

nature for some women to avoid mammograms because they are afraid of what they will find. To those who are fearful, I would say that if you have periodic routine mammograms, and the latest one comes out positive, even before you have any symptoms or have found a lump on self-examination, you have reason to be optimistic, not pessimistic. Such early-detected breast cancers are highly treatable.

Then there is forgetfulness. I certainly understand how difficult it is to remember to do something that only comes around once each year. I would suggest that this is where "National Mammography Day" comes in. On that day, let's make sure that each woman we know picks a specific date on which to get a mammogram each year, a date that she won't forget: a child's birthday, an anniversary, perhaps even the day her taxes are due. On National Mammography Day, let's ask our loved ones: pick one of these dates, fix it in your mind along with a picture of your child, your wedding, or another symbol of that date, and promise yourself to get a mammogram on that date every year. Do it for yourself and for the others that love you and want you to be part of their lives for as long as possible.

And to those women who are reluctant to have a mammogram, I say let National Mammography Day serve as a reminder to discuss this question each year with your physician. New scientific studies that are published and new mammography techniques that are developed may affect your decision on this matter from one year to the next. I encourage you to keep an open mind and not to feel that a decision at one point in time commits you irrevocably to a particular course of action for the indefinite future.

I urge my colleagues to join me in the ongoing fight against breast cancer by cosponsoring and voting for this resolution to designate October 21, 2005, as "National Mammography Day."

SENATE RESOLUTION 155—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 6 THROUGH NOVEMBER 12, 2005, AS "NATIONAL VETERANS AWARENESS WEEK" TO EMPHASIZE THE NEED TO DEVELOP EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS REGARDING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF VETERANS TO THE COUNTRY

Mr. BIDEN (for himself, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BOND, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. COBURN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CRAPO, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. GREGG, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEVIN, and Mr. THOMAS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 155

Whereas tens of millions of Americans have served in the Armed Forces of the United States during the past century;

Whereas hundreds of thousands of Americans have given their lives while serving in the Armed Forces during the past century;

Whereas the contributions and sacrifices of the men and women who served in the Armed Forces have been vital in maintaining the freedoms and way of life enjoyed by the people of the United States;

Whereas the advent of the all-volunteer Armed Forces has resulted in a sharp decline in the number of individuals and families who have had any personal connection with the Armed Forces;

Whereas this reduction in familiarity with the Armed Forces has resulted in a marked decrease in the awareness by young people of the nature and importance of the accomplishments of those who have served in the Armed Forces, despite the current educational efforts of the Department of Veterans Affairs and the veterans service organizations;

Whereas the system of civilian control of the Armed Forces makes it essential that the future leaders of the Nation understand the history of military action and the contributions and sacrifices of those who conduct such actions; and

Whereas, on November 9, 2004, President George W. Bush issued a proclamation urging all the people of the United States to observe November 7 through November 13, 2004, as "National Veterans Awareness Week": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of November 6 through November 12, 2005, as "National Veterans Awareness Week"; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to observe the week with appropriate educational activities.

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, today I am submitting a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the week that includes Veterans' Day, corresponding this year to November 6–12, 2005, be designated as "National Veterans Awareness Week". This marks the sixth year in a row that I have submitted such a resolution, which has been adopted unanimously by the Senate on all 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 again with uniformed men and women in harm's way in foreign lands.

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 15 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 conscrip-

tion 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. Even though the Iraqi war has been prominently discussed on television and in the newspapers, many of our children are much more preoccupied with the usual concerns of young people than with keeping up with the events of the day. As a consequence, many of our youth still 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 regarding our military involvement that may 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.

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 several 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 a 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 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 156—DESIGNATING JUNE 7, 2005, AS "NATIONAL HUNGER AWARENESS DAY" AND AUTHORIZING THAT THE SENATE OFFICES OF SENATORS GORDON SMITH, BLANCHE L. LINCOLN, ELIZABETH DOLE, AND RICHARD J. DURBIN BE USED TO COLLECT DONATIONS OF FOOD FROM MAY 26, 2005, UNTIL JUNE 7, 2005, FROM CONCERNED MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND STAFF TO ASSIST FAMILIES SUFFERING FROM HUNGER AND FOOD INSECURITY IN THE WASHINGTON, D.C. METROPOLITAN AREA

Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. SMITH, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mrs. DOLE, and Mr. LEAHY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 156

Whereas food insecurity and hunger are a fact of life for millions of low-income Ameri-

cans and can produce physical, mental, and social impairments;

Whereas recent census data show that almost 36,300,000 people in the United States live in households experiencing hunger or food insecurity;

Whereas the problem of hunger and food insecurity can be found in rural, suburban, and urban America, touching nearly every American community;

Whereas although substantial progress has been made in reducing the incidence of hunger and food insecurity in the United States, certain groups, including the working poor, the elderly, homeless people, children, migrant workers, and Native Americans remain vulnerable to hunger and the negative effects of food deprivation;

Whereas the people of the United States have a long tradition of providing food assistance to hungry people through acts of private generosity and public support programs;

Whereas the United States Government, through Federal food assistance programs like the Federal Food Stamp Program, child nutrition programs, and food donation programs, provides essential nutrition support to millions of low-income people;

Whereas there is a growing awareness of the important public and private partnership role that community-based organizations, institutions of faith, and charities provide in assisting hungry and food insecure people;

Whereas more than 50,000 local community-based organizations rely on the support and efforts of more than 1,000,000 volunteers to provide food assistance and services to millions of vulnerable people;

Whereas a diverse group of organizations have documented substantial increases in requests for emergency food assistance over the past year; and

Whereas all Americans can help participate in hunger relief efforts in their communities by donating food and money, volunteering, and supporting public policies aimed at reducing hunger: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates June 7, 2005, as "National Hunger Awareness Day";

(2) calls upon the people of the United States to observe "National Hunger Awareness Day"—

(A) with appropriate ceremonies, volunteer activities, and other support for local antihunger advocacy efforts and hunger relief charities, including food banks, food rescue organizations, food pantries, soup kitchens, and emergency shelters; and

(B) with the year-round support of programs and public policies that reduce hunger and food insecurity in the United States; and

(3) authorizes the offices of Senators Smith, Lincoln, Dole, and Durbin to collect donations of food from May 26, 2005, until June 7, 2005, from concerned Members of Congress and staff to assist families suffering from hunger and food insecurity in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 38—PERMITTING THE USE OF THE ROTUNDA OF THE CAPITOL FOR A CEREMONY TO AWARD THE CONGRESSIONAL AWARD GOLD MEDAL TO NATIONAL RECIPIENTS

Mr. CRAIG (for himself and Mr. BAUCUS) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. CON. RES. 38

Whereas today's youth are vital to the preservation of our country and will be the future bearers of the bright torch of democracy;

Whereas youth need positive direction as they transition into adulthood;

Whereas the United States needs increased numbers of community volunteers acting as positive influences on the Nation's youth;

Whereas the Congressional Awards program is committed to recognizing our Nation's most valuable asset, our youth, by encouraging them to set and accomplish goals in the areas of volunteer public service, personal development, physical fitness, and expedition/exploring;

Whereas more than 21,000 young people have been involved in the Congressional Awards program this year;

Whereas through the efforts of dedicated advisors across the country, this year 238 students earned the Congressional Award Gold Medal;

Whereas increased awareness of the program's existence will encourage youth throughout the Nation to become involved with the Congressional Awards: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That the rotunda of the Capitol is authorized to be used on June 22, 2005, for a ceremony to award Congressional Award Gold Medals to national recipients. Physical preparation for the ceremony shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions as the Architect of the Capitol may prescribe.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND FORESTRY

Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry be authorized to conduct a hearing during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 25, 2005, at 10 a.m. in SR-328A, Russell Senate Office Building. The purpose of this hearing will be to review the United States Grain Standards Act.

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

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 25, 2005, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the nomination of Mr. Ben S. Bernanke, of New Jersey, to be a member of the Council of Economic Advisers; and Mr. Brian D. Montgomery, of Texas, to be Assistant Secretary of Housing/Federal Housing Commissioner, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

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

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet on Wednesday, May 25, 2005, at 10 a.m. on S. 360, Coastal Zone Management Reauthorization Act of 2005.