

quorum, as required under rule XXII, be waived.

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

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate return to legislative session.

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

#### DESIGNATING OCTOBER 27, 2003, AS "INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM DAY"

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 251, which was introduced by Senator BROWBACK earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 251) designating October 27, 2003, as "International Religious Freedom Day."

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

Mr. BROWBACK. Mr. President, I rise to urge my colleagues and the American people to seriously consider the state of religious freedom around the globe.

Exactly 5 years ago we passed groundbreaking legislation aimed at combating international religious persecution. The International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 only established the U.S. Commission on Religious Freedom and the International Religious Freedom Office at the Department of State, but it brought the issue of the religious persecution to the forefront of foreign policy initiatives. Religious persecution remains one of the leading violations of human rights in our world today. It is particularly important that on the 5 year anniversary of the passage of this bill, we remind the world of our commitment to promote religious liberty for all people.

This Nation, founded by those seeking to adopt, believe, worship, observe, teach, and practice their religion, was declared in the first amendment that, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof . . ." And over time, the United States was joined by other countries in signing numerous declaration and international agreements specifically acknowledging the universal human right to freedom of religion.

Despite the great achievements we have made concerning religious liberty, we can not close the book on the millions that still suffer persecution. I remind my colleagues that persecution often includes imprisonment, torture, forced conversion, rape and even death. In Vietnam, Christians are forced to drink the blood of animals and denounce their faith. In Uzbekistan, Mus-

lims who do not conform to the government-prescribed ideas are imprisoned and often tortured. Thousands of religious minorities in India have been killed by extremist majority groups because of their faith. We continue to hear stories from China, North Korea, Sudan, Indonesia, Laos, Pakistan, Turkmenistan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Burma, Tibet, and the list goes on.

The people of Afghanistan and Iraq are currently faced with the challenge of incorporating religious freedom into the drafting of their new constitutions. As I have said before, religious freedom is the bedrock upon which democracy, hope and progress rest. Additionally, religious freedom is more than just the ability to practice one's faith, but it is central to other rights and freedoms, including a free press, public assembly, freedom of speech or the right to petition the government. All of these freedoms will be circumscribed if religious freedom is not part of the new constitutions being drafted in Afghanistan and Iraq. The time is ripe to unite and continue our work on behalf of the millions that have endured their own plight from religious persecution.

As we remember our victory 5 years ago, let us not forget the crucial work on religious liberty that remains at the forefront of foreign policy today. I hope that this resolution calling for the designation of "International Religious Freedom Day" on October 27, 2003 can be quickly considered and approved by my colleagues.

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

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

The resolution (S. Res. 251) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

#### S. RES. 251

Whereas the people of the United States enjoy and respect the freedom of religion and believe that the fundamental rights of all individuals shall be recognized;

Whereas fundamental human rights, including the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion, are protected in numerous international agreements and declarations;

Whereas religious freedom is an absolute human right and all people are entitled to do with their own souls as they choose;

Whereas the right to freedom of religion is expressed in the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief, adopted and proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 36/55 of November 22, 1981; the Helsinki Accords; the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, done at New York on December 16, 1966, and entered into force March 23, 1976; the United Nations Charter; and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted and proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 217(A)(III) of December 10, 1948;

Whereas the freedom for all individuals to adopt, believe, worship, observe, teach, and practice a religion individually or collectively has been explicitly articulated in Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Article 18(1) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

Whereas religious persecution is not confined to a country, a region, or a regime; but whereas all governments should provide and protect religious liberty;

Whereas nearly half of the people in the world are continually denied or restricted in the right to believe or practice their faith;

Whereas religious persecution often includes confinement, separation, humiliation, rape, enslavement, forced conversion, imprisonment, torture, and death;

Whereas October 27, 2003, marks the 5th anniversary of the signing of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6401 et seq.), creating the Office of International Religious Freedom in the Department of State and the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom and resulting in a greater awareness of religious persecution both in the United States and abroad; and

Whereas the United States recognizes the need for additional domestic and international attention and action to promote religious liberty: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 27, 2003, as "International Religious Freedom Day"; and

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation—

(A) calling for a renewed commitment to eliminating violations of the internationally recognized right to freedom of religion and protecting fundamental human rights; and

(B) calling upon the people of the United States and interested groups and organizations to observe International Religious Freedom Day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

#### RECOGNIZING THE DR. SAMUEL D. HARRIS NATIONAL MUSEUM OF DENTISTRY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.J. Res. 52, which is at the desk.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (H.J. Res. 52) recognizing the Dr. Samuel D. Harris National Museum of Dentistry, an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution in Baltimore, Maryland, as the official national museum of dentistry in the United States.

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

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, H.J. Res. 52 recognizes the Dr. Samuel D. Harris National Museum of Dentistry in Baltimore as the official national museum of dentistry in the United States. It passed the House unanimously and is a companion measure to legislation I introduced in the Senate, together with Senator MIKULSKI, S.J. Res. 12.

The principal purpose of this legislation is to help educate the public about the critical importance of oral health