

against those who seek the freedom to emigrate or to practice their religious or cultural traditions, drawing special attention to the hardships and discrimination imposed upon the Jewish community in the Soviet Union;

Whereas, in 1983, the bipartisan Congressional Human Rights Caucus was founded to advance the cause of human rights;

Whereas, in 1984, the Congressional Coalition for Soviet Jews was founded;

Whereas, on December 6, 1987, an estimated 250,000 people demonstrated on the National Mall in Washington, DC, in support of freedom for Soviet Jews, in advance of a summit between Mikhail Gorbachev and President Reagan;

Whereas, in 1989, the former Soviet Union opened its doors to allow the millions of Soviet Jews who had been held as virtual prisoners within their own country to leave the country;

Whereas, in 1991, the Supreme Soviet passed a law that codified the right of every citizen of the Soviet Union to emigrate, precipitating massive emigration by Jews, primarily to Israel and the United States;

Whereas, since 1975, more than 500,000 refugees from areas of the former Soviet Union—many of them Jews, evangelical Christians, and Catholics—have resettled in the United States;

Whereas the Soviet Jewish community in the United States today numbers between 750,000 and 1,000,000, though some estimates are twice as high;

Whereas Jewish immigrants from the former Soviet Union have greatly enriched the United States in areas as diverse as business, professional sports, the arts, politics, and philanthropy;

Whereas, in 1992, Congress passed the Freedom Support Act, making aid for the 15 independent states of the former Soviet Union contingent on progress toward democratic self-government and respect for human rights;

Whereas, since 2000, more than 400 independent Jewish cultural organizations and 30 Jewish day schools have been established in the independent states of the former Soviet Union; and

Whereas the National Conference on Soviet Jewry and its partner organizations continue to work to promote the safety and human rights of Jews in the independent states of the former Soviet Union: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the significant contributions of American citizens of Jewish descent who emigrated from the Soviet Union;

(2) commemoates the 40th anniversary of the mass movement for freedom by and on behalf of Soviet Jewry;

(3) commemoates the 20th anniversary of the December 6, 1987, Freedom Sunday rally, a major landmark of Jewish activism in the United States; and

(4) condemns incidents of anti-Semitism, xenophobia, and religious persecution whenever they may occur in the independent states of the former Soviet Union and encourages the development and deepening of democracy, religious freedom, rule of law, and human rights in those states.

#### HONORING SAN FRANCISCO OIL SPILL VOLUNTEERS

Mr. WEBB. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 385, 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. 385) honoring those who have volunteered to assist in the cleanup of the November 7, 2007, oil spill in San Francisco Bay.

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

Mr. WEBB. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to; that the preamble be agreed to; that the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table; and that any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 385) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

#### S. RES. 385

Whereas the oil spill that occurred on November 7, 2007, in the San Francisco Bay resulted in the discharge of between 53,570 and 58,000 gallons of toxic bunker fuel, causing one of the Bay Area's worse environmental disasters;

Whereas 28 beaches were closed and over 1,300 birds so far have been severely impacted by the spill;

Whereas thousands of individuals throughout the San Francisco Bay Area immediately volunteered to assist with the cleanup;

Whereas Bay Area community non-profit organizations, such as San Francisco Connect, have also rallied to support the response and recovery work by supporting these volunteer efforts;

Whereas Bay Area environmental organizations, such as Baykeeper, Save the Bay, and Bay Institute, have provided invaluable leadership in reporting, assessing, and helping to remediate the damage to the Bay's ecosystem;

Whereas the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations, members of the San Francisco Crab Boat Owners Association, commercial crabbers, and other Bay Area fishermen have all joined the cleanup efforts as well; and

Whereas the city of San Francisco, particularly through its Department of Emergency Management, has significantly contributed to the overall response, bringing considerable resources to bear: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate honors those individuals and organizations who have volunteered to assist in the cleanup of the November 7, 2007, oil spill in one of our Nation's most beloved national treasures, the San Francisco Bay.

#### AUTHORIZING TESTIMONY AND LEGAL REPRESENTATION

Mr. WEBB. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 386, 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. 386) to authorize testimony and legal representation in State of Nebraska v. Pamir J. Safi.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this resolution concerns a request for testimony in a criminal action in Nebraska District Court for Lancaster County in Lincoln, in which the victim was, at the time of the alleged crime, an intern in Senator HAGEL's office. Two other former staff members from Senator HAGEL's office are being subpoenaed to provide testimony in depositions regarding their knowledge of the events at issue and their interactions with the victim. Senator HAGEL wishes to cooperate with this judicial process by providing the requested testimony from these two former members of his staff. This resolution would authorize those staff members to testify in this action, with representation by the Senate legal counsel.

Mr. WEBB. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to; that the preamble be agreed to; that the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, en bloc; and that any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 386) as agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

#### S. RES. 386

Whereas, in the case of State of Nebraska v. Pamir J. Safi, No. CR05-87, pending in Nebraska District Court for Lancaster County in Lincoln, Nebraska, testimony has been requested from Dorothy Anderson and Blayne Garth Glissman, Jr., former employees in the office of Senator Chuck Hagel;

Whereas, pursuant to sections 703(a) and 704(a)(2) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, 2 U.S.C. §288b(a) and §288c(a)(2), the Senate may direct its counsel to represent employees of the Senate with respect to any subpoena, order, or request for testimony relating to their official responsibilities;

Whereas, by the privileges of the Senate of the United States and Rule XI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, no evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate may, by the judicial or administrative process, be taken from such control or possession but by permission of the Senate;

Whereas, when it appears that evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate may promote the administration of justice, the Senate will take such action as will promote the ends of justice consistent with the privileges of the Senate: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved* That Dorothy Anderson and Blayne Garth Glissman, Jr. are authorized to testify in the case of State of Nebraska v. Pamir J. Safi, except concerning matters for which a privilege should be asserted.

Sec. 2. The Senate Legal Counsel is authorized to represent Dorothy Anderson and Blayne Garth Glissman, Jr. in connection with the testimony authorized in section one of this resolution.

#### REGARDING DEGRADATION OF THE JORDAN RIVER AND THE DEAD SEA

Mr. WEBB. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate

now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 387, 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. 387) expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the degradation of the Jordan River and the Dead Sea and welcoming cooperation between the peoples of Israel, Jordan, and the Palestinian Authority.

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

Mr. WEBB. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The resolution (S. Res. 387) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 387

Expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the degradation of the Jordan River and the Dead Sea and welcoming cooperation between the peoples of Israel, Jordan, and the Palestinian Authority.

Whereas the Dead Sea and the Jordan River are bodies of water of exceptional historic, religious, cultural, economic, and environmental importance for the Middle East and the world;

Whereas the world's 3 great monotheistic faiths—Christianity, Islam, and Judaism—consider the Jordan River a holy place;

Whereas local governments have diverted more than 90 percent of the Jordan's traditional 1,300,000,000 cubic meters of annual water flow in order to satisfy a growing demand for water in the arid region;

Whereas the Jordan River is the primary tributary of the Dead Sea and the dramatically reduced flow of the Jordan River has been the primary cause of a 20 meter fall in the Dead Sea's water level and a 1/3 decline in the Dead Sea's surface area in less than 50 years;

Whereas the Dead Sea's water level continues to fall about a meter a year;

Whereas the decline in water level of the Dead Sea has resulted in significant environmental damage, including loss of freshwater springs, river bed erosion, and over 1,000 sinkholes;

Whereas mismanagement has resulted in the dumping of sewage, fish pond runoff, and salt water into the Jordan River and has led to the pollution of the Jordan River with agricultural and industrial effluents;

Whereas the World Monuments Fund has listed the Jordan River as one of the world's 100 most endangered sites;

Whereas widespread consensus exists regarding the need to address the degradation of the Jordan River and the Dead Sea;

Whereas the Governments of Jordan and Israel, as well as the Palestinian Authority (the "Beneficiary Parties"), working together in an unusual and welcome spirit of cooperation, have attempted to address the Dead Sea water level crisis by articulating a shared vision of the Red Sea-Dead Sea Water Conveyance Concept;

Whereas Binyamin Ben Eliezar, the Minister of National Infrastructure of Israel, has said, "The Study is an excellent example for cooperation, peace, and conflict reduction. Hopefully it will become the first of many such cooperative endeavors";

Whereas Mohammed Mustafa, the Economic Advisor for the Palestinian Authority, has said, "This cooperation will bring wellbeing for the peoples of the region, particularly Palestine, Jordan, and Israel . . . We pray that this type of cooperation will be a positive experience to deepen the notion of dialogue to reach solutions on all other tracks";

Whereas Zafer al-Alem, the former Water Minister of Jordan, has said, "This project is a unique chance to deepen the meaning of peace in the region and work for the benefit of our peoples";

Whereas the Red Sea-Dead Sea Water Conveyance Concept envisions a 110-mile pipeline from the Red Sea to the Dead Sea that would descend approximately 1,300 feet creating an opportunity for hydroelectric power generation and desalination, as well as the restoration of the Dead Sea;

Whereas some have raised legitimate questions regarding the feasibility and environmental impact of the Red Sea-Dead Sea Water Conveyance Concept;

Whereas the Beneficiary Parties have asked the World Bank to oversee a feasibility study and an environmental and social assessment whose purpose is to conclusively answer these questions;

Whereas the Red Sea-Dead Sea Water Conveyance Concept would not address the degradation of the Jordan River;

Whereas the Beneficiary Parties could address the degradation of the Jordan River by designing a comprehensive strategy that includes tangible steps related to water conservation, desalination, and the management of sewage and agricultural and industrial effluents; and

Whereas Israel and the Palestinian Authority are expected to hold high-level meetings in the Washington area in the winter of 2007 to seek an enduring solution to the Arab-Israeli crisis: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) calls the world's attention to the serious and potentially irreversible degradation of the Jordan River and the Dead Sea;

(2) applauds the cooperative manner with which the Governments of Israel and Jordan, as well as the Palestinian Authority (the "Beneficiary Parties"), have worked to address the declining water level and quality of the Dead Sea and other water-related challenges in the region;

(3) supports the Beneficiary Parties' efforts to assess the environmental, social, health, and economic impacts, costs, and feasibility of the Red Sea-Dead Sea Water Conveyance Concept in comparison to alternative proposals, such as those that focus on the restoration of the Jordan River;

(4) encourages the Governments of Israel and Jordan, as well as the Palestinian Authority, to continue to work in a spirit of cooperation as they address the region's serious water challenges;

(5) urges Israel, Jordan, and the Palestinian Authority to develop a comprehensive strategy to rectify the degradation of the Jordan River; and

(6) hopes the spirit of cooperation manifested by the Beneficiary Parties in their search for a solution to the Dead Sea water crisis might serve as a model for addressing the degradation of the Jordan River, as well as a model of peace and cooperation for the upcoming meetings in the Washington area between Israel and the Palestinian Authority as they seek to resolve long-standing disagreements and to develop a durable solution to the Arab-Israeli crisis.

COMMEMORATING CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF NAVY'S "GREAT WHITE FLEET"

Mr. WEBB. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Con. Res. 55, which was submitted earlier today.

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. 55) commemorating the centennial anniversary of the sailing of the Navy's "Great White Fleet," launched by President Theodore Roosevelt on December 16, 1907, from Hampton Roads, Virginia, and returning there on February 22, 1909.

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

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I join with my colleague in the Senate from Virginia, Senator JIM WEBB. I am also pleased to note that Representative THELMA DRAKE from Virginia is the champion and author of this resolution in the House of Representatives.

Our resolution is introduced for the purpose of commemorating the centennial anniversary of the sailing of the Navy's "Great White Fleet," launched by President Theodore Roosevelt on December 16, 1907, from Hampton Roads, Virginia, and returning there on February 22, 1909.

This major historical event will be commemorated in a Navy ceremony onboard the aircraft carrier U.S.S. *Theodore Roosevelt*, at Naval Station Norfolk, Virginia on December 15, 2007.

The launching of the Great White Fleet marked the emergence of the United States as a true global seapower, able to dispatch 16 new battleships on a worldwide deployment for 14 months. The battleships, which were painted entirely white, were manned by 14,000 sailors and conducted visits across the world to reinforce friendships and partnerships with other nations. At the same time, the Great White Fleet demonstrated the naval presence of the United States.

This resolution commemorates the wisdom of President Theodore Roosevelt in developing and launching the Great White Fleet, and the resolution indicates that the Congress supports a one-time designation of a day to celebrate the 100th centennial of the Fleet and the special role it played in building enduring friendships with important allies and partner nations.

The resolution also commends efforts by the Department of the Navy to maintain and strengthen our cooperative partnerships with foreign nations and safeguard our Nation's interests in the maritime domain; commends efforts by the Department of the Navy in leading the development of a Cooperative Strategy for 21st Century Seapower; and honors the sacrifices made and services rendered by the servicemembers of the Navy, Marine