Mr. President, Senator

BROWNBACK and I have submitted

a resolution to designate July 15–17,

2005 as a National Weekend of Prayer

and Reflection to draw attention to the

genocide and Crimes Against Humanity

occurring in Darfur, Sudan, and to find

a solution to this great moral challenge.

The resolution calls upon the

people of the United States to pray and

reflect. Churches, synagogues,

mosques, other communities of faith,

and all individuals of compassion will

join together to acknowledge, observe,

and reflect upon the crimes against humanity

that continue to occur in

Darfur, so that we can together end the

genocide and bring about lasting peace

to Sudan.

The Congress and administration

have already defined the atrocities in

Darfur as genocide. Estimates of the

death toll range from 180,000 to 400,000.

More than two million people have

been displaced from their homes, including

over 200,000 refugees in Chad.

Recent accounts of these atrocities, as

reported by Doctors without Borders,

include documented rapes by soldiers

and government-backed militia.

Many religious and human rights

leaders, communities, and institutions

throughout the world have already spoken

out, and called for an end to the

genocide. In my own state, thousands

participated in a Darfur Sabbath Weekend

on May 14–15, 2005, when clergy and

congregations throughout New Jersey

addressed this crisis during their worship

services. With my friend and colleague

Representative DONALD PAYNE, I

was privileged to visit a mosque, a synagogue,

a Catholic rectory, an African

American Baptist Church and a United

Methodist Church during those two

days.

Whatever the denomination, we

spoke to each other in the same language,

and committed ourselves to the

same determination to act according to

our words and the dictates of our universal

conscience. That profound experience

impels me to this broader outreach.

I want to take this opportunity

to urge my fellow members of Congress

to join me in saying, ‘‘never again.’’

Never again, will we accept the slaughter

of fellow human beings. Never

again, will we stand by as systematic

crimes are inflicted upon humanity. I

ask that you join me, Senator

BROWNBACK and people all across the

globe in supporting this unified movement

to tell the world that humanity

will never again allow genocide to

occur.