

War patriots commemorative coin legislation.

In 1986, Congress approved construction of a memorial celebrating the lives of more than 5,000 African-Americans who served, fought, and died during our Nation's Revolutionary War. Ironically, many of these brave Americans had never experienced the freedom and independence for which they fought.

As a Rhode Islander, it gives me particular pleasure to sponsor this legislation. As few Americans know, of the estimated 5,000 African-Americans who served in the Continental Army, the vast majority were from New England, and a great number were from my State of Rhode Island. In fact, in 1778, Rhode Island approved the first slave enlistment act and the Black Regiment of Rhode Island was formed. This was one of only two all black regiments. The other was the Bucks of America of Boston.

Not only did these men serve our Nation, they served with distinction. Regrettably throughout our history, their valor has been overlooked. Men like Jack Sisson of Rhode Island, who expertly steered one of five boats involved in the daring capture of British Maj. Gen. Richard Prescott at Newport in 1777, are barely mentioned in historical reports of the incident.

Jack Sisson went on to join a regiment of some 200 black soldiers from my State, who, at the battle of Rhode Island, held their ground against several fierce attacks by British-Hessian forces, thereby allowing six American brigades to retreat. With scant training, but abundant courage, the First Rhode Island Regiment inflicted casualties of six to one on the professional troops of the Redcoats.

Like African-American soldiers throughout the colonies, however, the soldiers of Rhode Island's First Regiment faced tragedy as well as triumph. In May 1781, the unit suffered a surprise attack by the British cavalry at Pines Bridge, and 40 soldiers lost their lives. Two years later, the regiment was disbanded unceremoniously in Oswego, NY. According to the historian John Harmon, the soldiers were told to find their own way home, and many died while making the trip. Further, despite the promise of freedom which had been made in order to entice them to enlist, some of the soldiers were actually reenslaved after their return.

Valor and fortitude in battle always are worthy of celebration, but they are especially inspiring when one takes into account the hostility and oppression that African-American soldiers faced from the Nation for which they fought. As Harriet Beecher Stowe observed,

They served a nation which did not acknowledge them as citizens and equals. . . It was not for their own land they fought, but for a land that enslaved them. Bravery under such circumstances, has particular beauty and merit.

A portion of the proceeds from sales of the coin my legislation will author-

ize will help to pay for construction of the memorial. The Patriots Foundation already has raised \$4 million for this purpose, and these additional funds are crucial if the memorial is to be completed.

The design for the black Revolutionary War patriots memorial has been approved. It will be a 90-foot-long, 7-foot high, curved bronze wall located some 300 feet from the Vietnam Memorial in Constitution Gardens between the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial. Figures of black soldiers will be sculpted in high and low relief and a black granite arch will be inscribed with historical information.

NANCY JOHNSON has introduced companion legislation in the House of Representatives, and it is my hope that this proposal will receive speedy approval by both bodies.●

By Mr. HATFIELD (for himself and Mr. MOYNIHAN):

S. 954. A bill to authorize the Architect of the Capitol to establish a Capitol Visitor Center under the East Plaza of the United States Capitol, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

THE CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1995

● Mr. HATFIELD. Mr. President, it is my great pleasure to introduce a bill that will make the U.S. Capitol more accessible to the American people. Over the past 200 years the U.S. Capitol has become more than a mere monument or museum. It is a living space, housing both Chambers of Congress, and hosting hundreds of thousands of visitors from across the globe annually. Today the U.S. Capitol Building stands as a symbol of our American ideals of liberty and freedom as much as it did on September 18, 1793, when President Washington laid the first stone into the ground.

Mr. President, the Capitol Visitor Center Authorization Act of 1995 upholds our Nation's original commitment to citizen involvement in government by providing Americans with enhanced opportunities to witness their government at work. Located under the East Plaza of the U.S. Capitol, this new addition would ease visitor access to the Capitol, allowing the ever-increasing number of visitors to enter more quickly and efficiently. Visitors will also be treated to informative displays about the Capitol as they proceed underground to enter the building. And anyone who has ever visited Washington, DC in the summer or winter will greatly appreciate the importance of providing visitors with relief from the elements.

In this period of scrutinizing government expenditures and balancing the budget, it is important to note that funding for the visitors center would come primarily from private gifts and donations. Contributions would be held in the U.S. Treasury under a separate account.

Mr. President, above all, this historic legislation should be enacted because it fulfills the intent of the U.S. Capitol Building by further opening it up to the American people. The visitors center would be an educational facility to be enjoyed for many years to come. It is my pleasure to introduce this important legislation and I thank the senior Senator from New York, Senator MOYNIHAN, for joining me as an original cosponsor.●

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 240

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the name of the Senator from Georgia [Mr. COVERDELL] was added as a cosponsor of S. 240, a bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to establish a filing deadline and to provide certain safeguards to ensure that the interests of investors are well protected under the implied private action provisions of the Act.

S. 643

At the request of Mr. JEFFORDS, the names of the Senator from California [Mrs. FEINSTEIN] and the Senator from New Jersey [Mr. BRADLEY] were added as cosponsors of S. 643, a bill to assist in implementing the plan of action adopted by the World Summit for Children.

S. 733

At the request of Mr. ROTH, the names of the Senator from Maine [Ms. SNOWE], the Senator from Rhode Island [Mr. PELL], and the Senator from New York [Mr. D'AMATO] were added as cosponsors of S. 733, a bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to permit States to use Federal highway funds for capital improvements to, and operating support for, intercity passenger rail service, and for other purposes.

S. 789

At the request of Mr. CHAFEE, the name of the Senator from Missouri [Mr. ASHCROFT] was added as a cosponsor of S. 789, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the section 170(e)(5) rules pertaining to gifts of publicly traded stock to certain private foundations, and for other purposes.

S. 907

At the request of Mr. MURKOWSKI, the names of the Senator from Montana [Mr. BURNS], the Senator from Vermont [Mr. JEFFORDS], and the Senator from Wyoming [Mr. THOMAS] were added as cosponsors of S. 907, a bill to amend the National Forest Ski Area Permit Act of 1986 to clarify the authorities and duties of the Secretary of Agriculture in issuing ski area permits on National Forest System lands and to withdraw lands within ski area permit boundaries from the operation of the mining and mineral leasing laws.

S. 917

At the request of Mr. STEVENS, the name of the Senator from New Mexico [Mr. BINGAMAN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 917, a bill to facilitate small

business involvement in the regulatory development processes of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 939

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from North Carolina [Mr. HELMS] was added as a cosponsor of S. 939, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to ban partial-birth abortions.

S. 940

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from Virginia [Mr. ROBB], the Senator from Connecticut [Mr. LIEBERMAN], the Senator from Indiana [Mr. LUGAR], and the Senator from Michigan [Mr. LEVIN] were added as cosponsors of S. 940, a bill to support proposals to implement the United States goal of eventually eliminating antipersonnel landmines; to impose a moratorium on use of antipersonnel landmines except in limited circumstances; to provide for sanctions against foreign governments that export antipersonnel landmines, and for other purposes.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 33

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi [Mr. LOTT] was added as a cosponsor of Senate Joint Resolution 33, a resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to the free exercise of religion.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 11

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the names of the Senator from Michigan [Mr. LEVIN], the Senator from California [Mrs. BOXER], and the Senator from Virginia [Mr. ROBB] were added as cosponsors of Senate Concurrent Resolution 11, a concurrent resolution supporting a resolution to the long-standing dispute regarding Cyprus.

SENATE RESOLUTION 103

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the names of the Senator from North Dakota [Mr. CONRAD] and the Senator from Louisiana [Mr. BREAU] were added as cosponsors of Senate Resolution 103, a resolution to proclaim the week of October 15 through October 21, 1995, as National Character Counts Week, and for other purposes.

SENATE RESOLUTION 138—RELATIVE TO THE CONFLICT IN KASHMIR

Mr. HELMS (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. REID) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 138

Whereas U.S. policy calls for a solution to the conflict in Kashmir through negotiations between India and Pakistan taking into account the wishes of the Kashmiri people to choose legitimate representatives to negotiate on their behalf;

Whereas India and Pakistan have fought two wars over Kashmir and tensions in the region remain high;

Whereas both India and Pakistan have nuclear weapons programs and possess sophisticated means to deliver such weapons;

Whereas reports indicate widespread human rights abuses in Kashmir, resulting from the excessive use of force by Indian military and paramilitary forces and acts of violence by Kashmiri militants;

Whereas the Indian parliament did not renew the Terrorists and Disruptive Activities Act, thereby improving prospects for the rule of law in Kashmir;

Whereas the All Parties Hurriyat (Freedom) Conference was organized to engage in negotiations with Indian and Pakistani authorities without precondition;

Whereas in January 1994 the United States Institute of Peace (USIP) brought together representatives from India, Pakistan and Kashmir to engage in a dialogue for peace;

Whereas the USIP concluded that, "It is essential that people of Jammu and Kashmir be central participants in this political process, along with the governments and citizens of India and Pakistan."

Whereas the recent destruction of the mosque and the razing of the town of Charar-i-Sharief in Kashmir have reinforced the urgent need for such a dialogue;

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the use of excessive force by Indian military and paramilitary forces in Kashmir and similarly condemns acts of violence by Kashmiri militants;

(2) welcomes the release from detention of Kashmiri political leaders and urges that the government of India take further steps to respond to human rights concerns, including:

Prosecuting security personnel involved in abuses of human rights;

Permitting international human rights groups such as Amnesty International access to Kashmir; and

Permitting international humanitarian groups access to detention and interrogation centers in Kashmir;

(3) welcomes the expiration of the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act and urges the government of India to take further steps to safeguard the Kashmiri people's right to due process;

(4) welcomes steps taken by the government of Pakistan to reduce its support for Kashmiri militants, and urges the government of Pakistan to take further steps, including using its influence with private Pakistani sources, to stop the acts of intimidation and violence by Kashmiri militants;

(5) calls on the governments of India and Pakistan to enter into negotiations with legitimate representatives of the people of Jammu and Kashmir to resolve the conflict peacefully;

(6) urges the Administration to work to facilitate negotiations for a peaceful settlement of the conflict in Kashmir.

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, I send a resolution to the desk for appropriate referral. It addresses the precarious situation growing out of two nuclear-armed nations facing each other on the South Asian subcontinent. During the past 50 years, the two nations have gone to war twice, and barely avoided doing so again in 1990.

The dispute over the State of Kashmir continues to fester, and India and Pakistan are nowhere near resolving their differences. Kashmir could easily ignite a nuclear conflagration, and it would be difficult to imagine a greater interest by the United States than preventing such a terrifying tragedy.

Mr. President, exacerbating the tensions in the region is a pattern of gross violations of the Kashmiri people's basic human rights. More than 20,000 Kashmiris have been killed in the past

6 years, and the people of Kashmir continue to endure daily abuses, most often at the hands of the Indian Army and security forces. The State Department's 1994 Report on Human Rights lists "extrajudicial executions, torture and reprisal killings" as common tactics used by Indian Government forces.

Only last month, Mr. President, a battle between militants and Indian troops in the town of Charar-i-Sharief started a fire that destroyed 1,000 homes, and a 600-year-old mosque that is Kashmir's most important Moslem shrine. The blaze also displaced nearly 25,000 people.

The resolution Senator LEAHY, REID, and I are offering speaks directly to the very serious issues that confront the people of Kashmir. It decries human rights abuses perpetrated by both Indian security forces and Moslem militants. It also speaks to the root of the threat to South Asia and to the United States—the failure to negotiate a settlement to the Kashmiri dispute.

Since 1972, India and Pakistan have worked through the Simla framework: bilateral negotiations to resolve bilateral problems, including Kashmir. After 23 years, it is time to admit failure. Negotiations will not succeed without the involvement of the Kashmiri people. The resolution that Senator LEAHY and I are introducing today asks that the Kashmiri people, through the peaceful voice of their Hurriyat Council, be represented in any negotiations on the future of Kashmir.

Kashmir must not be ignored; it will come back to haunt us all. I urge Senators to support not only this resolution, but more importantly, this cause.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I rise in support of the resolution on Kashmir submitted today by Senator HELMS, which I am cosponsoring along with Senator REID.

The situation in Kashmir has been a continuing concern of mine for many years. I am a friend of India, a country of nearly a billion people with great cultural and religious diversity and a myriad of problems. I have long believed that the United States and India have a tremendous amount to gain from closer relations. But I have been very disturbed by the excessive use of force by India's security forces in Kashmir, which has resulted in the detention, torture, and death of thousands of civilians. I am also very disturbed by the Pakistan Government's continuing assistance to the Kashmiri militants who have also been guilty of atrocities.

I am cosponsoring this resolution because I believe it is balanced, and because I believe the recommendations it contains are in the interests of India and Pakistan, and the Kashmiri people. It condemns acts of violence by both the Indian security forces and Kashmiri militants, and it welcomes the decision of the Indian Government to release Kashmiri political leaders who had been imprisoned.

Further, it urges the Indian Government to respond to continuing human