

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.