Public Law 101-122
101st Congress

Joint Resolution

Designating October 27, 1989, as "National Hostage Awareness Day".

Oct. 23, 1989
[H.J. Res. 400]

Whereas 10 innocent citizens of the United States have been held hostage in Lebanon;

Whereas it is reported that 1 of the hostages, Lieutenant Colonel William R. Higgins, taken February 17, 1988, was killed by his captors;

Whereas another hostage, William Buckley, political officer at the United States Embassy in Beirut, seized March 18, 1984, is presumed dead;

Whereas the remaining hostages from the United States are: Terry Anderson, chief Middle East correspondent for the Associated Press, seized March 16, 1985; Thomas P. Sutherland, dean of agriculture, American University of Beirut, taken June 9, 1985; Frank Herbert Reed, headmaster of the Lebanese International School, seized September 9, 1986; Joseph James Cicippio, deputy comptroller of the American University of Beirut, seized September 12, 1986; Edward Austin Tracy, illustrator, seized October 21, 1986; Jessee Jonathan Turner, computer and mathematics professor, Beirut University College, seized January 24, 1987; Alann Bradford Steen, professor of journalism at Beirut University College, seized January 24, 1987; and Robert Bruce Polhill, business professor at Beirut University College, seized January 24, 1987;

Whereas efforts by national and international organizations have failed to end the terrible plight of the hostages in Lebanon;

Whereas the fate of other hostages seized in Lebanon of British, West German, Irish, and Italian nationalities is uncertain; and

Whereas Terry Anderson has been held for the longest period of time of all foreign hostages in Lebanon: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That—

(1) October 27, 1989, is designated as "National Hostage Awareness Day" in recognition of the 42d birthday of Terry Anderson, his 5th in captivity;

(2) efforts should be made to have October 27 declared International Hostage Day by the United Nations;

(3) all nations and international agencies should work to secure the prompt, safe, and unconditional release of the hostages by exerting influence, either directly on the hostage-takers, or indirectly on other involved nations;

(4) adherents of all faiths in the United States should pray for the release of all United States and foreign hostages in Lebanon on such day; and

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(5) in addition to appropriate observances throughout the day, bells should be rung beginning at noon on October 27, 1989, for one minute to honor the hostages in Lebanon.

Approved October 23, 1989.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.J. Res. 400:

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 135 (1989):
Sept. 28, considered and passed House.
Oct. 5, considered and passed Senate.