

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 231) referring S. 1456 entitled “A bill for the relief of Rocco A. Trecosta of Fort Lauderdale, Florida” to the chief judge of United States Court of Federal Claims for a report thereon.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 231) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 231

Resolved,

SECTION 1. REFERRAL.

S. 1456 entitled “A bill for the relief of Rocco A. Trecosta of Fort Lauderdale, Florida” now pending in the Senate, together with all the accompanying papers, is referred to the chief judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims.

SEC. 2. PROCEEDING AND REPORT.

The chief judge shall—

(1) proceed according to the provisions of sections 1492 and 2509 of title 28, United States Code; and

(2) report back to the Senate, at the earliest practicable date, providing—

(A) such findings of fact and conclusions that are sufficient to inform the Congress of the nature, extent, and character of the claim for compensation referred to in such bill as a legal or equitable claim against the United States or a gratuity; and

(B) the amount, if any, legally or equitably due from the United States to Rocco A. Trecosta of Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

RECOGNIZING THE LATE BERNT BALCHEN FOR HIS MANY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UNITED STATES ON THE CENTENARY OF HIS BIRTH

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S.J. Res. 36, and the Senate then proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the joint resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 36) recognizing the late Bernt Balchen for his many contributions to the United States and a lifetime of remarkable achievements on the centenary of his birth, October 23, 1999.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the joint resolution.

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the joint resolution be read the

third time and passed, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the joint resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The joint resolution (S.J. Res. 36) was read the third time and passed.

The preamble was agreed to.

The joint resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S.J. RES. 36

Whereas Bernt Balchen, as co-pilot and navigator with Floyd Bennett and under the sponsorship of Joseph Wanamaker, flew the Ford trimotor monoplane “Josephine Ford” on a flying tour to more than 50 American cities in 1926, thereby promoting commercial aviation as a safe, reliable, and practical means of transport;

Whereas in 1927 Bernt Balchen, piloting the first flight to carry United States mail over the Atlantic Ocean, flew the aircraft “America” to France under weather conditions so adverse that he was forced to set the aircraft down in the surf off Normandy at night, a maneuver that he executed so skillfully that he saved all on board the aircraft;

Whereas on November 29, 1929, Bernt Balchen, while participating in the first expedition of Admiral Richard Evelyn Byrd to Antarctica, became the first pilot to fly a plane over the South Pole;

Whereas Bernt Balchen was indispensable to the success of various American expeditions in Antarctica under the leadership of Admiral Byrd and Lincoln Ellsworth;

Whereas Bernt Balchen, under secret conditions and in record time, was responsible for building in Greenland in the autumn of 1941 the air base Sondre Stromfjord, then known as “Bluie West Eight”, that was used for ferrying warplanes to Europe;

Whereas Bernt Balchen, as commander of “Bluie West Eight” between September 1941 and November 1943, provided his personnel with training in cold weather survival skills and rescue techniques which enabled them to carry out many spectacular rescues of downed airmen on the Greenland icecap;

Whereas Bernt Balchen, on May 7, 1943, successfully led a bombing raid that destroyed the sole German post in Greenland, a weather station and antiaircraft battery on the east coast of Greenland, thereby hindering the ability of the German armed forces to predict weather patterns in the North Atlantic and Europe;

Whereas Bernt Balchen, between March and December 1944, commanded an air transport operation that safely evacuated from Sweden at least 2,000 Norwegians, 900 American internees, and 150 internees of other nationalities and transported strategic freight and numerous important diplomats and Armed Forces officers;

Whereas Bernt Balchen, between July and October 1944, commanded a clandestine air transport operation that transported 64 tons of operational supplies from Scotland to occupied Norway in defiance of severe enemy opposition;

Whereas Bernt Balchen, between November 1944 and April 1945, commanded a clandestine air transport operation that, again in defiance of severe enemy opposition, transported from England to Sweden 200 tons of arctic equipment and operational supplies that were used to make clandestine overland transport from Sweden to Norway possible;

Whereas Bernt Balchen, during the winter of 1945, made C-47 aircraft under his command available to transport into northern Norway the communications facilities that thereafter transmitted from Norway intel-

ligence of inestimable value to the Allied Expeditionary Force;

Whereas Bernt Balchen, as one of the founders of the Scandinavian Airlines System, pioneered commercial airline flight over the North Pole, which increased business development in Alaska and shortened the flying time necessary for international flights between the United States and points in Europe and Asia;

Whereas Bernt Balchen, from November 1948 to January 1951, commanded the 10th Rescue Squadron of the United States Air Force, which was headquartered in Alaska but ranged across the entire northern tier of North America rescuing downed airmen, and led the squadron in the development of the techniques that are now universally used in cold weather search and rescue operations;

Whereas Bernt Balchen was the individual primarily responsible for the pioneering and development of the strategic air base at Thule, Greenland, which was built secretly in 1951 under severe weather conditions and which, by extending the range of the Strategic Air Command, increased the capabilities that made the Strategic Air Command a significant deterrent to Soviet aggression during the Cold War;

Whereas Bernt Balchen, as Assistant for Arctic Activities in the Directorate of Operations of the United States Air Force, rendered expert advice on the development of concepts, procedures, and programs pertaining to the Arctic that have been consistently utilized by other agencies in planning Arctic projects and operations of national and international interest;

Whereas Bernt Balchen served brilliantly as an officer in the United States Air Force and contributed immeasurably to the mission of the Air Force and the security of the United States;

Whereas the International Aviation Snow Symposium, of which Bernt Balchen was a founder and honorary chairman, established in 1976 the Balchen Award that is presented annually to recognize excellence in the performance of airport snow and ice removal, is sought avidly by the managers of airports of all categories in the United States and Canada, and has successfully encouraged progressive improvement in cold weather airport safety and air travel;

Whereas the United States Government has awarded Bernt Balchen the Byrd Antarctic Expedition Congressional Medal, the Distinguished Service Medal, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Legion of Merit, the Soldier’s Medal, and the Air Medal, and other governments and societies have awarded Bernt Balchen various other medals and awards in recognition of his patriotism and remarkable achievement in aviation;

Whereas Bernt Balchen, a native of Norway who became a citizen of the United States on November 5, 1931, before a Federal judge in Hackensack, New Jersey, and entered the military service of the United States in the United States Army Air Corps on September 5, 1941, at all times furthered the cordial relationship between the United States of America and the Kingdom of Norway, one of America’s most-cherished allies;

Whereas Bernt Balchen was buried with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery on October 23, 1973; and

Whereas October 23, 1999, is the 100th anniversary of the birth of Bernt Balchen and is being observed as such in many commemorative events taking place in the United States and Norway; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the late Bernt Balchen is hereby recognized for his extraordinary service to the United States, including the national security.

NATIONAL SURVIVORS OF SUICIDE DAY

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 339, and the Senate then proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 339) designating November 18, 2000, as "National Survivors of Suicide Day."

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and finally, any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 339) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 339

Whereas the 105th Congress, in Senate Resolution 84 and House Resolution 212, recognized suicide as a national problem and suicide prevention as a national priority;

Whereas the Surgeon General has publicly recognized suicide as a public health problem;

Whereas the resolutions of the 105th Congress called for a collaboration between public and private organizations and individuals concerned with suicide;

Whereas in the United States, more than 30,000 people take their own lives each year;

Whereas suicide is the 8th leading cause of death in the United States and the 3rd major cause of death among young people aged 15 through 19;

Whereas the suicide rate among young people has more than tripled in the last 4 decades, a fact that is a tragedy in itself and a source of devastation to millions of family members and loved ones;

Whereas every year in the United States, hundreds of thousands of people become suicide survivors (people that have lost a loved one to suicide), and there are approximately 8,000,000 suicide survivors in the United States today;

Whereas society still needlessly stigmatizes both the people that take their own lives and suicide survivors;

Whereas there is a need for greater outreach to suicide survivors because, all too often, they are left alone to grieve;

Whereas suicide survivors are often helped to rebuild their lives through a network of support with fellow survivors;

Whereas suicide survivors play an essential role in educating communities about the risks of suicide and the need to develop suicide prevention strategies; and

Whereas suicide survivors contribute to suicide prevention research by providing essential information about the environmental and genetic backgrounds of the deceased; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1)(A) designates November 18, 2000, as "National Survivors of Suicide Day"; and

(B) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling on Federal, State, and

local administrators and the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities;

(2) encourages the involvement of suicide survivors in healing activities and prevention programs;

(3) acknowledges that suicide survivors face distinct obstacles in their grieving;

(4) recognizes that suicide survivors can be a source of support and strength to each other;

(5) recognizes that suicide survivors have played a leading role in organizations dedicated to reducing suicide through research, education, and treatment programs; and

(6) acknowledges the efforts of suicide survivors in their prevention, education, and advocacy activities to eliminate stigma and to reduce the incidence of suicide.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS SUPPORTING THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL FORCES IN PERU

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Con. Res. 155, submitted earlier today by Senator CHAFEE.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 155) expressing the sense of Congress that the Government of the United States should actively support the aspirations of the democratic political forces in Peru toward an immediate and full restoration of democracy in that country.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to this resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 155) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. CON. RES. 155

Whereas democracy in Peru suffered a severe setback when the Government of Peru, headed by President Alberto Fujimori, manipulated democratic electoral processes and failed to establish the conditions for free and fair elections—both for the April 9, 2000, election and the May 28, 2000, run off—by not taking effective steps to correct the "insufficiencies, irregularities, inconsistencies, and inequities" documented by the Organization of American States (OAS) and other independent election observers;

Whereas the absence of free and fair elections in Peru has further undermined democracy in that country and constitutes a major setback for the Peruvian people and for democracy in the Hemisphere; and

Whereas the fate of Peruvian democracy is a matter that should be decided upon by the people of Peru: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That (a) the Congress—

(1) supports efforts toward restoring democracy in Peru, including the shortening of the term of Alberto Fujimori, the recent call for new elections, and the decision to deactivate the National Intelligence Service (SIN);

(2) is concerned that the same elements which have systematically undermined democratic institutions in Peru and which manipulated the electoral process in April and May 2000 remain in power and are in a position to manipulate the upcoming electoral process; and

(3) supports the efforts of Peruvian democratic civil society to create the necessary conditions for free and fair elections, including improving respect for human rights, the rule of law, the independence and constitutional role of the judiciary and the national congress, and freedom of expression and of the independent media.

(b) It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) it should be the policy of the United States to actively support the aspirations of the democratic political forces in Peru for a credible transition toward the full restoration of democracy and the rule of law in Peru, headed by leaders who are committed to democracy and who enjoy the trust of the Peruvian people;

(2) it should be the policy of the United States to work with the international community, including the OAS, to assist democratic forces in Peru in restoring democracy to their country;

(3) the Government of Peru should establish a fully independent and credible election authority and should end all interference with freedom of speech and the media;

(4) the Government of Peru should fully implement the recently enacted law deactivating the SIN and the United States Government should oppose all elements of the Government of Peru that continue to subvert Peruvian democracy; and

(5) the United States Government should cooperate fully with any credible investigation of narcotics or arms trafficking by officials of the Government of Peru.

RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING THE PERSONNEL OF THE 49TH ARMORED DIVISION OF THE TEXAS ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 382, submitted earlier today by Senator HUTCHISON.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 382) recognizing and commending the personnel of the 49th Armored Division of the Texas Army National Guard for their participation and efforts in providing leadership and command and control of the United States sector of the Multi-national Stabilization Force in Tuzla, Bosnia-Herzegovina.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to this resolution be printed in the RECORD.