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NOMINATION OF DONALD DEGABRIELLE, JR.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I rise to express my enthusiastic support for Don DeGabrielle, an outstanding attorney and committed public servant who has been nominated by the President to serve as the U.S. attorney for the Southern District of Texas.

The Southern District of Texas is home to Houston, our Nation's fourth largest city. The district extends from Houston to the U.S.-Mexico border, and includes the cities of Brownsville, McAllen, and Laredo—all of which are located on or near the border.

The position for which Don DeGabrielle is nominated has been vacant for some time now. As my colleagues know, the U.S. attorney is each district's chief Federal law enforcement officer. So it is critically important to the Department of Justice and to the people of the Southern District that this vacancy be filled as soon as possible.

Don DeGabrielle is an outstanding selection for this post. He brings extensive and praiseworthy prosecutorial experience. Don DeGabrielle has served the Southern District as an assistant U.S. attorney for the past 20 years—the last 4 as first assistant U.S. attorney. As first assistant, he was responsible for the day-to-day management of the district, supervising an extensive criminal, civil, and appellate docket.

Don DeGabrielle has unimpeachable credentials as a prosecutor. He has tried nearly 200 cases in both State and Federal courts, has been an instructor at the National Advocacy Center, and has provided legal instruction to Federal agents.

Don DeGabrielle's diverse experience includes a stint in 2001 as the Resident Legal Adviser to the Republic of South Africa, where he advised that nation's prosecutors and helped reorganize its Justice Ministry. Prior to his career as a prosecutor, he served as an FBI special agent in New Orleans and New York City.

In short, Don DeGabrielle's unique qualifications make this nomination a superb one. I am confident that he will serve this country with distinction. And I am proud to support his nomination.

NOMINATION OF AMUL R. THAPAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, it is my great honor and privilege today to speak on behalf of Amul R. Thapar, the President's nominee to be the next U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Kentucky. Mr. Thapar is an outstanding man of great credentials and character. He has many years of experience successfully prosecuting some of America's most wanted criminals, and his confirmation will lead to a safer, more just Kentucky.

Mr. Thapar has served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in Cincinnati since 2002. In that position, he has managed the successful prosecution of a wide va-

riety of Federal crimes, with an emphasis on public corruption, homeland security, and violent crimes.

Mr. Thapar led the Southern Ohio Mortgage Fraud Task Force, which successfully prosecuted approximately 40 perpetrators of mortgage fraud. Last year, he led the successful investigation and prosecution of a conspiracy ring to provide illegal aliens with fraudulent drivers' licenses.

Mr. Thapar also served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney right here in Washington, DC, from 1999 to 2001. He went after violent criminals in the District, and had a role in prosecuting the notorious "Starbucks Homicides" that happened in Georgetown several years ago.

For his excellence in public service, Mr. Thapar has been recognized by the Department of Justice, which honored him with a special achievement award; by the Postal Inspection Service, for his many successful investigations of violent and white-collar crimes; by the Secret Service for his efforts to fight counterfeiting; and the FBI for his campaigns against bank fraud and election fraud.

Mr. Thapar is an accomplished attorney in private practice as well. He has worked as an associate at both the prestigious Squire, Sanders & Dempsey law firm of Cincinnati and the Williams & Connolly law firm of Washington, DC. In both of those jobs, he managed and litigated complex cases on behalf of major corporations in both Federal and State courts.

Mr. Thapar has served as an adjunct professor at Georgetown University Law Center, and until recently served as an adjunct professor at the University of Cincinnati College of Law, where he taught Federal criminal practice. He has clerked for Judge Nathaniel R. Jones of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit and Judge S. Arthur Spiegel of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio.

Even while managing such an impressive career, Amul still finds time to volunteer in his community. In 1995, he founded the Cincinnati chapter of the well-respected Street Law program. Street Law sends law school students into underprivileged high schools to teach kids about the basic underpinnings of our legal system, and the rights and responsibilities inherent in being an American citizen. Hundreds of students have benefited from Amul's initiative, and the program is larger and more successful than ever after 11 years.

Amul graduated from the renowned Boalt Hall School of Law of the University of California after receiving his undergraduate degree with high honors from Boston College. In addition to his remarkable career accomplishments, Amul has a remarkable family, and I am sure his wife, Kimberly, and his children, Zachary, Carmen and Nicholas, are very proud of him and all he has achieved.

The President has made the right choice by calling on Amul to serve the

people of Kentucky as the chief law enforcement officer for the State's Eastern District. Amul's entire career has prepared him for this assignment. He has risen to the top of his field to become a stellar career prosecutor. He has gained valuable experience in handling all types of cases. And, most importantly, he is a man of integrity, intelligence, and spirit, who has a deep desire to seek out justice on behalf of those who deserve it.

I appreciate my fellow Senators' expeditious handling of Mr. Thapar's nomination, and I am confident he has the energy and the experience to excel as Kentucky's next U.S. Attorney.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now return to legislative session.

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY: A NATIONAL DAY OF CELEBRATION OF GREEK AND AMERICAN DEMOCRACY

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 399, which was submitted earlier today.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 399) designating March 25, 2006, as "Greek Independence Day: A National Day of Celebration of Greek and American Democracy."

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

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 399) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 399

Whereas the ancient Greeks developed the concept of democracy, in which the supreme power to govern was vested in the people;

Whereas the Founding Fathers of the United States drew heavily on the political experience and philosophy of ancient Greece in forming our representative democracy;

Whereas Greek Commander in Chief Petros Mavromichalis, a founder of the modern Greek state, said to the citizens of the United States in 1821 that "it is in your land that liberty has fixed her abode and . . . in imitating you, we shall imitate our ancestors and be thought worthy of them if we succeed in resembling you";

Whereas Greece played a major role in the World War II struggle to protect freedom and democracy through such bravery as was shown in the historic Battle of Crete, which provided the Axis land war with its first major setback, setting off a chain of events that significantly affected the outcome of World War II;

Whereas the price for Greece in holding our common values in their region was high, as hundreds of thousands of civilians were killed in Greece during World War II;

Whereas, throughout the 20th century, Greece was 1 of only 3 countries in the world, beyond the former British Empire, that allied with the United States in every major international conflict;

Whereas President George W. Bush, in recognizing Greek Independence Day, said, "Greece and America have been firm allies in the great struggles for liberty. Americans will always remember Greek heroism and Greek sacrifice for the sake of freedom . . . [and] as the 21st Century dawns, Greece and America once again stand united; this time in the fight against terrorism. The United States deeply appreciates the role Greece is playing in the war against terror. . . . America and Greece are strong allies, and we're strategic partners.";

Whereas President Bush stated that Greece's successful "law enforcement operations against a terrorist organization [November 17] responsible for three decades of terrorist attacks underscore the important contributions Greece is making to the global war on terrorism";

Whereas Greece is a strategic partner and ally of the United States in bringing political stability and economic development to the volatile Balkan region, having invested over \$10,000,000,000 in the region;

Whereas Greece was extraordinarily responsive to requests by the United States during the war in Iraq, as Greece immediately granted unlimited access to its airspace and the base in Souda Bay, and many ships of the United States that delivered troops, cargo, and supplies to Iraq were refueled in Greece;

Whereas, in August 2004, the Olympic games came home to Athens, Greece, the land of their ancient birthplace 2,500 years ago and the city of their modern revival in 1896;

Whereas Greece received world-wide praise for its extraordinary handling during the 2004 Olympics of over 14,000 athletes from 202 countries and over 2,000,000 spectators and journalists, which it did so efficiently, securely, and with its famous Greek hospitality;

Whereas the unprecedented security effort in Greece for the first Olympics after the attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001, included a record-setting expenditure of over \$1,390,000,000 and assignment of over 70,000 security personnel, as well as the utilization of an 8-country Olympic Security Advisory Group that included the United States;

Whereas Greece, located in a region where Christianity meets Islam and Judaism, maintains excellent relations with Muslim nations and Israel;

Whereas the Government of Greece has had extraordinary success in recent years in furthering cross-cultural understanding and reducing tensions between Greece and Turkey;

Whereas Greece and the United States are at the forefront of the effort for freedom, democracy, peace, stability, and human rights;

Whereas those and other ideals have forged a close bond between these 2 nations and their peoples;

Whereas March 25, 2006, marks the 185th anniversary of the beginning of the revolution that freed the Greek people from the Ottoman Empire; and

Whereas it is proper and desirable to celebrate this anniversary with the Greek people and to reaffirm the democratic principles from which these 2 great nations were born: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates March 25, 2006, as "Greek Independence Day: A National Day of Celebration of Greek and American Democracy"; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE ON THE CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM PROCESS IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 400, submitted earlier today.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 400) expressing the sense of the Senate on the constitutional reform process in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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

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

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

The resolution (S. Res. 400) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 400

Whereas the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina (commonly referred to as the "Dayton Peace Accords") was agreed to at Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, on November 21, 1995;

Whereas the signing of the Dayton Peace Accords was a historic accomplishment that was made possible through the strong leadership of the United States;

Whereas the signing of the Dayton Peace Accords ended a brutal 3½-year conflict marked by aggression and genocide in which many tens of thousands lost their lives;

Whereas the Dayton Peace Accords created a framework for a common state in Bosnia and Herzegovina, but was crafted amidst the exigencies of war and included many compromises imposed by the need for quick action to preserve human life;

Whereas in the 10 years since the signing of the Dayton Peace Accords, there has been considerable progress in building a peaceful society in Bosnia and Herzegovina;

Whereas this progress in building a peaceful society has been facilitated by both the citizens of the country and the international community;

Whereas, during the 9 years that the peacekeepers of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization worked to keep order in Bosnia and Herzegovina, their forces suffered no intentional casualties and never fired a single shot in combat;

Whereas Bosnia and Herzegovina has demonstrated a willingness to contribute to the work of the international community and sent 36 troops to assist in efforts to stabilize the country of Iraq;

Whereas the full incorporation of Bosnia and Herzegovina into the Euro-Atlantic community is in the national interest of the United States;

Whereas, past accomplishments notwithstanding, the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to face significant challenges on their road toward further Euro-Atlantic integration;

Whereas the Council of Europe's Venice Commission has concluded that the current constitutional arrangements of Bosnia and Herzegovina are neither efficient nor rational, and that the state-level institutions need to become more effective and democratic if Bosnia and Herzegovina is to move toward membership in the European Union;

Whereas Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has said that the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina need "a stronger, energetic state capable of advancing the public good" and pledged that the United States will remain a dedicated partner to Bosnia and Herzegovina as it moves toward further Euro-Atlantic integration;

Whereas leaders of Bosnia and Herzegovina have already agreed to significant reforms of the budget process, intelligence services, criminal prosecution offices, justice ministry, border and customs services, and defense sector;

Whereas, on November 22, 2005, political leaders of Bosnia and Herzegovina met in Washington and signed a Commitment to Pursue Constitutional Reform in which members pledged to continue working toward the creation of stronger and more efficient democratic institutions; and

Whereas it is imperative that changes to the constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina be agreed to by April 2006 to take effect prior to national elections in October 2006: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) it is time for Bosnia and Herzegovina to work toward the creation of a state with more functional, self-sustaining institutions;

(2) any agreement on constitutional reform in Bosnia and Herzegovina should advance the principles of democracy and tolerance;

(3) the constitutional reforms of Bosnia and Herzegovina should be consistent with, and bring the country closer to, the goal of membership in the European Union;

(4) the United States supports the development of Bosnia and Herzegovina as a unified, fully democratic, and stable state on the path toward Euro-Atlantic integration;

(5) all parties to negotiations on the reforms of the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina should work together and seek compromises so that a first set of revisions to the Constitution can take effect before national elections in October 2006;

(6) all groups responsible for past violence and atrocities in Bosnia and Herzegovina must accept responsibility for their actions and promote reconciliation among the different ethnic groups of Bosnia and Herzegovina; and

(7) all levels of government in Bosnia and Herzegovina must comply with the directives of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY), arrest persons indicted for war crimes, and turn over fugitives to face justice at the International Criminal Tribunal.

REPUBLIC OF BELARUS PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 401 which was submitted earlier today.