

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.