

1991 of the Baltic countries of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, the consequence of which will be a significant increase in good will among the affected peoples and enhanced regional stability.

EXPRESSING CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE VICTIMS OF COMMUNISM MEMORIAL

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 150, submitted earlier today.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 150) expressing continued support for the construction of the Victims of Communism Memorial.

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

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today I submitted a resolution with my colleague, Senator SMITH of Oregon, that I think is especially pertinent this week as we commemorate the 60th anniversary of the defeat of Nazi Germany. The end of World War II in Europe brought the end of Hitler's regime and all of its horrors, but it did not, unfortunately, usher in an era that was free of tyranny as so many had hoped. Instead, the Soviet Union solidified its illegal occupation of its three Baltic neighbors, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, and communism's global expansion condemned millions to totalitarian rule or death.

The resolution we submitted expresses support for the construction of the Victims of Communism Memorial here in Washington, DC. Authorized by Congress in 1993, memorial will honor the more than 100 million victims of communist atrocities around the globe. The overwhelming carnage and suffering that occurred at the hand of international communism must never be forgotten. The Victims of Communism Memorial will pay tribute, in our Nation's capital, to those who lost their lives to communist tyranny. Construction of the Memorial is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2005, and when it is completed it will serve as an enduring reminder of communist atrocities and of the value of our Nation's commitment to freedom.

I will also join my colleague from Oregon in submitting a resolution that calls on the Russian Government to acknowledge the Soviet Union's illegal annexation of the three Baltic nations of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania during the Second World War and to condemn this aggression by the USSR. In 1939, Joseph Stalin allied himself with Adolf Hitler with the signing of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, an agreement that led to the Soviet Union's occupation of the Baltic countries in 1940. For five decades, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania were forced to live under the

authoritarian rule of the Soviet empire.

When I speak about the Baltic countries, I speak with a particularly personal interest. Lithuania has a special meaning to me because it is my mother's birthplace, and I have visited there a number of times. When I visited Lithuania for the first time in 1979, it was under Soviet domination. Freedom was at a premium, and the poor people of that country struggled day after day wondering if they would ever have another chance at self-governance. I have journeyed to the region on several occasions since then, and I have witnessed the miracle of independence and democracy coming to Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia. The amazing transformation for these nations was something that many of us with strong ties to this part of the world had prayed for but never believed would happen in our lifetime.

The legacy of Soviet occupation remains strong even today. Unfortunately, Russia's leaders refuse to acknowledge the wrongs committed by the Soviet Union against the Baltic nations. Russian President Vladimir Putin rejected a suggestion from U.S. officials that he renounce the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, and he has publicly clung to the fiction that Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania asked to become part of the Soviet Union. In order for relations between the Baltic nations and Russia to move forward, the Russian Government and its people must honestly and publicly confront the USSR's brutal legacy of repression. This resolution will call on Russian leaders to take that important step.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution and preamble be agreed to en bloc; that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; and that any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD, without intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 150) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 150

Whereas section 905 of the FRIENDSHIP Act (40 U.S.C. 1003 note) authorizes the construction of a memorial to honor the victims of communism;

Whereas the construction of a Victims of Communism Memorial near the United States Capitol in the District of Columbia is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2005;

Whereas construction of the Memorial is supported by many Americans whose country of origin is, or was, a "Captive Nation", from Baltic-Americans to Vietnamese-Americans;

Whereas communism has claimed the lives of more than 100,000,000 people in less than 100 years; and

Whereas it is important for the people of the United States to honor and remember the victims of communism by supporting the construction of this memorial: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate expresses its continued support for the construction of the Victims of Communism Memorial.

RECOGNIZING THE 57TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 151, which was submitted earlier today.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 151) recognizing the 57th Anniversary of the Independence of the State of Israel.

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

Mr. ALLEN. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 151) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 151

Whereas in May 1948, the State of Israel was established as a sovereign and independent nation;

Whereas the United States was one of the first nations to recognize Israel, only 11 minutes after its creation;

Whereas Israel has provided the opportunity for Jews from all over the world to reestablish their ancient homeland;

Whereas Israel is home to many religious sites which are sacred to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam;

Whereas Israel provided a refuge to Jews who survived the horrors of the Holocaust and the evils committed by the Nazis which were unprecedented in human history;

Whereas the people of Israel have established a unique, pluralistic democracy which includes the freedoms cherished by the people of the United States, including freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of association, freedom of the press, and government by the consent of the governed;

Whereas Israel continues to serve as a shining model of democratic values by regularly holding free and fair elections, promoting the free exchange of ideas, and vigorously exercising in its Parliament, the Knesset, a democratic government that is fully representative of its citizens;

Whereas Israel has bravely defended itself from attacks repeatedly since independence;

Whereas the Government of Israel has successfully worked with the neighboring Governments of Egypt and Jordan to establish peaceful, bilateral relations;

Whereas, despite the deaths of over one thousand innocent Israelis at the hands of murderous, suicide bombers and other terrorists during the past 4 years, the people of Israel continue to seek peace with their Palestinian neighbors;

Whereas the United States and Israel enjoy a strategic partnership based on shared mutual democratic values, friendship, and respect;

Whereas the people of the United States share affinity with the people of Israel and view Israel as a strong and trusted ally; and

Whereas Israel has made significant global contributions in the fields of science, medicine, and technology: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the independence of the State of Israel as a significant event in providing refuge and a national homeland for the Jewish people;

(2) strongly supports efforts to bring peace to the Middle East, including the disengagement plan of the Israeli government, the Roadmap, and the recent Quartet decision to appoint World Bank President James Wolfensohn as Coordinator for Gaza Disengagement;

(3) commends the bipartisan commitment of all United States administrations and United States Congresses since 1948 to stand by Israel and work for its security and well-being; and

(4) extends warm congratulations and best wishes to the people of Israel as they celebrate the 57th anniversary of Israel's independence.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 1084 AND S. 1085

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I understand there are two bills at the desk. I ask for their first reading en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the clerk will report the bills by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1084) to eliminate child poverty, and for other purposes.

A bill (S. 1085) to provide for paid sick leave to ensure that Americans can address their own health needs and the health needs of their families.

Mr. ALLEN. I now ask for a second reading, and in order to place the bills on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The bills will have their second reading on the next legislative day.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 1061 AND S. 1062

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I understand there are two other bills at the

desk that are due for a second reading. I ask unanimous consent that they be read for a second time, en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1061) to provide for secondary school reform and for other purposes.

A bill (S. 1062) to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide for an increase in the Federal minimum wage.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, in order to place the bills on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to further proceeding en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bills will be placed on the calendar.

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, MAY 20, 2005

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until 9:30 a.m. on Friday, May 20. I further ask that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved, and the Senate then return to executive session and resume consideration of the nomination of Priscilla Owen to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals; provided further that the time from 9:40 a.m. to 10 a.m. be under the control of the majority leader or his designee and the time from 10 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. be under the control of the Democratic leader or his designee, provided that at 10:30 a.m. the majority leader or his designee be recognized and floor time then rotate every 30 minutes between the two leaders or their designees until 1 p.m., at which time the Democratic leader or his designee be recognized until 1:45 p.m., to be followed by a Republican Senator until 2 p.m.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, tomorrow the Senate will resume the consideration of the nomination of Priscilla Owen to be a United States circuit court judge for the Fifth Circuit. We have had another day of substantive debate on the Owen nomination. As announced earlier today, there will be no rollcall votes tomorrow. We will have a busy day of debate, surely, and Senators are encouraged to come to the Senate during the session. As a reminder, the majority leader has announced we will have a vote next Monday at 5:30 p.m. That vote is likely to be a vote on a motion to instruct and to request Members' attendance. More will be said regarding Monday's schedule at the close of business tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. ALLEN. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 8:52 p.m., adjourned until Friday, May 20, 2005, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate May 19, 2005:

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

EDMUND S. HAWLEY, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY, VICE DAVID M. STONE, RESIGNED.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. TERRY L. GABRESKI, 0000