

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 667

Commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Rodeo-Chediski Fire in Arizona.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 8 (legislative day, JUNE 7), 2022

Mr. KELLY (for himself and Ms. SINEMA) submitted the following resolution;
which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Rodeo-Chediski
Fire in Arizona.

Whereas June 18, 2022, is the 20th anniversary of the
Rodeo-Chediski Fire;

Whereas the Rodeo-Chediski Fire forced the evacuation of
more than 30,000 people in Arizona, including in the
City of Show Low, Pinetop-Lakeside, Navajo County, and
the White Mountain Apache Tribe communities of Hon-
Dah;

Whereas the Rodeo-Chediski Fire burned 468,638 acres (742
square miles), making it second largest wildfire recorded
in the State of Arizona;

Whereas the Rodeo-Chediski Fire damaged and destroyed
491 structures, including homes and businesses;

Whereas the Rodeo-Chediski Fire started as 2 wildfires that later merged into the first megafire in Arizona history;

Whereas, on June 18, 2002, the human-caused Rodeo Fire ignited near the Rodeo Fairgrounds near the community of Cibecue, located on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation (commonly known as the “White Mountain Apache Reservation”);

Whereas Rodeo Fire burned at a rate of 2,000 acres per hour for the first 30 hours with flame lengths up to 1,000 feet and ground temperatures above 2,000 degrees;

Whereas fire-fighting aviation support was grounded during the Rodeo Fire due to high, erratic winds, requiring a total airspace closure for the third time in the history of wildland firefighting in the United States;

Whereas, on June 20, 2002, the human-caused Chediski Fire was reported near Chediski Peak in the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests about 20 miles northwest of the Rodeo Fire;

Whereas, on June 20, 2002, Arizona Governor Jane Dee Hull declared a state of emergency and authorized mobilization of the Arizona National Guard to support firefighters;

Whereas, on June 23, 2002, the 2 fires burned together and were redesignated as the Rodeo-Chediski Fire;

Whereas, on June 25, 2002, President George W. Bush arrived at Springerville Municipal Airport, Springerville, Arizona, and signed a declaration that designated the Rodeo-Chediski Fire a national disaster;

Whereas more than 4,500 firefighters and support personnel, 30 helicopters, 251 engines, 92 water tankers, and 90 bulldozers were assigned to the Rodeo-Chediski Fire; and

Whereas the Rodeo-Chediski Fire burned for 5 weeks until the fire was declared contained on July 7, 2002: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) commemorates the 20th anniversary of the
3 Rodeo-Chediski Fire;

4 (2) commends the courage of local residents af-
5 fected by the Rodeo-Chediski Fire;

6 (3) extends condolences to individuals who lost
7 homes, businesses, and property; and

8 (4) honors the life-saving bravery and sacrifices
9 of the firefighters and first responders assigned to
10 the Rodeo-Chediski Fire.

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