

April 14, 1994

LR 385, 496, 499-501, 503-507

friends, to help Senator Withem and his Education Committee. And, Madam President, I would just urge that this resolution be advanced. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Robak. LR 499.

CLERK: LR 499 is offered by Senator Pirsch, found on page 1790 of the Journal.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Pirsch.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you, Madam President and members of the body. This resolution speaks to a 1994 National Crime Victim Rights Week, which is April 24th to the 30th. Actually, this will be the 13th National Crime Victim Rights Week, and each year the NOVA and national organizations select a theme for the week. And the theme selected for this year's commemoration is facing violence today equals fewer victims tomorrow. This theme lends itself to an assortment of activities, including those related to crime prevention, violence reduction, breaking that cycle of violence, crime victims rights, and specific categories of victimization. Since 1981, when President Ronald Reagan first proclaimed Crime Victims Week, and incidentally, the first resolution that I introduced that year, we called it Forgotten Victims Week, because indeed in 1981 victims were forgotten. But when President Reagan did proclaim the first Crime Victims Week, thousands of crime victims, victim advocates and concerned citizens have observed this important week in a variety of ways. And we have usually had a reception out in the Rotunda for senators during Crime Victims Week, except during the short sessions. But this is an important way to call attention to those victims, those crime victims that are in need, that are happening, and indeed we need to do more in prevention, breaking the cycle, but also in giving crime victims rights. This is kind of an editorial on a constitutional amendment that you will be voting on later today. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Pirsch. LR 500.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Madam President, LR 500 was introduced by Senator Pirsch, it's found in the Journal on page 1791.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Pirsch.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you, Madam President. These all caught