

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 87

Commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the International Visitors Program.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 27, 1999

Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. BOND, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Mr. CLELAND, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. FRIST, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. THOMPSON, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. ASHCROFT, Mr. KOHL, Mr. KERRY, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. GRAMS, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. BRYAN, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. DOMENICI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. L. CHAFEE, Mr. HELMS, Mr. INHOFE, Ms. SNOWE, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. WELLSTONE, Mr. ROBB, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. KERREY, and Mr. EDWARDS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

MARCH 9, 2000

Reported by Mr. HELMS, without amendment

MARCH 27, 2000

Considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the International
Visitors Program.

Whereas the year 2000 marks the 60th Anniversary of the
International Visitors Program;

Whereas the International Visitors Program is the public di-
plomacy initiative of the United States Department of

State that brings distinguished foreign leaders to the United States for short-term professional programs under the authority of the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961;

Whereas the purposes of the International Visitors Program include—

(1) increasing mutual understanding and strengthening bilateral relations between the United States and other nations;

(2) developing the web of human connections essential for successful economic and commercial relations, security arrangements, and diplomatic agreements with other nations; and

(3) building cooperation among nations to solve global problems and to achieve a more peaceful world;

Whereas during 6 decades more than 122,000 emerging leaders and specialists from around the world have experienced American democratic institutions, cultural diversity, and core values firsthand as participants in the International Visitors Program;

Whereas thousands of participants in the International Visitors Program rise to influential leadership positions in their countries each year;

Whereas among the International Visitors Program alumni are 185 current and former Chiefs-of-State or Heads of Government, and more than 600 alumni have served as cabinet level ministers;

Whereas prominent alumni of the International Visitors Program include Margaret Thatcher, Anwar Sadat, F.W. de Klerk, Indira Gandhi, and Tony Blair;

Whereas a new configuration of domestic forces has emerged which is shaping global policy and empowering private citizens to an unprecedented degree;

Whereas each year more than 80,000 volunteers affiliated with 97 community-based member organizations and 7 program agency members of the National Council for International Visitors across the United States are actively serving as “citizen diplomats” organizing programs and welcoming International Visitors Program participants into their homes, schools, and workplaces;

Whereas all of the funds appropriated for the International Visitors Program are spent in the United States, and such spending leverages private contributions at a ratio of 1 to 12;

Whereas the International Visitors Program corrects distorted images of the United States, effectively countering misperceptions, underscoring common human aspirations, advancing United States democratic values, and building a foundation for national and economic security;

Whereas the International Visitors Program provides valuable educational opportunities for United States citizens through special “Back to School With International Visitor” programs and events that increase the knowledge of Americans about foreign societies and cultures, and bring attention to international issues crucial to interests of the United States;

Whereas the International Visitors Program offers emerging foreign leaders a unique view of America, highlighting its vibrant private sector, including both businesses and non-profit organizations, through farm stays, home hospi-

tality, and meetings with their professional counterparts;
and

Whereas the International Visitors Program introduces foreign leaders, specialists, and scholars to the American tradition of volunteerism through exposure to the daily work of thousands of “citizen diplomats” who share the best of America with those foreign leaders, specialists, and scholars: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) commemorates the 60th Anniversary of the
3 International Visitors Program and the remarkable
4 public-private sector partnership that sustains it;
5 and

6 (2) commends the achievements of the thou-
7 sands of volunteers who are part of the National
8 Council for International Visitors “citizen dip-
9 lomats” who for 6 decades have daily worked to
10 share the best of America with foreign leaders, spe-
11 cialists, and scholars.

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