

abstention in the irregular voting stations admitted for this election, the President of the National Electoral Council announced a false call participation of eight million and eighty-nine thousand three hundred and twenty (8,089,320) electors, making the committed fraud even more evident;

## CONSIDERING

The Venezuelan people, in exercise of their right to resistance, made various peaceful protests during the day of July 30th, 2017, with the deplorable balance of 16 people killed, hundreds injured and many arrested in an arbitrary manner, with the repression which the regime of Nicolas Maduro has attended for trying to impose its fraudulent and illegitimate National Constituent Assembly;

## CONSIDERING

That the international community, like countries such as Argentina, Colombia, Spain, United States of America and Mexico, as well as international organizations such as the Organization of American States (OAS) and the European Parliament, expressed their rejection on the fraudulent constituent process of Nicolas Maduro's regime;

## CONSIDERING

That the fraudulent election of the illegitimate National Constituent Assembly of July 30th, 2017, implies a major change in the political and constitutional Venezuelan scene, having to represent the definitive attempt of restoring the dictatorship of totalitarian court protected on the figure of the National Constituent Assembly, which demands the articulation of effective and immediate action orientated to deposing a despotic form of government, contributing to the effective reestablishment of the Constitution in Venezuela, in context of articles 333 and 350 of the Constitution, with the democratic legitimacy derived from the popular consultation on July 16th and the support of the international community committed on the universal defense of human rights and constitutional democracy.

## ACCORDING

First: Confirm that all the acts related to the National Constituent Assembly including the supposed election effected on July 30th, 2017 must be unrecognized because it was a process based on usurpation of the popular sovereignty and of the original Constituent power that belongs exclusively to the people of Venezuela. Likewise, we ratify the right to the resistance of the people of Venezuela against the fraudulent and illegal National Constituent Assembly, as the officials and members of the armed forces must do. Armed forces must disobey all the acts related to the fraudulent Constituent Assembly, and actively contribute to re-establish the effective validity of the Constitution of 1999.

Second: Unrecognized the election effected on July 30th, 2017 of the members of the fraudulent and illegal National Constituent Assembly that was convened without a popular referendum, and against the peoples' will and in contrivance of article number 347 of the Constitution.

Third: Reject the massacre and aberrant crimes against the Venezuelans who in their legal right to freedom of expression, of protesting and resisting were demonstrating their rejection to the fraudulent Constituent Assembly, and who were expressing solidarity to the parliamentarian body with the victims of repression, arrests, and family members of the deceased, and with all the Venezuelan people.

Fourth: Ratify the mandate of the people stated in the Popular Consultation on July 16th, 2017, by which, this National Assembly,

as a legal and exclusive representative of the Venezuelan people will take all the measures and actions directed to depose the National Constituent Assembly as a power that is illegitimate and of fact to establish effectively the validity of the constitution of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

Fifth: Urge the citizen Luisa Ortega Diaz, in her responsibility of General Attorney of the Republic, to investigate at great length the criminal acts against the protesters, as well as the committed crimes that took place during the organization and in the electoral process on July 30th, 2017, and to exercise the relevant actions against the officers and people that ordered and executed such crimes, with the purpose to make effective the punitive, administrative, and disciplinary responsibilities of those who order and executed the repressive acts against the people and of those who participated in the constitutional fraud of the National Constituent Assembly.

Sixth: Urge to the Public Minister to undertake investigations and formalities directed to establish the penal responsibility of all public officers and people evolved in the fraudulent process of the National Constituent Assembly that aims to impose a change that violates the constitution and changes the republican foundation of the Nation.

Seventh: Grateful for the solidarity expressed by the International Community with regard to the people of Venezuela and in rejection of the fraudulent National Constituent Assembly, and for arranging necessary meetings to execute common actions of states committed to the universal defense of human rights and of the relevant International Entities, so that through the admitted mechanisms of Public International rights and thus contribute to depose the fraudulent and illegal National Constituent Assembly and to reestablish the effective validity of the Constitution of 1999.

Eighth: Support to the people of Venezuela in the exercise of the right to resist the despotism that the National Constituent Assembly aims to impose. We support both the organized and planned actions that contribute to depose such illegal Constituent Assembly, and the execution of necessary actions to reestablish the validity of the Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela that obeys the mandate of the Popular Consultation that took place on July 16th, 2017.

Ninth: Ratify the people of Venezuela, faithful to its republican tradition, to impugn all forms of despotic government that derived from the National Constituent Assembly, while the country is linked to the duty of obedience to such constituent and those who contribute to its installation operation. The recognized authorities will be the only ones arising from free and democratic elections.

Tenth: Forward a copy of this agreement to the Secretary-General and the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States (OAS), the Organization of United Nations (UN) to the Inter-American Commission on human rights (IACHR) and the members of the diplomatic corps, specially to the representatives of those States that have spoken out without knowing about the election of the National Constituent Assembly.

Tenth first: Give publicity to this agreement.

Given, signed and sealed in the Federal Legislative Palace, seat of the National Assembly of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, in Caracas, the first day of August of two thousand seventeen. Year 207 of independence and 158 of the Federation.

JULIO ANDRES BORGES

JUNYENT;

*President of the National Assembly.*

FREDDY GUEVARA CORTEZ;

*First Vice President.*

DENNIS FERNANDEZ

SOLORZANO;

*Second Vice President.*

JOSE IGNACIO GUÉDEZ;

*Secretary.*

JOSÉ LUIS CARTAYA;

*Subsecretary.*

## THE GREAT AMERICAN ECLIPSE

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the historic event of the Great American Eclipse that will cross the continental United States on August 21. That morning, the eclipse will first pass over my home State of Oregon, then sweep across the U.S., ending in South Carolina. Millions of people across Oregon and the country are planning on watching those few moments when the moon will cover the sun and everything will go dark.

It has been 99 years since a total solar eclipse has occurred across the entire country, and whether someone is 5 or 95, this may be the only time they will ever see a total eclipse. It is truly a once-in-a-lifetime event.

This solar eclipse is a rare occurrence where the wonders of science will come right to the front doors of millions of people. That fact hasn't been lost on schools and science organizations throughout Oregon. Educators from the coastal areas of the State to the mountains of eastern Oregon have been working hard to use this eclipse as an opportunity to engage students in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, commonly called STEM.

One of the best science museums in the country, the Oregon Museum of Science Industry, OMSI, has planned an amazing viewing party, with the hope of engaging folks of all ages in the science behind the eclipse. Oregon native Don Pettit, who is a NASA astronaut, will even be there to share his experience of viewing eclipses from the International Space Station. Over the years, OMSI has been a leader in getting students excited about STEM fields. I am so glad the museum is using this eclipse as yet another opportunity to get communities involved in science.

Universities throughout the State are also doing their part to ensure students and community members get the most out of the event. In Corvallis, Oregon State University is hosting a 3-day eclipse event, with astronomy exhibits and a series of science lectures. I also understand that Portland State University, with the help of NASA, will launch video cameras attached to high-altitude balloons, giving anyone the ability to tune in and watch a live stream of the eclipse. Programs like these are so important because they make scientific events more accessible to the younger generations.

I also want to take a few moments today to recognize the local leaders,

first responders, and the National Guard who are working tirelessly to ensure that communities throughout the State enjoy the eclipse festivities safely. These public servants have been a shining light in making sure Oregonians and visitors alike have the best experience while viewing the solar eclipse.

As the eclipse arcs across the country and folks from the West Coast to the East Coast don their eclipse glasses to look up at the darkened sun, it is my sincere hope that it ignites a ray of passion in students throughout the country to explore STEM fields more deeply.

#### THE USS "WEST VIRGINIA"

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, I would like to recognize the service of the first ship named for our Nation's 35th State—our only State born of war—the armored cruiser USS *West Virginia*. She was commissioned on February 23, 1905, and served in both the Atlantic and Pacific fleets. On two occasions, she deployed to Mexico to enforce U.S. diplomacy. In 1916, she was renamed the USS *Huntington*, in order to permit the assignment of her old name to a new battleship.

That new battleship—the second USS *West Virginia*—was commissioned in December 1923 and affectionately nicknamed the "Wee Vee." In 1940, she moved to Hawaii and became part of the U.S. Pacific Fleet. She was the youngest of all the battleships at Pearl Harbor. During the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, the USS *West Virginia* was moored outboard the USS *Tennessee*; as a result, the *Tennessee* was not hit by a single torpedo, while the *West Virginia* was hit by nine torpedoes.

Despite being mortally wounded by shrapnel, the ship's captain, Mervyn S. Bennion, remained on the bridge ordering counterflooding of starboard compartments to prevent capsizing; for his actions, Captain Bennion posthumously received the Congressional Medal of Honor. Captain Bennion's actions are regularly cited as the epitome of proper command under fire.

Displaying a resilience befitting the people of her namesake, the USS *West Virginia* refused to stay sunk. She was pumped out and refloated on May 17, 1942, and sailed to Puget Sound Navy Yard for repairs. After being fully modernized, she saw action in the invasion of the Philippines, the Battle of Iwo Jima, and the Battle of Okinawa, among others. She was present in Tokyo Bay on September 2, 1945, for the formal Japanese surrender.

The USS *West Virginia* was decommissioned on January 9, 1947; her awards included the American Defense Service Medal with "Fleet" clasp; the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with five battle stars; the World War II Victory Medal; and the Navy Occupation Medal with "Asia" clasp. An anti-aircraft gun remains at City Park in Parkersburg,

WV; the ship's wheel and binnacle are on display at the Hampton Roads Naval Museum. Her mast sits in front of Oglebay Hall at West Virginia University, and Interstate 470 in West Virginia is named the "USS *West Virginia* Memorial Highway."

The U.S. Navy resurrected the proud history of the 35th State's moniker with a 1983 contract to build a Ship, Submarine, Ballistic, Nuclear, SSBN, the 11th of an eventual 18 Ohio-class submarines, otherwise to be known as the USS *West Virginia*, SSBN 736. She was launched on October 14, 1989, sponsored by Mrs. Erma Byrd, wife—and high school sweetheart—of the now late U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd, of West Virginia—the longest serving Senator and the longest serving Member in the history of the U.S. Congress—and commissioned on October 20, 1990.

The USS *West Virginia*, SSBN 736 conducts a sacred mission. It has often been said that, if the U.S. Navy could only send one platform to sea, it is the SSBN that executes the most important mission: the mission of strategic deterrence.

Always at the tip of the spear, the USS *West Virginia* conducts operations in order to exploit the advantages of undersea operation. It can be deployed up to 15 months at a time. As the submariner identity states: "We are elite, selective and high performing. We operate forward at the tip of the spear. This is the only survivable nuclear deterrent. Last bastion of master and commander."

West Virginia is proud of the honor, courage, and commitment of the brave sailors who crew and have crewed the USS *West Virginia*, and we are eternally grateful for the sacrifices that you and your families make in service to the United States of America.

"Montani Semper Liberi."

#### TRIBUTE TO ALAN BAKER AND EARL BRECHLIN

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, in 2001, Maine's legendary Ellsworth American newspaper celebrated its 150th year by launching a new enterprise, the Mount Desert Islander, dedicated to covering every aspect of life in a place of extraordinary beauty. It is a pleasure to congratulate the two outstanding journalists who have guided the Islander since its inception, publisher Alan Baker and editor Earl Brechlin, for being recognized with the 2017 Sunbeam Award from the Maine Seacoast Mission.

The recipient of numerous State and national awards for excellence, the Mount Desert Islander is a great example of the value provided by community newspapers. From Acadia National Park, local government, and businesses, to education, sports, and the arts, the Islander's dedicated staff writes the history of their communities as it occurs. They keep people informed and help them be more in-

involved as citizens. They follow State and national issues, always with an eye on how they affect their neighbors.

This dedication starts with committed leadership. After achieving success in journalism and publishing in Philadelphia and New York City, Alan Baker returned home to Maine and, in 1986, joined the Ellsworth American's management team, eventually purchasing the newspaper. In this age of media consolidation, Mr. Baker strongly believes that newspapers should be owned by individuals who are in touch daily with the readers they serve. As a former member of the Maine State Legislature, he is an effective voice for accountability and transparency in all levels of government.

A former "Maine Journalist of the Year," Earl Brechlin has covered Mount Desert Island for more than 35 years, and he has been recognized with more than 100 awards for news, feature writing, and photography. His commitment to journalism is evident in his election as president of both the Maine and New England press associations. A Registered Maine Guide, Mr. Brechlin is the author of nine books that reflect his love for our State's natural beauty, history, and character.

The Maine Seacoast Mission is a non-denominational, nonprofit organization founded in 1905 to support island and coastal communities in Downeast Maine, and its boat, the Sunbeam V, helps to connect people in those communities with essential services and with each other. Through their dedication to the craft of journalism, Alan Baker and Earl Brechlin have strengthened that support and those community connections, and the Sunbeam Award is a fitting recognition of their many contributions.

#### 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE JACOB LEINENKUGEL BREWING COMPANY

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I wish to honor a true original, the Jacob Leinenkugel Brewing Company, on 150 years of brewing great beer in Wisconsin's North Woods. The Leinenkugels were fairly typical Wisconsinites in the mid-1800s—German, immigrants, and lovers of beer. Jacob Leinenkugel started in the business in 1867 after he and three brothers learned the craft from their father, a brewer and distiller. Together, the Leinenkugel family started four breweries, including the Spring Brewery, which eventually became Jacob Leinenkugel Brewing.

While the Leinenkugel family was typical, the brewery they started became far from ordinary. For a century and a half, the Jacob Leinenkugel Brewing Company has put Chippewa Falls, WI, on the map and excellent beer in the hands of people throughout Wisconsin and the country.

Walk into most any bar in the State and there will be "Leinie's" on tap. Go to a backyard cookout or a Milwaukee