

Awareness Week with appropriate educational activities.

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, today I have the honor of joining with 50 of my colleagues in submitting a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the week that includes Veterans' Day this year be designated as "National Veterans Awareness Week." This marks the third year in a row that I have introduced such a resolution, which has been adopted unanimously by the Senate on both previous occasions.

The purpose of National Veterans Awareness Week is to serve as a focus for educational programs designed to make students in elementary and secondary schools aware of the contributions of veterans and their importance in preserving American peace and prosperity. This goal takes on particular importance and immediacy this year as we find ourselves at war in the wake of the attack against us on our own territory.

Why do we need such an educational effort? In a sense, this action has become necessary because we are victims of our own success with regard to the superior performance of our armed forces. The plain fact is that there are just fewer people around now who have had any connection with military service. For example, as a result of tremendous advances in military technology and the resultant productivity increases, our current armed forces now operate effectively with a personnel roster that is one-third less in size than just 10 years ago. In addition, the success of the all-volunteer career-oriented force has led to much lower turnover of personnel in today's military than in previous eras when conscription was in place. Finally, the number of veterans who served during previous conflicts, such as World War II, when our military was many times larger than today, is inevitably declining.

The net result of these changes is that the percentage of the entire population that has served in the Armed Forces is dropping rapidly, a change that can be seen in all segments of society. Whereas during World War II it was extremely uncommon to find a family in America that did not have one of its members on active duty, now there are numerous families that include no military veterans at all. As a consequence of this lack of opportunity for contacts with veterans, many of our young people have little or no connection with or knowledge about the important historical and ongoing role of men and women who have served in the military. This omission seems to have persisted despite ongoing educational efforts by the Department of Veterans Affairs and the veterans service organizations.

This lack of understanding about military veterans' important role in our society can have potentially serious repercussions. In our country, civilian control of the armed forces is the key tenet of military governance.

A citizenry that is oblivious to the capabilities and limitations of the armed forces, and to its critical role throughout our history can make decisions that have unexpected and unwanted consequences. Even more important, general recognition of the importance of those individual character traits that are essential for military success, such as patriotism, selflessness, sacrifice and heroism, is vital to maintaining these key aspects of citizenship in the armed forces and even throughout the population at large.

Among today's young people, a generation that has grown up largely during times of peace and extraordinary prosperity and has embraced a "me first" attitude, it is perhaps even more important to make sure that there is solid understanding of what it has taken to attain this level of comfort and freedom. Even in the midst of our ongoing war against terrorism, with Americans in uniform finding themselves in harm's way around the world, many young people seem to be totally divorced from the implications of the conflict that is raging.

The failure of our children to understand why a military is important, why our society continues to depend on it for ultimate survival, and why a successful military requires integrity and sacrifice, will have predictable consequences as these youngsters become of voting age. Even though military service is a responsibility that is no longer shared by a large segment of the population, as it has been in the past, knowledge of the contributions of those who have served in the Armed Forces is as important as it has ever been. To the extent that many of us will not have the opportunity to serve our country in uniform, we must still remain cognizant of our responsibility as citizens to fulfill the obligations, we owe, both tangible and intangible, to those who do serve and who do sacrifice on our behalf.

The importance of this issue was brought home to me two years ago by Samuel I. Cashdollar, who was then a 13-year-old seventh grader at Lewes Middle School in Lewes, DE. Samuel won the Delaware VFW's Youth Essay Contest that year with a powerful presentation titled "How Should We Honor America's Veterans?" Samuel's essay pointed out that we have Nurses' Week, Secretaries' Week, and Teachers' Week, to rightly emphasize the importance of these occupations, but the contributions of those in uniform tend to be overlooked. We don't want our children growing up to think that Veterans Day has simply become a synonym for department store sale, and we don't want to become a Nation where more high school seniors recognize the name Britney Spears than the name Dwight Eisenhower.

National Veterans Awareness Week complements Veterans Day by focusing on education as well as commemoration, on the contributions of the many in addition to the heroism and service

of the individual. National Veterans Awareness Week also presents an opportunity to remind ourselves of the contributions and sacrifices of those who have served in peacetime as well as in conflict; both groups work unending hours and spend long periods away from their families under conditions of great discomfort so that we all can live in a land of freedom and plenty.

Last year, my resolution designating National Veterans Awareness Week had 58 cosponsors and was approved in the Senate by unanimous consent. Responding to that resolution, President Bush issued a proclamation urging our citizenry to observe National Veterans Awareness Week. I ask my colleagues to continue this trend of support for our veterans by endorsing this resolution again this year. Our children and our children's children will need to be well informed about what veterans have accomplished in order to make appropriate decisions as they confront the numerous worldwide challenges that they are sure to face in the future.

SENATE RESOLUTION 294—TO AMEND RULE XLII OF THE STANDING RULES OF THE SENATE TO PROHIBIT EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION IN THE SENATE BASED ON SEXUAL ORIENTATION

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. DODD, Mr. TORRICELLI, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. DAYTON, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. INOUE, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. REED, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. HARKIN, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. REID, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. CORZINE, Mr. BINGAMAN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. BAYH, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. WELLSTONE, Mr. KERRY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. KOHL, Mrs. CARNAHAN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. NELSON of Florida, and Mr. CLELAND) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 294

*Resolved,*

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT TO THE STANDING RULES OF THE SENATE.

Paragraph 1 of rule XLII of the Standing Rules of the Senate is amended by striking "or state of physical handicap" and inserting "state of physical handicap, or sexual orientation".

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to submit a resolution to prohibit employment discrimination in the United States Senate based on sexual orientation.

The resolution would amend the Standing Rules of the Senate by adding "sexual orientation" to "race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, or state of physical handicap" in the anti-discrimination provision of rule 42, which governs the Senate's employment practices.

I am very pleased that 41 of my colleagues, Senators SPECTER, DASCHLE, DODD, TORRICELLI, FEINGOLD, DAYTON, STABENOW, DURBIN, JEFFORDS, KENNEDY, INOUE, CANTWELL, LEAHY, WYDEN, BOXER, REED, AKAKA, HARKIN, CLINTON, REID, MURRAY, CORZINE, BINGAMAN, MIKULSKI, BAYH, LEVIN, WELLSTONE, KERRY, COLLINS, LIEBERMAN, LANDRIEU, EDWARDS, SMITH of Oregon, BIDEN, SCHUMER, CHAFFEE, SARBANES, KOHL, CARNAHAN, CARPER, and NELSON of Florida, have joined me in submitting this resolution today.

By amending the current rule, it would forbid any Senate member, officer or employee from terminating, refusing to hire, or otherwise discriminating against an individual with respect to promotion, compensation, or any other privilege of employment, on the basis of that individual's sexual orientation.

Senate employees currently have no recourse available to them should they become a victim of this type of employment discrimination.

If the rules are amended, any Senate employee that encountered discrimination based on their sexual orientation would have the option of reporting it to the Senate Ethics Committee. The Ethics Committee could then investigate the claim and recommend discipline for any Senate member, officer or employee found to have violated the rule.

Unfortunately, the Senate is already well behind other establishments of the U.S. Government in this area of anti-discrimination.

By 1996, at least 13 cabinet level agencies, including the Departments of Justice, Agriculture, Transportation, Health and Human Services, Interior, Housing and Urban Development, Labor, and Energy, in addition to the General Accounting Office, General Services Administration, Internal Revenue Service, the Federal Reserve System, Office of Personnel Management, and the White House had already issued policy statements forbidding sexual orientation discrimination.

In 1998, Executive Order 13087 was issued to prohibit sexual orientation discrimination in the Federal executive branch, including civilian employees of the military departments and sundry other governmental entities.

That Executive order now covers approximately 2 million Federal civilian workers, yet, four years later, there are still employees of the United States Senate that are unprotected.

In taking this step toward addressing discrimination, the Senate would join not only the Executive Branch, but also 294 Fortune 500 companies, 23 State governments and 252 local governments that have already prohibited workplace discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Currently, at least 68 Senators have already adopted written policies for their congressional offices indicating that sexual orientation is not a factor in their employment decisions.

Now, I urge my colleagues to join me by making this policy universal for the Senate, rather than relying on a patchwork of protection that only covers some of the Senate's employees.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 295—COMMEMORATING THE 32ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE POLICY OF INDIAN SELF-DETERMINATION

Mr. CAMPBELL (for himself, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. COCHRAN, and Ms. STABENOW) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 295

Whereas the United States of America and the Sovereign Indian Tribes contained within its boundaries have had a long and mutually beneficial relationship since the beginning of the Republic.

Whereas the United States has recognized this special legal and political relationship and its trust responsibility to the Indian Tribes as reflected in the Federal Constitution, treaties, numerous court decisions, Federal statutes, executive orders, and course of dealing;

Whereas Federal policy toward the Indian Tribes has vacillated through history and often failed to uphold the government-to-government relationship that has endured for more than 200 years;

Whereas these Federal policies included the wholesale removal of Indian tribes and their members from their aboriginal homelands, attempts to assimilate Indian people into the general culture, as well as the termination of the legal and political relationship between the United States and the Indian tribes;

Whereas President Richard M. Nixon, in his 'Special Message to Congress on Indian Affairs' on July 8, 1970, recognized that the Indian Tribes constitute a distinct and valuable segment of the American federalist system, whose members have made significant contributions to the United States and to American culture;

Whereas President Nixon determined that Indian Tribes, as local governments, are best able to discern the needs of their people and are best situated to determine the direction of their political and economic futures;

Whereas in his 'Special Message' President Nixon recognized that the policies of legal and political termination on the one hand, and paternalism and excessive dependence on the other, devastated the political, economic, and social aspects of life in Indian America, and had to be radically altered;

Whereas in his 'Special message' President Nixon set forth the foundation for a new, more enlightened Federal Indian policy grounded in economic self-reliance and political self-determination; and

Whereas this Indian self-determination policy has endured as the most successful policy of the United States in dealing with the Indian Tribes because it rejects the failed policies of termination and paternalism and recognized 'the integrity and right to continued existence of all Indian Tribal and Alaska native governments, recognizing that cultural pluralism is a source of national strength';

Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate of the United States recognizes the unique role of the Indian Tribes and their members in the United States, and commemorates the vision and leadership of President Nixon, and every succeeding President, in fostering the policy of Indian Self-Determination

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I am pleased to submit today a resolution to commemorate the anniversary of a little-noticed but critical event that took place 32 years ago this summer.

In July 1970, President Richard M. Nixon delivered his now-famous "Special Message to the Congress on Indian Affairs" that revolutionized how our Nation deals with Native governments and Native people from Florida to Alaska, from Maine to Hawaii.

With centuries of ill-conceived and misdirected Federal policies and practices behind us, I am happy to say that the Nixon Indian policy continues as the bedrock of America's promise to Native Americans.

In his Message to Congress, the President made the case for a more enlightened Federal Indian policy. Citing historical injustices as well as the practical failure of all previous Federal policies regarding Indian Nations, President Nixon called for the rejection of both the "termination" policy of the 1950s and the "excessive dependence" on the Federal Government by Indian tribes and people fostered by Federal paternalism.

Nixon observed that "[t]he first Americans—the Indians—are the most deprived and most isolated group in our Nation. On virtually every scale of measurement—employment, income, education, health—the condition of the Indian people rank at the bottom."

Thirty-two years later, Indians continue to suffer high rates of unemployment, are mired in poverty, and still rank at or near the bottom of nearly every social and economic indicator in the Nation. Nonetheless, there is cause for hope that the conditions of Native Americans are improving, however slowly.

The twin pillars of the policy change initiated in 1970 are political self determination and economic self reliance. Without doubt, the most enduring legacy of the 1970 Message is the Indian self determination policy best embodied in the Indian Self Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975, amended several times since then.

This Act, which has consistently been supported, promoted, and expanded with bipartisan support, authorizes Indian tribes to assume responsibility for and administer programs and services formerly provided by the Federal Government.

As of 2001, nearly one-half of all Bureau of Indian Affairs, BIA, and Indian Health Service, IHS, programs and services have been assumed by tribes under the Indian Self Determination Act.

With this transfer of resources and decision making authority, tribal governments have succeeded in improving the quality of services to their citizens, developed more sophisticated tribal governing structures and practices, improved their ability to govern, and strengthened their economies.