

POM-292. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Texas relative to immigration status and benefits for surviving spouses and children; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 156

Whereas, according to the United States Department of Defense there are more than 37,000 legal, permanent residents serving on active duty in our armed forces; tragically, the military hostilities in Iraq have already claimed the lives of six of these noncitizen soldiers; and

Whereas, it is a remarkable display of loyalty to the ideals of a democracy and freedom that these brave young men and women defend our country against aggression overseas despite not being recognized as U.S. citizens and not being able to share in the full rights and privileges enjoyed by our fellow Americans; and

Whereas, the United States Congress has the opportunity to help these brave residents and the surviving spouses and children of those killed in action to gain U.S. citizenship and benefits by enacting House Bill H.R. 1685 and House Bill H.R. 1275, the Citizenship for America's Troops Act; and

Whereas, House Bill H.R. 1685 makes the surviving spouse and children of a person who has been granted posthumous citizenship through death while on active-duty service during times of military hostility eligible for immigration status and benefits; and

Whereas, the Citizenship For America's Troops Act reduces from three years to two years the amount of military service required for legal, permanent residents to qualify for U.S. citizenship, and exempts them from paying all of the fees required by the naturalization application process; and

Whereas, the Citizenship For America's Troops Act also allows the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) to conduct citizenship interviews and oath ceremonies for military personnel at embassies, consulates, and overseas military installations rather than requiring such interviews and ceremonies to take place within the United States; and

Whereas, on July 3, 2002, President Bush signed an executive order to provide expedited naturalization for aliens and noncitizen nationals serving honorably on active-duty status in the Armed Forces of the United States during the war on terrorism; and

Whereas, the executive order designated September 11, 2001, as the first day of a period of time in which exceptions from the usual requirements for naturalization were initiated; and

Whereas, given that this period of time has not been closed or terminated by a related executive order, the Congress should take this window of opportunity to honor the desires of the legal, permanent noncitizens who, in fighting global terrorism on our behalf, have demonstrated a willingness to die for a country they cannot yet fully claim as their own: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby respectfully request the Congress of the United States to enact House Bill H.R. 1685, relating to providing immigration status and benefits for surviving spouses and children, and House Bill H.R. 1275, the Citizenship For America's Troops Act; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Texas secretary of state forward official copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to the Congress with

the request that this resolution be officially entered in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

POM-293. A concurrent resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the Legislature of the State of New Hampshire relative to Italian-American citizens of the United States during World War II; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 27

Whereas, more than 500,000 Italian-Americans served in World War II for the United States of America; and

Whereas, recently it has become known that up to 600,000 members of the families of those who served in World War II were placed under wartime restrictions which included random arrests and searches of their person and property, curfews, forced relocation, so-called "prohibited zones," and internment camps; and

Whereas, these individuals were placed under such restrictions solely based on their Italian-American heritage; and

Whereas, Italian-Americans nationwide were affected by these wartime restrictions; and

Whereas, the United States government has acknowledged the wartime campaign against Japanese-Americans, but to date has ignored the plight of Italian-Americans affected by wartime decrees; and

Whereas, the full extent of the United States government's wartime restrictions on Italian-Americans is not known because the Federal Bureau of Investigation refuses to declassify World War II documents describing the nature of these events; and

Whereas, the United States Department of Justice is conducting an inquiry for the purpose of documenting the mistreatment of Italian-Americans during World War II: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring,*

That the United States Department of Justice complete its inquiry into the mistreatment of Italian-Americans during World War II with all due speed and release the results of such inquiry to the public; and

That the Federal Bureau of Investigation take the necessary steps to allow public access to the documents regarding the mistreatment of Italian-Americans during World War II; and

That copies of this resolution shall be sent by the house clerk to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President of the United States Senate, the director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the chairpersons of the Judiciary Committees of the United States House of Representatives and Senate, and the New Hampshire congressional delegation.

POM-294. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Legislature of the State of New Jersey relative to National Grandparents Day; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 50

Whereas, in 1979, Congress approved House Joint Resolution No. 244, which authorized and requested the President to issue annually a proclamation designating the first Sunday of September following Labor Day of each year as "National Grandparents Day"; and

Whereas, in 1994, Congress approved Senate Joint Resolution No. 198, which recognized that grandparents bring a tremendous amount of love to their grandchildren's lives, deepen a child's roots, strengthen a child's development and often serve as the primary caregiver for their grandchildren by providing stable and supportive home environ-

ments, and designated 1995 as the "Year of the Grandparent"; and

Whereas, in making these designations Congress acknowledged the important role grandparents play within families and their many contributions which enhance and further the value of families and their traditions, and recognized that public awareness of and appreciation for grandparents' many contributions should be strengthened; and

Whereas, for both "National Grandparents Day," and the "year of the Grandparent" in 1995, Congress called on the people of the United States and interested groups and organizations to observe the day and year with appropriate ceremonies and activities; and

Whereas, despite the acknowledgment of the tremendous contributions grandparents make to their families' lives, the permanent designation of a day to observe "National Grandparents Day," the year-long designation of 1995 as the "Year of the Grandparent," as well as the call for appropriate ceremonies and activities, the actual observance of appropriate ceremonies and activities has been lacking; and

Whereas, a wholehearted national effort to encourage people and organizations to celebrate "National Grandparents Day" by planning appropriate programs, ceremonies and activities would go a long way to commemorate and honor the wonderful and vital contributions that grandparents make to the lives of their families: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate of the State of New Jersey,*

1. The Congress and President of the United States are respectfully memorialized to make a wholehearted national effort to encourage people and organizations to celebrate "National Grandparents Day" by planning appropriate programs, ceremonies and activities that commemorate and honor the wonderful and vital contributions that grandparents make to the lives of their families.

2. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the President of the Senate and attested by the Secretary of the Senate, shall be forwarded to the President of the United States, the Secretary of Health and Human Services of the United States, the presiding officers of the United States Senate and the House of Representatives, and each of the members of the Congress of the United States elected from the State of New Jersey.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. INHOFE, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, with an amendment:

S. 1039. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to enhance the security of wastewater treatment works (Rept. No. 108-149).

#### EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. DOMENICI for the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

\*Suedeon G. Kelly, of New Mexico, to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for the remainder of the term expiring June 30, 2004.

\*Rick A. Dearborn, of Oklahoma, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs).

\*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to