

without bias, even those responsible for acts of horrific violence against Israeli civilians;

Whereas, since 1949, the Magen David Adom Society has been refused admission into the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and has been relegated to observer status without a vote because it has used the Red Shield of David, the only such national organization denied membership in the Movement;

Whereas the red cross symbol was intended as the visible expression of the neutral status enjoyed by the medical services of the armed forces and the protection thus conferred, and there is not, and has never been, any implicit religious connection in the cross;

Whereas, since its establishment in 1930, the Magen David Adom Society has worked under its own symbol, the Red Star of David, as an expression of the humanitarian values the Magen David Adom Society shares with the Red Cross and Red Crescent societies;

Whereas Israel acceded to the Geneva Conventions in 1951 with a reservation specifying their intent to continue to use the Magen David Adom;

Whereas international consultations among nations and national Red Cross Societies ensued until 1999, when the International Committee of the Red Cross formally called for adoption of a protocol to the Geneva Conventions creating a third neutral symbol, allowing the use of either the Red Cross, the Red Crescent, or the third neutral symbol, and allowing for the third neutral symbol to be used in combination with other national Red Cross Society symbols, including the Magen David Adom;

Whereas a diplomatic conference to adopt this proposal into the Geneva Conventions was scheduled for October 2000, but was prevented by the outbreak of the second Palestinian intifada;

Whereas the United States, the American Red Cross, and the American Friends of Magen David Adom have worked ceaselessly to resolve the issue of the third neutral symbol and achieve full membership in the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement for the Magen David Adom Society;

Whereas Congress has insisted that funds made available to the International Committee of the Red Cross be contingent on a certification by the Secretary of State confirming that the Magen David Adom Society is a full participant in the activities of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement;

Whereas the American Red Cross has stood alone among all the national humanitarian aid societies, and has withheld over \$45,000,000 in dues to the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to protest the exclusion of the Magen David Adom;

Whereas the Government of Switzerland, the depositary state for the Geneva Conventions, convened a Diplomatic Conference of the states party to the Geneva Conventions in December 2005 for the purpose of adopting a Third Additional Protocol and rightly resisted efforts to block the broad international consensus in favor of resolving the third neutral symbol question;

Whereas the efforts by the United States and the American Red Cross at the Diplomatic Conference in December 2005 were critical to achieving both an overwhelming positive vote in favor of adopting the Third Additional Protocol, as well as an extremely important memorandum of understanding between the Magen David Adom and the Palestinian Red Crescent Society;

Whereas sustaining international support for the adoption of the third neutral symbol against efforts to divert the conference into unrelated political matters required extraor-

dinary diplomatic efforts by the United States and the American Red Cross;

Whereas the Third Additional Protocol adopted in Geneva in December 2005 established the new third neutral symbol, the "red crystal" that can be used in conjunction with the Red Shield of David and cleared the way for Israeli membership in the international movement;

Whereas, in June 2006, the states party to the Geneva Conventions, the national humanitarian aid societies, the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and the International Committee of the Red Cross met in Geneva to adopt rules implementing the Third Additional Protocol; and

Whereas, at the June 2006 meeting in Geneva, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement accepted the Magen David Adom Society as a full member: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) commends the Magen David Adom Society for its long and distinguished record of providing humanitarian assistance to all those in need of aid, even those responsible for heinous atrocities against Israeli civilians;

(2) congratulates the Magen David Adom Society, and the Government and people of Israel, for securing full membership in the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, 57 years past due;

(3) thanks the President, the Secretary of State, and United States diplomatic representatives for their tireless pursuit and maintenance of the international consensus that culminated in the recent acceptance of the Magen David Adom Society as a full member in the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement;

(4) thanks the American Red Cross for its unwavering and unyielding insistence within the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement that the principles of international humanitarian law could not be reconciled with continued exclusion of the Magen David Adom Society;

(5) thanks the Government of Switzerland and officials of the International Committee of the Red Cross for helping to prepare the necessary consensus and carrying to completion the adoption of the Third Additional Protocol by the states party to the Geneva Conventions and the rules for its implementation; and

(6) commends the President for—

(A) submitting the Third Additional Protocol to the Senate for its advice and consent; and

(B) pending approval by the Senate, preparing for congressional consideration and enactment of legislation necessary to carry into effect the Third Additional Protocol.

TO PRESERVE THE MT. SOLEDAD VETERANS MEMORIAL

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 5683, which was received from the House.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5683) to preserve the Mt. Soledad Veterans Memorial in San Diego, California, by providing for the immediate acquisition of the memorial by the United States.

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

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (H.R. 5683) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I want to pause for a moment and comment on the bill we just passed. I am proud that the Senate, in this bill, is choosing to protect an important memorial that honors our Nation's fallen veterans.

With the passage of this legislation, the Mt. Soledad Veterans Memorial Protection Act—this memorial being in San Diego, CA—I believe we pay a real tribute to our fallen veterans. This memorial will be controlled, with this legislation, by the Federal Government, which will ensure that the men and women it memorializes will continue to be so honored.

The memorial is very important to our veterans. It is a key symbol of our religious freedom.

Just a very brief comment on the history. Since 1954, a 29-foot cross has stood atop Mt. Soledad in San Diego memorializing the American war dead of World War I, World War II, and the Korean War conflict.

Over the years, the memorial has grown and now includes six large, concentric walls covered with granite plaques commemorating individual service men and women, bollards, pavers, and a flagpole proudly flying the American flag. The Mt. Soledad Memorial, in its entirety is a world class war memorial.

In 1989, a plaintiff who claimed to be offended by the memorial sued the city for its removal. The city of San Diego went to great lengths to divest themselves of the property by selling it to a private party who could choose to keep the memorial cross. That sale was blocked, however, by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Last year, the voters of San Diego passed a ballot measure providing for the donation of the memorial to the Federal Government, but again that transfer was blocked by the courts.

This bill, H.R. 5683, which we just passed, directs the Federal Government to acquire the property and enables the Mt. Soledad Memorial to be federally owned and continue to memorialize Americans who have fallen in service to their country. I do commend my colleagues for taking this significant step.

PREMATURITY RESEARCH EXPANSION AND EDUCATION FOR MOTHERS WHO DELIVER INFANTS EARLY ACT

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 541, S. 707.

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