

Secretary for Congressional Affairs, Department of Veterans' Affairs.

The meeting will take place in the Reception Room off the Senate floor in the Capitol following the first rollcall of the Senate after 1 p.m.

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. DEMINT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 27, 2006, at 2:30 p.m., to hold a closed meeting.

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

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

Mr. DEMINT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Special Committee on Aging be authorized to meet tomorrow, July 27, 2006, from 10 a.m.–1 p.m. in Dirksen 106 for the purpose of conducting a hearing.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERAL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT, GOVERNMENT INFORMATION, AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Mr. DEMINT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs' Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, and International Security be authorized to meet on Thursday, July 27, 2006, at 2:30 p.m., for a hearing regarding "Responsible Resource Management at the Nation's Health Access Agency".

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON TERRORISM, TECHNOLOGY, AND HOMELAND SECURITY

Mr. DEMINT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary Subcommittee on Terrorism, Technology and Homeland Security be authorized to meet to conduct a hearing on "Detecting Smuggled Nuclear Weapons" on Thursday, July 27, 2006, at 2:30 p.m. in Dirksen 226. The witness list will be provided when it becomes available.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER AND POWER

Mr. DEMINT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Water and Power of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 27, 2006, at 2:30 p.m.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony on S. 3638, to encourage the Secretary of the Interior to participate in projects to plan, design, and construct water supply projects and to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to encourage the design, planning, and construction of projects to treat impaired surface water, reclaim, and reuse impaired groundwater, and provide brine disposal in the State of California; S. 3639, to amend

the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the Prado Basin Natural Treatment System Project, to authorize the Secretary to carry out a program to assist agencies in projects to construct regional brine lines in California, to authorize the Secretary to participate in the Lower Chino Dairy Area Desalination Demonstration and Reclamations Project, and for other purposes; H.R. 2341, to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the design, planning, and construction of a project to reclaim and reuse wastewater within and outside of the service area of the City of Austin Water and Wastewater Utility, Texas; and H.R. 3418, to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the central Texas water recycling and reuse project, and for other purposes.

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

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. BINGAMAN. I ask unanimous consent that Ana Romero Jurrison and Lesley Henderson, interns in my office, be permitted privileges of the floor during the consideration of S. 3711.

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

Mr. BROWBACK. Mr. President, thank you very much. First, I want to do a housekeeping piece of business. I ask unanimous consent that Kristina Rolph, a staffer with the Energy Committee, be granted floor privileges for the consideration of S. 3711.

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

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that during the debate on S. 3711, Amy Jasperson and David Mitchell, fellows in the office of Senator BILL NELSON, be granted the privilege of the floor.

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

CONGRATULATING SPELMAN COLLEGE ON ITS 125TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 541 which was submitted earlier today.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 541) congratulating Spelman College upon its 125th anniversary.

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

Mr. ISAKSON. 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 ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 541) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 541

Whereas, in 1881, Spelman College was established by Sophia B. Packard and Harriet E. Giles, school teachers and Baptist missionaries, in Atlanta, Georgia, for the purpose of educating African-American women and girls;

Whereas as a result of the benevolence of John D. Rockefeller, Sr., and Laura Spelman Rockefeller, the name of the institution was changed from "Atlanta Baptist Female Seminary" to "Spelman Seminary" in honor of the Spelman family;

Whereas the curriculum expanded to include high school and college classes, and the seminary conferred its first high school diplomas in 1887, and its first college degrees in 1901;

Whereas in 1924, Spelman Seminary officially became Spelman College and grew to become a leading undergraduate institution for African-American women;

Whereas Spelman College was ranked among the top 75 Best Liberal Arts Colleges according to U.S. News & World Report, 2005 edition;

Whereas the Association of Medical Colleges ranks Spelman College fifth among undergraduate programs for African-American students accepted to medical school, and Spelman is 1 of 6 institutions designated by the National Science Foundation and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration as a Model Institution for Excellence in undergraduate science and math education;

Whereas Spelman's ninth President, Beverly Daniel Tatum, has initiated a strategic plan for Spelman ("Spelman ALIVE") that includes 5 goals: Academic excellence, Leadership development, Improving the infrastructure, Visibility of accomplishments of the campus community, and Exemplary customer service, all designed to create a vision for Spelman of "Nothing Less Than the Best"; and

Whereas Spelman College has prepared more than 6 generations of African American women to reach the highest levels of academic, community, and professional achievement: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates Spelman College on 125th anniversary; and

(2) commends the President of Spelman College, Dr. Beverly Daniel Tatum, and the administration, faculty, staff, students, and alumnae of the College for their outstanding achievements and contribution to African American education, history, and culture.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I am pleased to rise today and be joined by my fellow Senator from Georgia, Senator CHAMBLISS, in recognition of the 125th anniversary of Spelman College.

Spelman College is a historically Black college in the State of Georgia and a part of the Atlanta University complex which is the largest consortium of historically Black universities and colleges in the United States of America.

The resolution congratulates the student body, the faculty, the founders, and in particular Dr. Beverly Daniel

Tatum, and the administration, the faculty, and staff of Spelman College.

Spelman College was founded in Atlanta, GA, 1881 by Baptist missionaries and teachers Sophia B. Packard and Harriet E. Giles for the purpose of educating African-American women and girls.

Due to the benevolence of John D. Rockefeller, Sr.—Senator ROCKEFELLER's great-grandfather—and Laura Spelman Rockefeller, the name of the institution was changed from Atlanta Baptist Female Seminary to Spelman Seminary in honor of the Spelman family.

A Rockefeller has since sat on the Spelman College Board of Trustees, including Senator ROCKEFELLER's daughter, Valerie Rockefeller Wayne, who currently sits on the Board of Trustees.

Spelman later expanded its curriculum to include high school and college classes, and conferred its first high school degree in 1887, and its first college degree in 1901.

In 1924 Spelman Seminary became Spelman College and grew to become a leading undergraduate institution for African-American women.

Spelman is ranked among the top 75 best liberal arts college according to U.S. News and World Report, 2005 edition.

The Association of Medical Colleges ranks Spelman fifth among undergraduate programs for African-American students accepted to medical school; and not surprisingly Spelman is one of six institutions designated by the National Science Foundation and NASA as a Model Institution for Excellence in undergraduate science and math.

The resolution also commends Dr. Tatum for her excellent work and vision of the future for the college. It further calls attention to her initiation of a strategic plan for Spelman called "Spelman ALIVE" that includes five goals designated to create a vision of Spelman of academic, community, and professional achievement: academic excellence, leadership development, improving the infrastructure, visibility of accomplishments of the campus community, and exemplary customer service.

It is both an honor and privilege for me today on behalf of the State of Georgia and I think the Senate to unanimously commend Spelman College on its achievement of 125 continuous years of service to African-American women in the United States.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I rise today to join my friend and colleague, Senator ISAKSON from Georgia, to congratulate Spelman College, the country's oldest historically Black college for women on its 125th anniversary.

Spelman College was established in 1881 by two school teachers and Baptist missionaries, Sophia B. Packard and

Harriet E. Giles, for the purpose of educating African-American women and girls. Located in Atlanta, GA, and started in the basement of the Friendship Baptist Church, the college has come a long way from its beginnings, growing into a 32-acre campus. Spelman is also a member of the largest group of historically black institutions in the world including Morehouse University, the Morehouse School of Medicine, Clark Atlanta University, and the Interdenominational Theological Center.

Spelman has a very diverse student population with 2,100 students from 41 States and 15 foreign countries. In 2005, Spelman ranked among the top 75 liberal arts colleges according to U.S. News & World Report. Eighty-four percent of the faculty at Spelman hold a Ph.D. or higher, and the student teacher ratio is 11 to 1, making Spelman a top choice for African-American women to obtain an undergraduate degree. Many of their students seek advanced degrees. In 2000, Spelman ranked second in the country in placing African-American students in medical schools.

The Federal Government has seen the promise that the students and faculty at Spelman possess and, in 2003, the National Institutes of Health National Center for Minority Health and Health Disparities awarded the college a \$4.2 million grant for research to help eliminate health disparities among minority groups. Spelman was one of only six institutions to receive this funding. Also in 2003, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, NASA Awarded the college with a \$4.5 million grant to enhance its Women in Science and Engineering, WISE, scholars program.

Spelman College also realizes the need to give back to the African-American community. With the help of Federal funding, the school created the Spelman College Health and Wellness Initiative. This program is helping to gain a better understanding of the many factors that impact the health of young African-American women. The Health and Wellness Initiative is also helping to create preventive strategies for the unique circumstances that apply to all African-American women. These strategies are currently being developed and used to prevent cancer, cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, and HIV/AIDS in African-American women.

In 2005, six Spelman women qualified for the International RoboCup 2005 Four-Legged Robot soccer competition in Osaka, Japan. The students created computer programs for the robots to compete in the soccer tournament, requiring the robots play without human intervention. Of the 24 teams that qualified internationally, the SpelBots, as the team is called, were the first and only Historically Black College and University, the only all women institution, and the only United States undergraduate institution to qualify for the tournament. When looking back years from now at historically Black colleges

and robotics research, all searches will lead to Spelman.

Spelman graduates have gone on to be professionals such as doctors, nurses, lawyers, teachers, engineers, and chemists. I want to congratulate Spelman College on their success and developing thousands of young women into strong business and community leaders over the past 125 years.

I would also like to recognize the president of Spelman College, my friend, Dr. Beverly Daniel Tatum, and the administration, faculty, staff, students and alumnae of the college for their leadership, outstanding achievements, and contributions that have made Spelman such a fine institution and a great citizen of our State. It is my most sincere hope that Spelman will continue to thrive and prosper for many years to come.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, today I rise with my colleagues from Georgia, Mr. ISAKSON and Mr. CHAMBLISS, to congratulate Spelman College on the occasion of its 125th anniversary.

Spelman College, then known as "Atlanta Baptist Female Seminary," was established in 1881 in Atlanta, GA, by Sophia B. Packard and Harriet E. Giles, schoolteachers and Baptist missionaries, who created the school for the purpose of educating African-American women and girls. The institution kindly thanked my great-grandparents John D. Rockefeller, Sr. and Laura Spelman Rockefeller after their donation to the school by changing the school's name to "Spelman Seminary" in honor of the Spelman family in 1924. I am enormously proud that my family has been associated with this school for the last 80-plus years and of the achievements by the school and especially its alumnae. Today, my daughter, Valerie Rockefeller Wayne, serves on the board of trustees and she continues our family's proud connection to this important institution.

The school grew to include high school and college classes and bestowed its first high school diplomas in 1887 and its first college degrees in 1901. The school expanded to become a leading undergraduate institution for African-American women. In the 2005 edition of U.S. News and World Report, Spelman College was ranked among the top 75 best liberal arts colleges. The Association of Medical Colleges ranks Spelman College fifth among undergraduate programs for Black students accepted to medical school and Spelman is one of six institutions designated by the National Science Foundation and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration as a Model Institution for Excellence in undergraduate science and math education.

We commend Spelman's ninth president, Beverly Daniel Tatum, who has initiated a strategic plan for Spelman titled "Spelman ALIVE" that includes five goals: academic excellence, leadership development, improving the infrastructure, visibility of accomplishments of the campus community, and

exemplary customer service, all designed to create a vision for Spelman of "Nothing Less than the Best." For 125 years, Spelman has been at the forefront of education in our Nation, and with this plan I am confident it will continue to grow and thrive.

Spelman College has prepared more than six generations of African-American women to reach the highest levels of academic, community, and professional achievement. My cosponsors Mr. ISAKSON and Mr. CHAMBLISS and I also thank the administration, faculty, staff, students, and alumnae of the college for their outstanding achievements and contribution to African-American education, history, and culture.

SENATE PHOTOGRAPHS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 543, 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. 543) temporarily suspending the Rules for the Regulation of the Senate Wing of the United States Capitol and Senate Office Buildings for the purpose of permitting the taking of photographs in the area of the Daily Press Gallery.

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 and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 543) was agreed to, as follows:

S. RES. 543

Resolved, That—

(1) paragraph 1 of rule IV of the Rules for the Regulation of the Senate Wing of the United States Capitol and Senate Office Buildings (prohibiting the taking of pictures in the Senate Chamber) shall be temporarily suspended for the purpose of permitting the taking of photographs in the area of the Daily Press Gallery;

(2) photographs permitted under paragraph (1) may only be taken at a time when the Senate is in recess;

(3) photographs permitted to be taken under paragraph (1) may only be used in relation to United States District Court Civil Action No. 04-0026; and

(4) the Sergeant at Arms of the Senate is authorized and directed to make the necessary arrangements for implementation of paragraph (1), which arrangements shall provide that there will be no disruption to the business of the Senate.

GOVERNMENT OF ROMANIA'S BAN ON INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTIONS AND THE WELFARE OF ORPHANED OR ABANDONED CHILDREN IN ROMANIA

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate

now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 359.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 359) concerning the Government of Romania's ban on intercountry adoptions and the welfare of orphaned or abandoned children in Romania.

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. 359) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to. The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 359

Whereas following the execution of Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu in 1989, it was discovered that more than 100,000 underfed, neglected children throughout Romania were living in hundreds of squalid and inhumane institutions;

Whereas citizens of the United States responded to the dire situation of these children with an outpouring of compassion and assistance to improve conditions in those institutions and to provide for the needs of abandoned children in Romania;

Whereas, between 1990 and 2004, citizens of the United States adopted more than 8,200 Romanian children, with a similar response from the citizens of Western Europe;

Whereas the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) reported in March 2005 that more than 9,000 children a year are abandoned in Romania's maternity wards or pediatric hospitals and that child abandonment in Romania in "2003 and 2004 was no different from that occurring 10, 20, or 30 years ago";

Whereas there are approximately 37,000 orphaned or abandoned children in Romania today living in state institutions, an additional 49,000 living in temporary arrangements, such as foster care, and an unknown number of children living on the streets and in maternity and pediatric hospitals;

Whereas, on December 28, 1994, Romania ratified the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption which recognizes that "intercountry adoption may offer the advantage of a permanent family to a child for whom a suitable family cannot be found in his or her State of origin";

Whereas intercountry adoption offers the hope of a permanent family for children who are orphaned or abandoned by their biological parents;

Whereas UNICEF's official position on intercountry adoption, in pertinent part, states: "For children who cannot be raised by their own families, an appropriate alternative family environment should be sought in preference to institutional care, which should be used only as a last resort and as a temporary measure. Inter-country adoption is one of a range of care options which may be open to children, and for individual children who cannot be placed in a permanent family setting in their countries of origin, it may indeed be the best solution. In each case, the best interests of the individual child must be the guiding principal in making a decision regarding adoption.";

Whereas unsubstantiated allegations have been made about the fate of children adopted from Romania and the qualifications and motives of those who adopt internationally;

Whereas in June 2001, the Romanian Adoption Committee imposed a moratorium on intercountry adoption, but continued to accept new intercountry adoption applications and allowed many such applications to be processed under an exception for extraordinary circumstances;

Whereas on June 21, 2004, the Parliament of Romania enacted Law 272/2004 on "the protection and promotion of the rights of the child", which creates new requirements for declaring a child legally available for adoption;

Whereas on June 21, 2004, the Parliament of Romania enacted Law 273/2004 on adoption, which prohibits intercountry adoption except by a child's biological grandparent or grandparents;

Whereas there is no European Union law or regulation restricting intercountry adoptions to biological grandparents or requiring that restrictive laws be passed as a prerequisite for accession to the European Union;

Whereas the number of Romanian children adopted domestically is far less than the number abandoned and has declined further since enactment of Law 272/2004 and 273/2004 due to new, overly burdensome requirements for adoption;

Whereas prior to enactment of Law 273/2004, 211 intercountry adoption cases were pending with the Government of Romania in which children had been matched with adoptive parents in the United States, and approximately 1,500 cases were pending in which children had been matched with prospective parents in Western Europe; and

Whereas the children of Romania, and all children, deserve to be raised in permanent families: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the desire of the Government of Romania to improve the standard of care and well-being of children in Romania;

(2) urges the Government of Romania to complete the processing of the intercountry adoption cases which were pending when Law 273/2004 was enacted;

(3) urges the Government of Romania to amend its child welfare and adoption laws to decrease barriers to adoption, both domestic and intercountry, including by allowing intercountry adoption by persons other than biological grandparents;

(4) urges the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to work collaboratively with the Government of Romania to achieve these ends; and

(5) requests that the European Union and its member states not impede the Government of Romania's efforts to place orphaned or abandoned children in permanent homes in a manner that is consistent with Romania's obligations under the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MUTUAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE TREATY WITH GERMANY

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following treaty on today's Executive Calendar: No. 13. I further ask unanimous consent that the treaty be considered as having passed through