in this region, as compared to 47 percent worldwide. Young women are especially at risk. The United Nations reports that in the region girls age 15-19 are infected with HIV at a rate of 15 percent to 23 percent, whereas infection rates among boys of the same age group are 3 percent to 4 percent.

Women in other countries suffer tragic human rights abuses as well. They are victims of domestic violence and illegal trafficking of persons for slavery and prostitution. In some countries, women fall victim to "honor killings," a deplorable practice whereby women are murdered by male relatives for actions that are perceived to bring dishonor to the family.

Rape and sexual assault have often been used as weapons of war. The international tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda are setting legal precedents in convicting men for rape, torture, and enslavement of women during times of war or regional conflict. These convictions set an international legal precedent for rape to be considered a crime against humanity.

In the last few months, the whole world has come to understand the treatment and status of Afghan women under the reign of the Taliban. Now, as the Afghan people begin to rebuild and reconstruct their country, it is imperative that women play an integral role in that effort. International aid should be given to help women regain their rights to an education, access to quality health care, and involvement in the political process. Women should be included in all levels of government for the future of Afghanistan. Restoring human rights, and, in particular, women's human rights, is key to Afghanistan's successful reconstruction and the transition to democracy.

The protection of women's rights is vital to the success of promoting fundamental human rights. The United States Senate can work towards protecting women's rights and improve the status of women domestically and internationally by acting upon the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, or CEDAW. CEDAW is the most comprehensive treaty on women's human rights addressing almost all forms of discrimination in areas such as education, employment, marriage

and family, health care, politics and law. It has been over two decades since the United States signed this treaty, and it still awaits consideration before the United States Senate. Once again, I urge the Committee on Foreign Relations to take up this treaty and finally allow the Senate the opportunity to offer its advice and consent on this important convention.

In conclusion, today, as we honor women everywhere and celebrate their accomplishments and contributions to history, we must recognize that there is still more to be done in the struggle for gender equity. Discrimination and violence against women still exist here at home and abroad. The United States and the rest of the international community must reaffirm their commitment to promote gender equality and human rights around the world.

Mr. DASCHLE. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution and preamble be agreed to en bloc, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements be printed in the RECORD, with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 223) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.  
(The resolution is printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Submitted Resolutions.")

#### GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

Mr. DASCHLE. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 322, S. Res. 214.

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. 214) designating March 25, 2002, as "Greek Independence Day: A National Day of Celebration of Greek and American Democracy."

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

Mr. DASCHLE. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution and preamble 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 resolution (S. Res. 214) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.  
The resolution, with its preamble, is as follows:

#### S. RES. 214

Whereas the ancient Greeks developed the concept of democracy, in which the supreme power to govern was vested in the people;

Whereas the Founding Fathers of the United States drew heavily on the political experience and philosophy of ancient Greece in forming our representative democracy;

Whereas Greek Commander in Chief Petros Mavromichalis, a founder of the modern Greek state, said to the citizens of the United States in 1821, "it is in your land that liberty has fixed her abode and . . . in imitating you, we shall imitate our ancestors