

S. CON. RES. 90

Whereas, in 1985, Mr. Hammadi, along with Hasan Izz-Al-Din, Ali Atwa, and Imad Fayez Mugniyah, hijacked Trans World Airlines Flight 847, and subsequently escaped from the scene of the hijacking;

Whereas United States Navy Petty Officer Robert Dean Stethem was singled out during the hijacking of Trans World Airlines Flight 847 because he was a serviceman of the United States, savagely beaten before being executed, and dumped on the tarmac of Beirut International Airport;

Whereas Petty Officer Stethem was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart and buried at Arlington National Cemetery;

Whereas, in 1987, Mr. Hammadi was arrested at Frankfurt Airport while carrying liquid explosives in his luggage;

Whereas, in 1989, Mr. Hammadi, a Shiite militant from Lebanon, was convicted in a court in Germany for the brutal killing of Petty Officer Stethem and was sentenced to life in prison in Germany;

Whereas, after less than 19 years behind bars Mr. Hammadi was released in December 2005 and flown to Lebanon by the Government of Germany even though the United States does not have an extradition treaty with the Government of Lebanon; and

Whereas the release of Mr. Hammadi came in the face of strong opposition from the United States Government, and Petty Officer Stethem's parents were not even informed in advance that the killer of their son was to be released; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the unfortunate actions of the Government of Germany with respect to Mohammad Ali Hammadi have undermined the joint efforts by the United States Government and the Government of Germany to effectively combat international terrorism;

(2) the early release of Mr. Hammadi sends a signal of weakness to terrorist groups such as Hezbollah and could increase the likelihood of further terrorist attacks against the citizens of Europe and the rest of the world;

(3) the United States Government should continue to call on the Government of Lebanon to hand over Mr. Hammadi and other known terrorists so that they may face trial in the United States;

(4) the United States Government should take all appropriate steps to secure the arrest of Mr. Hammadi and his fellow hijackers and their transfer to the United States for trial; and

(5) the murderers of United States Navy Petty Officer Robert Dean Stethem must be brought to justice, and a clear message must be sent to the international community that the brutal murder of service members or civilians of the United States will neither be tolerated nor forgotten.

SENATE RESOLUTION 458—AFFIRMING THAT STATEMENTS OF NATIONAL UNITY, INCLUDING THE NATIONAL ANTHEM, SHOULD BE RECITED OR SUNG IN ENGLISH

Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself, Mr. FRIST, Mr. McCONNELL, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. SANTORUM, and Mr. TALENT) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 458

Whereas Francis Scott Key wrote the words of the Star-Spangled Banner in English in 1814, inspired by the sight of the American flag still waving at Fort McHenry

after 25 hours of continual bombardment by British forces;

Whereas Congress declared the Star-Spangled Banner the National Anthem of the United States in 1931 (section 301 of title 3, United States Code);

Whereas the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States, written in English, was first specified in law by Congress in 1942 (section 4 of title 4, United States Code);

Whereas the Oath of Allegiance, to which lawful permanent residents swear upon becoming citizens of the United States (as required under section 337 of the Immigration and Naturalization Act (8 U.S.C. 1448)), is based, in part, on language originally written in English by General George Washington and sworn by him and his general officers at Valley Forge in 1778;

Whereas the vast majority of Americans are immigrants or the descendants of immigrants, proud of their ancestral country, but prouder still to be American;

Whereas millions of Americans speak or study additional languages, but English is their common language;

Whereas the original national motto of the United States, “E Pluribus Unum”, meaning “from many, one”, signifies the coming together of people from many foreign countries to form one Nation, was incorporated into the Great Seal of the United States in 1776, is printed on currency of the United States, and inscribed on the wall of the Senate chamber;

Whereas the people of the United States are united not by race, ancestry, or origin, but by a common language, English, and by common belief in the principles prescribed in the founding documents of the Nation, especially the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution; and

Whereas, to become citizens of the United States, under the sections 312 and 337 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1423 and 1448), lawful permanent residents of the United States who have immigrated from foreign countries must, among other requirements, renounce allegiance to the government of their country of origin, swear allegiance to the laws and Constitution of the United States, and demonstrate an understanding of the English language: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate affirms that statements or songs that symbolize the unity of the Nation, including the National Anthem, the Oath of Allegiance sworn by new United States citizens, and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States, should be recited or sung in English, the common language of the United States.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 90—ACKNOWLEDGING AFRICAN DESCENDANTS OF THE TRANSATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE IN ALL OF THE AMERICAS WITH AN EMPHASIS ON DESCENDANTS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN, RECOGNIZING THE INJUSTICES SUFFERED BY THESE AFRICAN DESCENDANTS, AND RECOMMENDING THAT THE UNITED STATES AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WORK TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION OF AFRO-DESCENDANT COMMUNITIES IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Mr. DODD submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

Whereas we must remember that African-Americans are not the only survivors of the transatlantic slave trade;

Whereas like the United States, many European nations benefitted greatly from the colonization of Latin America and the Caribbean and their participation in the slave trade;

Whereas the story of African descendants in all of the Americas remains untold, leading them to be forgotten, made invisible, and allowed to suffer unjustly;

Whereas it is important to acknowledge that as a result of the slave trade and immigration, approximately 80,000,000 to 150,000,000 persons of African descent live in Latin America and the Caribbean, making them the largest population of persons of African descent outside of Africa;

Whereas Afro-descendants are present in most Latin American countries, including Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela;

Whereas the size of Afro-descendant populations varies in range from less than 1 percent in some countries to as much as 30 percent in Colombia and 46 percent in Brazil and make up the majority in some Spanish speaking Caribbean nations, such as Cuba and the Dominican Republic;

Whereas Afro-descendant populations have made significant economic, social, and cultural contributions to their countries and the Western Hemisphere from their unfortunate involvement in the transatlantic slave trade to their recent contributions to trade, tourism, and other industries;

Whereas although persons of African descent have made significant achievements in education, employment, economic, political, and social spheres in some countries, the vast majority are marginalized—living in impoverished communities where they are excluded from centers of education, government, and basic human rights based upon the color of their skin and ancestry;

Whereas Afro-descendants have shorter life expectancies, higher rates of infant mortality, higher incidences of HIV/AIDS, higher rates of illiteracy, and lower incomes than do other populations;

Whereas Afro-descendants encounter problems of access to healthcare, basic education, potable water, housing, land titles, credit, equal justice and representation under the law, political representation, and other economic, political, health, and basic human rights; and

Whereas skin color and ancestry have led African-Americans in the United States and African descendants in Latin America and the Caribbean to share similar injustices, leading to economic, social, health, and political inequalities: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) recognizes and honors African descendants in the Americas for their contributions to the economic, social, and cultural fabric of the countries in the Americas, particularly in Latin American and Caribbean societies;

(2) recognizes that as a result of their skin color and ancestry, African descendants in the Americas have wrongfully experienced economic, social, and political injustices;

(3) urges the President to take appropriate measures to encourage the celebration and remembrance of the achievements of African descendants in the Americas and to resolve injustices suffered by African descendants in the Americas;

(4) encourages the United States and the international community to work to ensure

that extreme poverty is eradicated, universal education is achieved, quality healthcare is made available, sustainable environmental resources, including land where applicable, is provided, and equal access to justice and representation under the law is granted in Afro-descendant communities in Latin America and the Caribbean; and

(5) encourages the United States and the international community to achieve these goals in Latin America and the Caribbean by—

(A) promoting research that focuses on identifying and eradicating racial disparities in economic, political, and social spheres;

(B) promoting, funding, and creating development programs that focus on Afro-descendant communities;

(C) providing technical support and training to Afro-descendant advocacy groups that work to uphold basic human rights in the region;

(D) promoting the creation of an international working group that focuses on problems of communities of Afro-descendants in the Americas; and

(E) promoting trade and other bilateral and multilateral agreements that take into account the needs of Afro-descendant communities.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today to submit a concurrent resolution acknowledging African descendants of the transatlantic slave trade throughout the Western Hemisphere, and in particular, Latin America and the Caribbean. This resolution would raise awareness about the continued injustices they face and urge the U.S. and the international community to work to improve the condition of Afro-descendant communities in these regions.

Slavery remains a dark stain on human history. Over the past century, this terrible evil has been virtually eliminated in many parts of the world, including in the Western Hemisphere.

Here in the United States, we most often speak of slavery as it existed within our borders. But we need to remember that the institution of slavery extended throughout the Americas.

Across the hemisphere, slaves were brought in bondage from Africa, enduring extraordinary hardships, brutal maltreatment, and the deprivation of a most fundamental human right—the right to liberty. Yet, despite this reality, Afro-descendant communities have contributed a great deal to the countries and communities in which they have lived. Unfortunately, though, even today, the many contributions of Afro-descendant communities throughout our hemisphere are underappreciated.

Currently, there are approximately 80 million to 150 million individuals of African descent living in Latin America and the Caribbean. In some countries, including the Dominican Republic and Cuba, Afro-descendants actually constitute the majority of the population. But all too often, they are left marginalized in these societies.

Indeed, individuals of African descent throughout Latin America and the Caribbean suffer disproportionately from a variety of social and economic ills.

On average, they have lower incomes and rates of literacy than do other pop-

ulations in the same areas. And while Afro-descendants make up 30 percent of the population of Latin America, they comprise 60 percent of the region's poor.

These circumstances severely impact Afro-descended communities in the Americas. Their inhabitants have shorter life spans and higher rates of infant mortality. They suffer from higher rates of HIV/AIDS infection than their compatriots. And many live in deplorable conditions, without potable water, access to healthcare, or basic education.

The resolution I am submitting today is a companion to a measure introduced by Congressman CHARLES RANGEL in the House of Representatives. I believe it is an important resolution, which celebrates the contributions of Afro-descendants to the economic, social, and cultural fabric of our hemisphere, while drawing attention to the continued injustices they face.

This resolution is a message that more attention needs to be focused on the continuing plight of Afro-descendants in the hemisphere. Most importantly, it proposes positive initiatives that would enable us to take a step towards alleviating the suffering caused by extreme poverty and racial disparities in this hemisphere.

Among other things, it encourages the United States and the international community to invest in critical measures to combat racial disparities, including research into identifying and eradicating the causes of such inequities; funding for development programs targeted at the needs of Afro-descendant communities; technical assistance for groups advocating for the rights of Afro-descendants; the creation of an international working-group focused on the problems facing these communities; and the promotion of trade agreements that take into account their needs.

Individuals of African descent have and will continue to play an essential role in the long-term development of our hemisphere. This resolution will help to shed some light on the historic injustices they have faced, and will raise awareness about the challenges continuing to face them in their daily lives throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. Doing so is an important step toward righting a historical wrong and paving the way for a more prosperous future. I ask my colleagues for their support in this effort.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 91—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT THE PRESIDENT SHOULD POSTHUMOUSLY AWARD THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM TO LEROY ROBERT “SATCHEL” PAIGE

Mr. NELSON of Florida (for himself, Mr. DEWINE, and Mr. SESSIONS) submitted the following concurrent resolu-

tion; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. CON. RES. 91

Whereas Satchel Paige, who was born on July 7, 1906, in Mobile, Alabama, lived a life that was marked by his outstanding contributions to the game of baseball;

Whereas Satchel Paige was a dominating pitcher whose baseball career spanned several decades, from 1927 to 1965;

Whereas Satchel Paige played in the Negro Leagues and became famous for his unusual pitching style and his ability to strike out almost any player he faced;

Whereas Satchel Paige pitched 62 consecutive scoreless innings in 1933;

Whereas, due to the practice of segregation in baseball, Satchel Paige was prohibited for many years from playing baseball at the major league level;

Whereas Satchel Paige played for many Negro League teams, including—

- (1) the Chattanooga Black Lookouts;
- (2) the Birmingham Black Barons;
- (3) the Nashville Elite Giants;
- (4) the Mobile Tigers;
- (5) the Pittsburgh Crawfords; and
- (6) the Kansas City Monarchs;

Whereas, while pitching for the Kansas City Monarchs, Satchel Paige won 4 consecutive league pennants from 1939 to 1942, and later won a 5th pennant in 1946 with that team;

Whereas, after the desegregation of baseball, Satchel Paige signed a contract to pitch for the Cleveland Indians at age 42, and soon thereafter became the oldest rookie ever to play baseball at the major league level;

Whereas the extraordinary pitching of Satchel Paige helped the Cleveland Indians complete a championship season in 1948, as the team won the American League Championship and the World Series;

Whereas Satchel Paige threw an estimated 300 career shutouts;

Whereas, in 1971, Satchel Paige became the first Negro League player to be inducted into the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame;

Whereas the legendary pitching of Satchel Paige earned him numerous awards and accolades, including—

- (1) a nomination to the All Century Team by Major League Baseball as 1 of the greatest players of the 20th century; and
- (2) a selection to the 50 Legends of Baseball by the Postal Service;

Whereas, despite years of discrimination that limited the play of Satchel Paige to the Negro Leagues, his prowess on the pitching mound earned him the respect and admiration of fans and players throughout the world of baseball;

Whereas Satchel Paige passed away on June 8, 1982; and

Whereas the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor in the United States, was established in 1945 to recognize citizens of the United States who have made exceptional contributions to—

- (1) the security or national interests of the United States;
- (2) world peace;
- (3) the culture of the United States or the world; or
- (4) the citizens of the United States or the world; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that the President should award the Presidential Medal of Freedom posthumously to Leroy “Satchel” Paige in honor of his distinguished baseball career and the contributions that he has made to the improvement of the society of the United States and the world.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I rise today on behalf of myself,