

**No. R-195. Senate concurrent resolution commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster with thoughts of the current nuclear crisis in Japan.**

(S.C.R.15)

By Senator Ashe,

By Representative Peltz,

*Whereas*, on April 26, 1986, an explosion knocked the cap off reactor #4 at the Chernobyl nuclear power station, 100 kilometers north of the Ukrainian capital of Kyiv (Kiev) with a multimillion population in its metropolitan area, and

*Whereas*, the Chernobyl accident was the largest unintentional radiation release which had occurred to that date, and

*Whereas*, the explosion immediately killed a number of station personnel, and some estimates of the overall death toll from the catastrophe range in the many thousands, and

*Whereas*, at least 600,000 personnel were sent into the most contaminated zone to manage clean-up and rescue operations, and a significant number of these individuals reportedly died within several years of the operation, and

*Whereas*, approximately nine tons of radioactive material were shot into the atmosphere which is 90 times more radiation than was released by the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima, and

*Whereas*, radioactive particles rained down on places thousands of miles from Chernobyl, including much of Europe and the United Kingdom, and

*Whereas*, as the world commemorates the 25th anniversary of this horrible event in the history of nuclear power generation, the destruction of the cooling systems at the Fukushima I (Fukushima Dai-ichi) nuclear power facility in Japan that resulted from the recent Japan earthquake and tsunami is a matter of concern, and

*Whereas*, the cooling systems' destruction has led to the steady leaking of radiation and forced the evacuation of the immediate area, and

*Whereas*, although none of the nearly 14,000 deaths to date attributed to the recent earthquake and tsunami has been directly tied to the nuclear facility damage, any long-term health impact of the continued radiation leaks is impossible to determine, and

*Whereas*, regulatory authorities in Japan have now classified the nuclear disaster at Fukushima Dai-ichi as a Level 7, the most severe on the International Nuclear Event Scale, and only Chernobyl had previously been rated as a Level 7 event, *now therefore be it*

***Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:***

That the General Assembly commemorates the 25th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster with thoughts of the current nuclear crisis in Japan, *and be it further*

***Resolved:*** That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Ukrainian and Japanese embassies in Washington, D.C., the

Japan-America Society of Vermont, and the *Ukranian Weekly* in Parsippany,  
New Jersey.