

On April 15, 1969, as a gift from Hawaii, a statue of Father Damien and a statue of King Kamehameha I, were unveiled at the Capitol Rotunda.

He was declared Venerable by Pope Paul VI on July 9, 1977, the first of three steps that lead to sainthood. On June 4, 1995, Pope John Paul II declared him Blessed Damien, and his feast is on May 10, the day he entered Molokai.

In observance of Father Damien de Veuster, SS.CC., I urge my colleagues to support this resolution recognizing his canonization to sainthood by Pope Benedict XVI on October 11, 2009.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator DANIEL AKAKA be added as a cosponsor to this Resolution.

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

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I am proud to join Senator INOUE in submitting a resolution commemorating the canonization of Father Joseph Damien de Veuster. Father Damien was born in Tremeloo, Belgium, on January 3, 1840. He is best known for his tireless efforts to provide material and spiritual comforts for leprosy patients at Kalaupapa, Molokai, during the latter half of the 19th century. Beloved by the people of Hawaii and the country of his birth, his selfless service to mankind serves as a model for all of us.

Father Damien arrived in Hawaii in 1864 to join the Sacred Hearts Mission in Honolulu. After several years of serving isolated communities on the island of Hawaii, Father Damien became concerned that many of his parishioners that were afflicted by leprosy were forced to separate from their families and sent to Kalaupapa, Molokai and virtually imprisoned. In 1873, Father Damien's request to reside at Molokai and devote his life to serving the people of Kalaupapa was granted.

Father Damien's selfless devotion to the patients was evident when in 1876, he told a U.S. medical inspector, "This is my work in the world. Sooner or later I shall become a leper, but may it not be until I have exhausted my capabilities for good." For 16 years, he labored to bring material and spiritual comfort to Kalaupapa's leprosy patients, building chapels, water cisterns, and boys and girls homes.

On April 15, 1889, Father Damien died of leprosy, at the age of 49. While his death was a devastating loss, the spiritual foundation that he established for the community of Kalaupapa would forever be remembered by the people of Hawaii.

Father Damien is a beloved figure in Hawaii's history, and so noteworthy are his deeds that he is one of the two people from Hawaii who are memorialized here in the Capitol, the other being King Kamehameha, the man who united the Hawaiian Islands. The statue of Father Damien stands proudly, as a reminder of his stewardship and love for Kalaupapa.

We must take every opportunity to educate our Nation on Father Damien's life and the history of Kalaupapa. Out of concern that Father Damien's legacy and Kalaupapa's rich history not be forgotten, the Kalaupapa National Historical Park was established in 1980, with a provision that former leprosy patients may remain as long as they wish.

The Holy See ruled in April 2008 that Father Joseph Damien de Veuster was responsible for two miracles and The Congregation of the Causes of Saints at the Vatican voted to recommend raising Father Damien to sainthood. In February 2009, the Vatican announced that Father Damien would be canonized on October 11, 2009 in ceremonies at the Vatican. It will be my great honor to attend those ceremonies as part of President Barack Obama's official delegation. Through this recognition, Father Damien and the 8,000 leprosy patients will forever be remembered as a legacy of human spirit and dignity.

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, 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. 304) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 304

Whereas Father Damien de Veuster, SS.CC. was born Joseph de Veuster in Tremelo, Belgium, on January 3, 1840, and in 1859, at age 19, he entered the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary in Louvain and selected Damien as his religious name;

Whereas in 1863, Father Damien received permission to replace his ill brother, and sailed to the Hawaiian Islands to perform missionary work;

Whereas Father Damien arrived in Honolulu, Hawaii on March 19, 1864, was ordained to the priesthood at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Peace on May 21, 1864, and began his pastoral ministry on the island of Hawaii;

Whereas the Hawaiian Government deported individuals infected with Hansen's disease, also known as leprosy, to a peninsula on the island of Molokai, to prevent further spread of the disease, and Bishop Louis Maigret, SS.CC. sought the help of Father Damien and other priests to provide spiritual assistance for the sufferers of Hansen's disease;

Whereas several priests volunteered to work on Molokai for a few months, but Father Damien requested to remain permanently with the individuals suffering from Hansen's disease, and was among the first to leave for the island of Molokai on May 10, 1873;

Whereas for 16 years, Father Damien served as a voice of hope and a source of consolation and encouragement for the individuals afflicted with Hansen's disease, accomplishing remarkable achievements, including building houses and hospitals, taking care of the patients' spiritual and physical needs, building 6 chapels, constructing a home for

boys and a home for girls, and burying the hundreds who died during his years on the island of Molokai;

Whereas Father Damien died on April 15, 1889, after contracting Hansen's disease, and his remains were transferred to Belgium in 1936, where he was interred in the crypt of the church of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts at Louvain;

Whereas in 1938, the process for beatification for Father Damien was introduced at Malines, Belgium;

Whereas on April 15, 1969, a statue of Father Damien and a statue of King Kamehameha I, gifts from the State of Hawaii, were unveiled at the Capitol Rotunda;

Whereas on July 7, 1977, Pope Paul VI declared Father Damien "venerable", the first of 3 steps that lead to sainthood;

Whereas on June 4, 1995, Pope John Paul II declared Father Damien "Blessed Damien", and his feast is on May 10, the day Father Damien first entered the island of Molokai; and

Whereas Father Damien will be canonized a saint on October 11, 2009, by Pope Benedict XVI: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the canonization of Father Damien to sainthood; and

(2) honors and praises Father Damien for his legacy, work, and service to the Hansen's disease colony on the island of Molokai.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS OF NATURAL DISASTERS

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 305, which was introduced earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 305) expressing support for the victims of the natural disasters in Indonesia, Samoa, American Samoa, Tonga, Vietnam, Cambodia, and the Philippines.

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

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating to this measure be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 305) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 305

Whereas on September 30, 2009, an earthquake measuring 7.6 on the Richter Scale hit Padang, a city of nearly 1,000,000 people on the Indonesian island of Sumatra;

Whereas on October 1, 2009, another earthquake measuring 6.6 on the Richter Scale struck south of Padang;

Whereas the earthquakes have destroyed hundreds of homes, businesses, schools, hospitals, and hotels;

Whereas John Holmes, the United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Emergency Relief Coordinator, has estimated that more than 1,100 people have lost their lives due to the earthquakes;

Whereas the United States has responded to this tragedy by providing \$300,000 in aid, sending a disaster relief team to the area, and setting aside an additional \$3,000,000 in assistance;

Whereas on September 29, 2009, following an earthquake measuring 8.3 on the Richter Scale, a tsunami hit Samoa, American Samoa, and Tonga, killing 177 people and affecting approximately 30,000 people;

Whereas the United States has sent a 245-member disaster response team to American Samoa, as well as 20,000 meals, 13,000 liters of water, and 800 tents that have been provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency;

Whereas on September 26, 2009, Typhoon Ketsana hit Manila, Philippines, resulting in the worst flooding in 4 decades and leaving the homes of approximately 2,000,000 people under water;

Whereas approximately 700,000 people in the Philippines have sought shelter in emergency relief centers;

Whereas 246 people have died as a result of the flooding, with the number of dead expected to rise;

Whereas the Government of the Philippines has estimated that the typhoon has caused at least \$100,000,000 in damage;

Whereas on September 29, 2009, Typhoon Ketsana hit Vietnam, killing more than 100 people, damaging more than 170,000 homes and forcing 350,000 people to evacuate, and resulting in approximately \$168,000,000 in damage; and

Whereas 11 lives were lost in Cambodia due to Typhoon Ketsana: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) mourns the loss of life resulting from the earthquakes in Indonesia, the tsunami in Samoa, American Samoa, and Tonga, and Typhoon Ketsana in the Philippines, Vietnam, and Cambodia;

(2) expresses its deepest condolences to the families of the victims of these tragedies;

(3) expresses its sympathies to the survivors who are still suffering in the aftermath of these natural disasters;

(4) supports the efforts already provided by the United States Government, relief agencies, and private citizens; and

(5) urges the United States Government and the internal community to provide additional humanitarian assistance to aid the survivors of these natural disasters and support reconstruction efforts.

NATIONAL CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING PREVENTION WEEK

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 306, submitted earlier today.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 306) designating the week of October 18 through October 24, 2009, as “National Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Week.”

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

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, 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. 306) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 306

Whereas lead poisoning is one of the leading environmental health hazards facing children in the United States;

Whereas approximately 240,000 children in the United States under the age of 6 have harmful levels of lead in their blood;

Whereas lead poisoning may cause serious, long-term harm to children, including reduced intelligence and attention span, behavior problems, learning disabilities, and impaired growth;

Whereas children from low-income families are significantly more likely to be poisoned by lead than are children from high-income families;

Whereas children may be poisoned by lead in water, soil, housing, or consumable products;

Whereas children most often are poisoned in their homes through exposure to lead particles when lead-based paint deteriorates or is disturbed during home renovation and repainting; and

Whereas lead poisoning crosses all barriers of race, income, and geography: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of October 18 through October 24, 2009, as “National Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Week”; and
(2) calls upon the people of the United States to observe National Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Week with appropriate programs and activities.

ENCOURAGING THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN TO ALLOW REUNITING OF FAMILIES

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Con. Res. 45, which was submitted earlier today.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 45) encouraging the Government of Iran to allow Joshua Fattal, Shane Bauer, and Sarah Shourd to reunite with their families in the United States as soon as possible.

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

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating to the concurrent resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 45) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

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

S. CON. RES. 45

Whereas, on July 31, 2009, officials of the Government of Iran took 3 United States

citizens, Joshua Fattal, Shane Bauer, and Sarah Shourd, into custody near the Ahmed Awa region of northern Iraq, after the 3 United States citizens reportedly crossed into the territory of Iran while hiking in Iraq;

Whereas officials of the Government of Iran have confirmed that they are holding the 3 United States citizens; and

Whereas officials of the Government of Iran have allowed consular access by the Embassy of the Government of Switzerland (in its formal capacity as the representative of the interests of the United States in Iran) to the 3 young United States citizens in accordance with the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, done at Vienna April 24, 1963: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) encourages the Government of Iran to allow Joshua Fattal, Shane Bauer, and Sarah Shourd to communicate by telephone with their families in the United States; and

(2) encourages the Government of Iran to allow Joshua Fattal, Shane Bauer, and Sarah Shourd to reunite with their families in the United States as soon as possible.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2009

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 9:30 a.m. tomorrow, Wednesday, October 7; that following the prayer and the pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate proceed to a period of morning business for up to 1 hour with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the majority controlling the first half and the Republicans controlling the final half; that following morning business, the Senate resume consideration of H.R. 2847, Commerce-Justice-Science appropriations.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, roll-call votes are expected to occur throughout the day in relation to amendments to the CJS appropriations bill and on any available conference reports, if we are able to reach an agreement on any conference reports.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:34 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, October 7, 2009, at 9:30 a.m.