

BROWNBACK, the U.S. Congress passed the Democratic Republic of Congo Relief, Security and Democracy Promotion Act. That bill committed the United States to work comprehensively toward peace, prosperity and good governance in the Congo. The Congo Conflict Minerals Act of 2009 seeks to move us a step closer toward those goals. I urge my colleagues to support it, and thank Senators BROWNBACK and DURBIN for their leadership on this important issue.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 111—RECOGNIZING JUNE 6, 2009, AS THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TRAGIC DATE WHEN THE M.S. ST. LOUIS, A SHIP CARRYING JEWISH REFUGEES FROM NAZI GERMANY, RETURNED TO EUROPE AFTER ITS PASSENGERS WERE REFUSED ADMITTANCE TO THE UNITED STATES

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

S. RES. 111

Whereas on May 13, 1939, the ocean liner M.S. St. Louis departed from Hamburg, Germany for Havana, Cuba with 937 passengers, most of whom were Jewish refugees fleeing Nazi persecution;

Whereas the Nazi regime in Germany in the 1930s implemented a program of violent persecution of Jews;

Whereas the Kristallnacht, or Night of Broken Glass, pogrom of November 9 through 10, 1938, signaled an increase in violent anti-Semitism;

Whereas after the Cuban Government, on May 27, 1939, refused entry to all except 28 passengers on board the M.S. St. Louis, the M.S. St. Louis proceeded to the coast of south Florida in hopes that the United States would accept the refugees;

Whereas the United States refused to allow the M.S. St. Louis to dock and thereby provide a haven for the Jewish refugees;

Whereas the Immigration Act of 1924 placed strict limits on immigration;

Whereas a United States Coast Guard cutter patrolled near the M.S. St. Louis to prevent any passengers from jumping to freedom;

Whereas following denial of admittance of the passengers to Cuba, the United States, and Canada, the M.S. St. Louis set sail on June 6, 1939 for return to Antwerp, Belgium with the refugees; and

Whereas 254 former passengers of the M.S. St. Louis died under Nazi rule: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes that June 6, 2009, marks the 70th anniversary of the tragic date when the M.S. St. Louis returned to Europe after its passengers were refused admittance to the United States and other countries in the Western Hemisphere;

(2) honors the memory of the 937 refugees aboard the M.S. St. Louis, most of whom were Jews fleeing Nazi oppression, and 254 of whom subsequently died during the Holocaust;

(3) acknowledges the suffering of those refugees caused by the refusal of the United States, Cuban, and Canadian governments to provide them political asylum; and

(4) recognizes the 70th anniversary of the M.S. St. Louis tragedy as an opportunity for public officials and educators to raise awareness about an important historical event, the lessons of which are relevant to current and future generations.

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, seventy two years ago the M.S. *St. Louis*, a German ocean liner, sailed from Hamburg, Germany to Havana, Cuba with 937 passengers, mostly Jewish refugees searching for the freedom and safety of the American dream. Those passengers left their homes because of state supported anti-semitism including violent pogroms, expulsion from public schools and service, and arrest and imprisonment solely because of Jewish heritage. Some passengers were released from prisons at Buchenwald and Dachau only because they were immigrating out of the country. With their freedom and safety stripped away by Nazi persecution, these refugees sailed for Cuba, a way station to wait for entry visas to the U.S.

When the M.S. *St. Louis* arrived in Cuba, only 28 passengers were allowed to disembark. Corruption and political maneuvering within the Cuban government invalidated the transit visas of the other passengers. Those individuals waited with great hope for a remedy that would provide refuge far from Nazi persecution. Before returning to Europe, the ship sailed towards Miami in hopes of a solution. The ship sailed so close to Florida that the passengers could see the lights of Miami. One survivor remembers his father commenting that “Florida’s golden shores, so near, might as well be 4,000 miles away for all the good it did them.”

The US Immigration and Nationality Act of 1924 strictly limited the number of immigrants admitted to the U.S. each year and in 1939 the waiting list for German-Austrian immigration was several years long. While the press was largely sympathetic to the plight of the passengers of the M.S. *St. Louis*, no extraordinary measures were taken to permit the refugees to enter the United States. The passengers were told that they must “await their turns on the waiting list and qualify for and obtain immigration visas”.

On June 6 the M.S. *St. Louis* sailed back to Europe with nearly all of its original passengers. Refuge for the passengers was eventually obtained in Great Britain, the Netherlands, Belgium, and France. World War II started three months later and those countries, with the exception of Great Britain, fell to Nazi occupation. Two hundred and fifty-four of those passengers died during the Holocaust and many others suffered under Nazi persecution and in concentration camps.

During this week when we remember the Holocaust, it is appropriate and right to acknowledge the voyage of the M.S. *St. Louis* and the lives and the dreams of those refugees who made a trip towards freedom only to be returned to Europe. This Senate Resolution acknowledges the 70th anniversary

of the voyage of the M.S. *St. Louis* and honors the memory of those passengers, 254 of who died during the Holocaust. This resolution also provides an opportunity for public officials and educators to reflect on this historic event and lessons that are relevant to current and future generations.

SENATE RESOLUTION 112—DESIGNATING FEBRUARY 8, 2010, AS “BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA DAY”, IN CELEBRATION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LARGEST YOUTH SCOUTING ORGANIZATION IN THE UNITED STATES

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska (for himself, Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. BAYH, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. ENZI, Mr. COBURN, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. BURR, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. INHOFE, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. THUNE, Mr. CASEY, Mr. HATCH, Mr. WARNER, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. CONRAD, and Mr. JOHANNIS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 112

Whereas the Boy Scouts of America was incorporated by the Chicago publisher William Boyce on February 8, 1910, after William Boyce learned of the Scouting movement during a visit to London;

Whereas, on June 21, 1910, a group of 34 national representatives met, developed organization plans, and opened a temporary national headquarters for the Boy Scouts of America in New York;

Whereas the purpose of the Boy Scouts of America is to teach the youth of the United States patriotism, courage, self-reliance, and kindred values;

Whereas, by 1912, Boy Scouts were enrolled in every State;

Whereas, in 1916, Congress granted the Boy Scouts of America a Federal charter;

Whereas each local Boy Scout Council commits each Boy Scout to perform 12 hours of community service yearly, for a total of 30,000,000 community service hours each year;

Whereas, since 1910, more than 111,000,000 people have been members of the Boy Scouts of America;

Whereas Boy Scouts are found in 185 countries around the world;

Whereas the Boy Scouts of America will present the 2 millionth Eagle Scout award in 2009;

Whereas more than 1,000,000 adult volunteer leaders selflessly serve young people in their communities through organizations chartered by the Boy Scouts of America;

Whereas the adult volunteer leaders of the Boy Scouts of America often neither receive nor seek the gratitude of the public; and

Whereas the Boy Scouts of America endeavors to develop United States citizens who are physically, mentally, and emotionally fit, have a high degree of self-reliance demonstrated by such qualities as initiative, courage, and resourcefulness, have personal values based on religious concepts, have the desire and skills to help others, understand the principles of the social, economic, and governmental systems of the United States, take pride in the heritage of the United States and understand the role of the United States in the world, have a keen respect for

the basic rights of all people, and are prepared to participate in and give leadership to the society of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate designates February 8, 2010, as "Boy Scouts of America Day", in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the largest youth scouting organization in the United States.

# SENATE RESOLUTION 113—DESIGNATING APRIL 23, 2009, AS "NATIONAL ADOPT A LIBRARY DAY"

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

S. RES. 113

Whereas libraries are an essential part of the communities and the national system of education in the United States;

Whereas the people of the United States benefit significantly from libraries that serve as an open place for people of all ages and backgrounds to make use of books and other resources that offer pathways to learning, self-discovery, and the pursuit of knowledge;

Whereas the libraries of the United States depend on the generous donations and support of individuals and groups to ensure that people who are unable to purchase books still have access to a wide variety of resources;

Whereas certain nonprofit organizations facilitate donations of books to schools and libraries across the country to extend the joys of reading to millions of people in the United States and to prevent used books from being thrown away; and

Whereas several States and Commonwealths that recognize the importance of libraries and reading have adopted resolutions commemorating April 23 as "Adopt A Library Day": Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates April 23, 2009, as "National Adopt A Library Day";

(2) honors organizations that help facilitate donations to schools and libraries;

(3) urges all people in the United States who own unused books to donate those books to local libraries;

(4) strongly supports children and families who take advantage of the resources provided by schools and libraries; and

(5) encourages the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 19—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT THE SHI'ITE PERSONAL STATUS LAW IN AFGHANISTAN VIOLATES THE FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND SHOULD BE REPEALED

Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Ms. SNOWE, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Ms. COLLINS) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 19

Whereas in March 2009, the Shi'ite Personal Status Law was approved by the parliament of Afghanistan and signed by President Hamid Karzai;

Whereas according to the United Nations, the law legalizes marital rape by mandating

that a wife cannot refuse sex to her husband unless she is ill;

Whereas the law also weakens mothers' rights in the event of a divorce and prohibits a woman from leaving her home unless her husband determines it is for a "legitimate purpose";

Whereas President Barack Obama has called the law "abhorrent" and stated that "there are certain basic principles that all nations should uphold, and respect for women and respect for their freedom and integrity is an important principle";

Whereas the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights has said that the law represents a "huge step in the wrong direction" and is "extraordinary, reprehensible and reminiscent of the decrees made by the Taliban regime in Afghanistan in the 1990s";

Whereas the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has asserted that passage of the law could discourage countries in Europe from contributing additional troops to help combat terrorism in the region;

Whereas President Karzai has instructed the Government of Afghanistan and members of the clergy to review the law and change any articles that are not in keeping with Afghanistan's Constitution and Islamic Sharia, yet has not made a concrete declaration that the provision legalizing marital rape and other provisions curtailing women's rights will be removed completely;

Whereas the law includes provisions that are fundamentally incompatible with the obligations of the Government of Afghanistan under the various international instruments that it has ratified, as well as under its own Constitution;

Whereas Afghanistan is a signatory of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), which establishes the principle of nondiscrimination, including on the basis of sex, and states that men and women are entitled to equal rights to marriage, during marriage, and at its dissolution;

Whereas Afghanistan became a party to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, done at New York December 16, 1966, and entered into force January 3, 1976 (ICESCR), which emphasizes the principle of self-determination, in that men and women may freely determine their political status as well as their economic, social, and cultural development;

Whereas Afghanistan acceded to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, done at New York December 18, 1979, and entered into force September 3, 1981 (CEDAW), which condemns discrimination against women in all its forms and reaffirms the equal rights and responsibilities of men and women during marriage and at its dissolution;

Whereas, notwithstanding any declarations or reservations made upon ratification of these various international conventions, the Government of Afghanistan is under an obligation not to act in any way which might defeat the object and purpose of these conventions, pursuant to the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, done at New York May 23, 1969, and entered into force January 27, 1980, which is widely recognized as embodying customary international law;

Whereas Article 22 of the Constitution of Afghanistan (2003) prohibits any kind of discrimination between and privilege among the citizens of Afghanistan and establishes the equal rights of all citizens before the law;

Whereas Article 54 of the Constitution of Afghanistan obligates the Government of Afghanistan to ensure the physical and psychological well-being of the family, especially of mothers and children;

Whereas the international community and the United States have a long-standing commitment to and interest in working with the people and Government of Afghanistan to re-establish respect for fundamental human rights and protect women's rights in Afghanistan; and

Whereas the provisions in the Shi'ite Personal Status Law that restrict women's rights are diametrically opposed to those goals: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) urges the Government of Afghanistan and President Hamid Karzai to declare the provisions of the Shi'ite Personal Status Law on marital rape and restrictions on women's freedom of movement unconstitutional and an erosion of growth and development in Afghanistan;

(2) supports the decision by President Karzai to analyze the draft law and strongly urges him not to publish it on the grounds that it violates the Constitution of Afghanistan and the basic human rights of women;

(3) encourages the Secretary of State, the Special Representative to Afghanistan and Pakistan, the Ambassador-at-Large for International Women's Issues, and the United States Ambassador to Afghanistan to consider and address the status of women's rights and security in Afghanistan to ensure that these rights are not being eroded through unjust laws, policies, or institutions; and

(4) encourages the Government of Afghanistan to solicit information and advice from the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry for Women's Affairs, the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission, and women-led nongovernmental organizations to ensure that current and future legislation and official policies protect and uphold the equal rights of women, including through national campaigns to lead public discourse on the importance of women's status and rights to the overall stability of Afghanistan.

# AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1003. Mr. ENSIGN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1000 submitted by Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. CORKER, and Mr. MERKLEY) to the bill S. 386, to improve enforcement of mortgage fraud, securities fraud, financial institution fraud, and other frauds related to federal assistance and relief programs, for the recovery of funds lost to these frauds, and for other purposes.

SA 1004. Mr. ENSIGN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 386, *supra*.

SA 1005. Mr. KOHL (for himself and Mrs. LINCOLN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 386, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1006. Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. DODD, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GRAHAM, and Mr. REED) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 386, *supra*.

SA 1007. Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. ROBERTS, and Mr. BENNETT) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 386, *supra*.

SA 1008. Ms. SNOWE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 386, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1009. Mr. PRYOR (for himself and Mr. CORKER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 386, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1010. Mrs. McCASKILL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 386, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.