

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 584—RECOGNIZING THE HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY AND EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT HISOTRY SHOULD BE REGARDED AS A MEANS FOR UNDERSTANDING THE PAST AND SOLVING THE CHALLENGES OF THE FUTURE

Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. REID, Ms. STABENOW, and Mr. BROWNBACK) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 584

Whereas news of the end of slavery did not reach frontier areas of the United States, and in particular the Southwestern States, for more than 2 years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation of January 1, 1863, and months after the conclusion of the Civil War;

Whereas, on June 19, 1865, Union soldiers led by Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, with news that the Civil War had ended and that the enslaved were free;

Whereas African Americans who had been slaves in the Southwest celebrated June 19, commonly known as "Juneteenth Independence Day", as the anniversary of their emancipation;

Whereas African Americans from the Southwest continue the tradition of celebrating Juneteenth Independence Day as inspiration and encouragement for future generations;

Whereas, for more than 140 years, Juneteenth Independence Day celebrations have been held to honor African American freedom while encouraging self-development and respect for all cultures;

Whereas, although Juneteenth Independence Day is beginning to be recognized as a national, and even global, event, the history behind the celebration should not be forgotten; and

Whereas the faith and strength of character demonstrated by former slaves remains an example for all people of the United States, regardless of background, religion, or race: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the Senate—

(A) recognizes the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day to the Nation;

(B) supports the continued celebration of Juneteenth Independence Day to provide an opportunity for the people of the United States to learn more about the past and to understand better the experiences that have shaped the Nation; and

(C) encourages the people of the United States to observe Juneteenth Independence Day with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs; and

(2) it is the sense of the Senate that—

(A) history should be regarded as a means for understanding the past and solving the challenges of the future; and

(B) the celebration of the end of slavery is an important and enriching part of the history and heritage of the United States.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today I am pleased to introduce with Senator LEVIN a resolution recognizing the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day.

Two years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation and

months after the end of the Civil War, many African-Americans were still being denied the freedom that had been won. Juneteenth commemorates June 19, 1865, the day Union soldiers arrived in Galveston, Texas, to announce that the Civil War had ended and ensure that the slaves were free. African-Americans who had been enslaved began celebrating June 19 the following year as the anniversary of their emancipation, the day their dreams of freedom became reality.

As Americans, we can't afford to forget the lessons learned from slavery and that terrible stain on our nation's history. Juneteenth reminds us to stay vigilant in our efforts to secure equal opportunity for all Americans to keep working for justice. Justice is true freedom and equality for all citizens, regardless of race, religion, or ethnic background.

I thank Senators OBAMA, REID, STABENOW, and BROWNBACK for joining Senator LEVIN and me in recognizing historic Juneteenth Independence Day. I encourage my colleagues to support this important resolution.

SENATE RESOLUTION 585—SUPPORTING NATIONAL MEN'S HEALTH WEEK

Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. SHELBY, Mrs. DOLE, and Mr. HATCH) submitted the following resolution, which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 585

Whereas, despite advances in medical technology and research, men continue to live an average of more than 5 years less than women, and African-American men have the lowest life expectancy;

Whereas 9 of the 10 leading causes of death, as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, affect men at a higher percentage than women;

Whereas, between ages 45 and 54, men are 3 times more likely than women to die of heart attacks;

Whereas men die of heart disease at 1½ times the rate of women;

Whereas men die of cancer at almost 1½ times the rate of women;

Whereas testicular cancer is one of the most common cancers in men aged 15 to 34, and, when detected early, has a 96 percent survival rate;

Whereas the number of cases of colon cancer among men will reach almost 54,000 in 2008, and almost ½ will die from the disease;

Whereas the likelihood that a man will develop prostate cancer is 1 in 6;

Whereas the number of men developing prostate cancer will reach over 186,320 in 2008, and an estimated 28,660 will die from the disease;

Whereas African-American men in the United States have the highest incidence in the world of prostate cancer;

Whereas significant numbers of health problems that affect men, such as prostate cancer, testicular cancer, colon cancer, and infertility, could be detected and treated if men's awareness of these problems was more pervasive;

Whereas more than ½ of the elderly widows now living in poverty were not poor before the death of their husbands, and by age 100 women outnumber men 8 to 1;

Whereas educating both the public and health care providers about the importance of early detection of male health problems will result in reducing rates of mortality for these diseases;

Whereas appropriate use of tests such as prostate specific antigen (PSA) exams, blood pressure screens, and cholesterol screens, in conjunction with clinical examination and self-testing for problems such as testicular cancer, can result in the detection of many of these problems in their early stages and increase the survival rates to nearly 100 percent;

Whereas women are 100 percent more likely to visit the doctor for annual examinations and preventive services than men;

Whereas men are less likely than women to visit their health center or physician for regular screening examinations of male-related problems for a variety of reasons, including fear, lack of health insurance, lack of information, and cost factors;

Whereas National Men's Health Week was established by Congress in 1994 and urged men and their families to engage in appropriate health behaviors, and the resulting increased awareness has improved health-related education and helped prevent illness;

Whereas the Governors of over 45 States issue proclamations annually declaring Men's Health Week in their States;

Whereas, since 1994, National Men's Health Week has been celebrated each June by dozens of States, cities, localities, public health departments, health care entities, churches, and community organizations throughout the Nation, that promote health awareness events focused on men and family;

Whereas the National Men's Health Week Internet website has been established at www.menshealthweek.org and features Governors' proclamations and National Men's Health Week events;

Whereas men who are educated about the value that preventive health can play in prolonging their lifespan and their role as productive family members will be more likely to participate in health screenings;

Whereas men and their families are encouraged to increase their awareness of the importance of a healthy lifestyle, regular exercise, and medical checkups; and

Whereas June 9 through 15, 2008, is National Men's Health Week, which has the purpose of heightening the awareness of preventable health problems and encouraging early detection and treatment of disease among men and boys: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the annual National Men's Health Week; and

(2) calls upon the people of the United States and interested groups to observe National Men's Health Week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 586—CONGRATULATING THE ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S SOFTBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2008 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION DIVISION I SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. KYL (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 586

Whereas, on June 3, 2008, the Arizona State University women's softball team (in this

preamble referred to as the “ASU Sun Devils”) won the 2008 National Collegiate Athletic Association Women’s College World Series Softball Championship by defeating the women’s softball team of Texas A & M University by a score of 11 to 0;

Whereas that victory marks the first championship title for the ASU Sun Devils;

Whereas the ASU Sun Devils now hold the Women’s College World Series record for the largest margin of victory in a championship game;

Whereas the ASU Sun Devils beat opponents by a combined score of 24 to 2 in 5 Women’s College World Series wins and completed the season with 66 wins and 5 losses and a perfect 10 and 0 mark in the postseason; and

Whereas ASU Sun Devils pitcher Katie Burkhart finished with 5 wins and 53 strikeouts in the Women’s College World Series and earned Most Valuable Player honors: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the Arizona State University women’s softball team for winning the 2008 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Women’s Softball Championship; and

(2) recognizes the players, coaches, and support staff who were instrumental in that achievement.

SENATE RESOLUTION 587—DECLARING JUNE 6, 2008, A NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER AND REDEDICATION FOR THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES AND THEIR MISSION

Mr. DEMINT (for himself and Mr. HATCH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 587

Whereas public prayer and national days of prayer are a long-standing American tradition to bolster national resolve and summon the national will for victory;

Whereas the Continental Congress asked the colonies to pray for wisdom in forming a nation in 1775;

Whereas Benjamin Franklin proposed that the Constitutional Convention begin each day with a prayer;

Whereas General George Washington, as he prepared his troops for battle with the British in May 1776, ordered them to pray for the campaign ahead, that it would please the Almighty to “prosper the arms of the united colonies” and “establish the peace and freedom of America upon a solid and lasting foundation”;

Whereas President Abraham Lincoln, in declaring in the Gettysburg Address that “this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom”, rededicated the Nation to ensuring that “government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth”;

Whereas, as 73,000 Americans stormed the beaches at Normandy, France, on June 6, 1944 (D-Day), President Franklin Delano Roosevelt went on the national radio to lead the Nation in prayer for their success;

Whereas, in his D-Day radio prayer, President Roosevelt did not declare a single day of special prayer, but instead compelled all Americans to “devote themselves in a continuance of prayer”;

Whereas the words of President Roosevelt calling on all Americans to “devote themselves in a continuance of prayer” for American soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines in harm’s way are just as appropriate today as they were in June 1944;

Whereas, with our troops once again facing danger abroad and the Nation looking for support here at home, the time is ripe to once again heed the words and prayerful wisdom contained in the D-Day radio address of the 20th century’s greatest Democrat president as he implored the Nation: “as we rise to each new day, and again when each day is spent, let words of prayer be on our lips, invoking Thy help to our efforts”;

Whereas more than 300,000 men and women of the United States Armed Forces are deployed worldwide today;

Whereas about 200,000 of these troops are engaged in armed combat in Iraq and Afghanistan against determined and ruthless enemies;

Whereas more than 4,500 brave Americans have been killed, and over 42,000 have been wounded, while fighting the War on Terror;

Whereas, because the War on Terror will be long and hard, because success is not likely to come with rushing speed, and because the sacrifice will continue to be immeasurable in human terms, it is appropriate to make the anniversary of D-Day, June 6, a national day of prayer and rededication for the men and women of the United States Armed Forces and their mission; and

Whereas the D-Day radio address of President Roosevelt is the inspiration and model for this annual national day of prayer and rededication: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) June 6, 2008, will be a national day of prayer and rededication for the men and women of the United States Armed Forces and their mission; and

(2) in encouraging our fellow Americans to join us in this national day of prayer and rededication for our troops and their mission, by reflecting on President Roosevelt’s D-Day radio prayer, as follows: “My Fellow Americans:

Last night, when I spoke with you about the fall of Rome, I knew at that moment that troops of the United States and our Allies were crossing the Channel in another and greater operation. It has come to pass with success thus far.

And so, in this poignant hour, I ask you to join with me in prayer:

Almighty God: Our sons, pride of our nation, this day have set upon a mighty endeavor, a struggle to preserve our Republic, our religion, and our civilization, and to set free a suffering humanity.

Lead them straight and true; give strength to their arms, stoutness to their hearts, steadfastness in their faith.

They will need Thy blessings. Their road will be long and hard. For the enemy is strong. He may hurl back our forces. Success may not come with rushing speed, but we shall return again and again; and we know that by Thy grace, and by the righteousness of our cause, our sons will triumph.

They will be sore tried, by night and by day, without rest — until the victory is won. The darkness will be rent by noise and flame. Men’s souls will be shaken with the violences of war.

For these men are lately drawn from the ways of peace. They fight not for the lust of conquest. They fight to end conquest. They fight to liberate. They fight to let justice arise, and tolerance and goodwill among all Thy people. They yearn but for the end of battle, for their return to the haven of home.

Some will never return. Embrace these, Father, and receive them, Thy heroic servants, into Thy kingdom.

And for us at home—fathers, mothers, children, wives, sisters, and brothers of brave men overseas, whose thoughts and prayers are ever with them — help us, Almighty God, to rededicate ourselves in renewed faith in Thee in this hour of great sacrifice.

Many people have urged that I call the nation into a single day of special prayer. But because the road is long and the desire is great, I ask that our people devote themselves in a continuance of prayer. As we rise to each new day, and again when each day is spent, let words of prayer be on our lips, invoking Thy help to our efforts.

Give us strength, too—strength in our daily tasks, to redouble the contributions we make in the physical and the material support of our armed forces.

And let our hearts be stout, to wait out the long travail, to bear sorrows that may come, to impart our courage unto our sons wheresoever they may be.

And, O Lord, give us faith. Give us faith in Thee; faith in our sons; faith in each other; faith in our united crusade. Let not the keenness of our spirit ever be dulled. Let not the impacts of temporary events, of temporal matters of but fleeting moment—let not these deter us in our unconquerable purpose.

With Thy blessing, we shall prevail over the unholy forces of our enemy. Help us to conquer the apostles of greed and racial arrogances. Lead us to the saving of our country, and with our sister nations into a world unity that will spell a sure peace—a peace invulnerable to the schemings of unworthy men. And a peace that will let all of men live in freedom, reaping the just rewards of their honest toil.

Thy will be done, Almighty God.

Amen.”

Mr. DEMINT. Mr. President, I rise to speak on a resolution I have submitted today that declares June 6 a national day of prayer and rededication for the men and women of the U. S. Armed Forces and their mission.

As my colleagues know, when 73,000 Americans stormed the beaches at Normandy, France, on June 6, 1944, President Franklin Roosevelt went on national radio to lead the Nation in prayer for their success.

With over 300,000 men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces deployed worldwide today, and many of these troops directly engaged in armed combat in Iraq and Afghanistan against determined and ruthless enemies, President Roosevelt’s words calling on all Americans to “devote themselves to a continuance of prayer” for American soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines in harm’s way are as appropriate today as they were in June of 1944.

It is appropriate to make every anniversary of D-day, June 6, a national day of prayer for the men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces.

Now I will read President Roosevelt’s D-day radio prayer:

My Fellow Americans:

Last night, when I spoke with you about the fall of Rome, I knew at that moment that troops of the United States and our Allies were crossing the Channel in another and greater operation. It has come to pass with success thus far.

And so, in this poignant hour, I ask you to join with me in prayer:

Almighty God: Our sons, pride of our nation, this day have set upon a mighty endeavor, a struggle to preserve our Republic, our religion, and our civilization, and to set free a suffering humanity.

Lead them straight and true; give strength to their arms, stoutness to their hearts, steadfastness in their faith.