

Whereas more than 1,100 families and other property owners were called upon to sacrifice their farms and homes for the benefit and enjoyment of future generations that would visit the Great Smoky Mountains National Park;

Whereas the Great Smoky Mountains National Park was established as a completed park by the Act entitled "An Act to establish a minimum area for the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, and for other purposes", approved June 15, 1934 (16 U.S.C. 403g);

Whereas the Great Smoky Mountains National Park covers approximately 521,621 acres of land in the States of Tennessee and North Carolina, making it the largest protected area in the Eastern United States;

Whereas the Great Smoky Mountains National Park provides sanctuary for the most diverse flora and fauna of any national park in the temperate United States, and preserves an unparalleled collection of historic structures as a "time capsule" of Appalachian culture during the 19th and early 20th centuries;

Whereas, on September 2, 1940, President Franklin D. Roosevelt dedicated the Great Smoky Mountains National Park;

Whereas the Great Smoky Mountains National Park has been the most popular national park in the United States since it opened, and attracts between 9,000,000 and 10,000,000 visitors each year, making it the most visited of the 58 national parks in the United States; and

Whereas visitors to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park contribute more than \$700,000,000 to the local economy each year, resulting in more than 14,000 jobs in North Carolina and Tennessee: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the citizens of Western North Carolina and Eastern Tennessee for their vision and sacrifice;

(2) commends the people of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and the National Park Service for 75 years of successful management and preservation of the park land;

(3) congratulates the people of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park on the 75th anniversary of the park; and

(4) requests the Secretary of the Senate to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution for appropriate display to the headquarters of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

COMMEMORATING THE END OF COMMUNIST RULE IN POLAND

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 139 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 139) commemorating the 20th anniversary of the end of communist rule in Poland.

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

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action

or debate, and any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 139) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 139

Whereas in January 1947, the communist Democratic Bloc party seized control of the Polish Parliament in a rigged election orchestrated by the Government of the Soviet Union;

Whereas, from 1947 to 1952, the communist Government of Poland prosecuted, imprisoned, and executed many individuals who fought as part of the wartime Underground Resistance, an organization that valiantly supported the Allied struggle against Nazi Germany as part of the largest resistance movement in occupied Europe;

Whereas in July 1952, the passage of a new constitution formally created the communist People's Republic of Poland and outlawed any non-communist candidate from seeking office to represent the people of Poland;

Whereas during the ensuing years of communist rule, the people of Poland suffered severe hardships because of the communist-led government's failure to provide for the basic economic needs of its people;

Whereas under communist rule, Polish intellectuals, religious leaders, labor officials, students, and reformers were imprisoned and exiled for speaking out against a succession of increasingly corrupt, inefficient, and repressive pro-Soviet puppets;

Whereas despite the harsh repression of the communist-led government and the great personal risk they faced, the Polish people struggled for freedom by staging strikes, publishing underground newspapers, organizing street protests, and speaking out against the economic and political failures of the communist regime;

Whereas in August 1980, in the wake of a shipyard workers' strike in Gdansk, the Solidarity Movement was created as the first free trade union in the Soviet Bloc nations;

Whereas ultimately 1 in 4 Polish citizens became members of the Solidarity movement, which served as the driving force for Poland's liberation from communist rule;

Whereas, on June 4, 1989, the Solidarity Party secured an overwhelming victory over the existing communist government in the first open election in Poland since the end of World War II, marking the fall of pro-Soviet rule in Poland; and

Whereas this victory inspired a succession of similarly peaceful transitions from communism to democracy in other former Soviet Bloc nations: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) celebrates the 20th anniversary of the end of communist rule in Poland;

(2) expresses its admiration for the people of Poland for their bravery and resolve in the face of economic hardship and political oppression under communist rule;

(3) congratulates the people of Poland for their accomplishments in the years since the end of pro-Soviet communist rule in building a free democracy, and for their contributions as international partners;

(4) expresses its appreciation for the close friendship between the Government of the United States and the Government of Poland; and

(5) urges the Government of the United States to continue to seek new ways to enhance its partnership with the Government of Poland.

RECOGNIZING FOUNDING OF BREAD FOR THE WORLD

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 157.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 157) recognizing Bread for the World on the 35th anniversary of its founding, for its faithful advocacy on behalf of poor and hungry people in our country and around the world.

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

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 157) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 157

Whereas Bread for the World, now under the leadership of the Reverend David Beckmann, has grown in size and influence, and is now the largest grassroots advocacy network on hunger issues in the United States and on behalf of impoverished people overseas;

Whereas members of Bread for the World believe that by addressing policies, programs, and conditions that allow hunger and poverty to persist, they are providing help and opportunity far beyond the communities in which they live;

Whereas Bread for the World has inspired the engagement of hundreds of thousands of individuals, more than 8,000 congregations, and more than 50 denominations across the religious spectrum to seek justice for hungry and poor people by making our Nation's laws more fair and compassionate to people in need;

Whereas members of Bread for the World use hand-written letters and other personalized forms of communication to convey to their legislators their moral concern for the needs of mothers, children, small farmers, and other hungry and poor people; and

Whereas Bread for the World has a strong record of success in working with Congress to—

(1) strengthen our national nutrition programs;

(2) establish and fund the Child Survival account that has helped reduce child mortality rates worldwide;

(3) increase and improve the Nation's poverty-focused development assistance to help developing countries in Africa and other underprivileged parts of the world;

(4) pass the Africa: Seeds of Hope Act of 1998 that redirected United States resources toward small-scale farmers and struggling rural communities in Africa;

(5) lead an effort to provide debt relief to the world's poorest countries and tie debt relief to poverty reduction; and

(6) establish an emergency grain reserve to improve the Nation's response to humanitarian crises: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes and commends Bread for the World, on the 35th anniversary of its founding, for its encouragement of citizen engagement, its advocacy for poor and hungry people, and its successes as a collective voice; and

(2) challenges Bread for the World to continue its work to address world hunger.

AUTHORIZING PRINTING OF A COLLECTION OF THE RULES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEES

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 166, submitted earlier today.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 166) to authorize printing of a collection of the rules of the committees of the Senate.

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

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate, and any statements related to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 166) was agreed to, as follows:

S. RES. 166

Resolved, That a collection of the rules of the committees of the Senate, together with related materials, be printed as a Senate document, and that there be printed 300 additional copies of such document for the use of the Committee on Rules and Administration.

YEAR OF THE MILITARY FAMILY

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 165, submitted earlier today.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 165) to encourage the recognition of 2009 as the "Year of the Military Family."

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

Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, there are more than 1.8 million family members of active duty servicemembers and an additional 1.1 million family members of reserve component members. Every one of these families makes sacrifices each and every day along with their servicemember and plays a very significant role in serving our country.

Military families often face unique challenges and difficulties throughout their loved one's career, including frequent relocations to bases across the country and overseas as well as the various demands stemming from continued deployments of members from every service. The Nation must ensure

that all the needs of military dependent children and spouses are being met. The life of a military family member has never been an easy one, but in our 8th year of war, families are facing even more hardships.

Deployments are an undeniable strain on families. While a servicemember is away, spouses are often forced into the role of a single parent—juggling employment, child care, and household duties each and every day, all the while living with the pressure of having a family member deployed to a combat zone. Families are an integral part of the force, and stress on the force affects overall readiness.

Servicemembers will experience less stress in the field if they are assured their families are well taken care of back home. And it is imperative that families remain as resilient as possible in order to provide a stable environment for loved ones when they return home from those deployments. Families are often the first line of defense against posttraumatic stress and suicide, but may be experiencing similar feelings themselves. We must ensure that families and servicemembers have timely access to mental health resources and programs. We must make every dependent aware of the resources available to them to assist in everything from finances to job placement to health care and counseling.

Thousands of military family members have taken it upon themselves to confront these challenges by volunteering to provide critical assistance during deployments to servicemembers, their spouses, and children, as well as giving vital support to families relocating to a new area. And sadly, many families have made the ultimate sacrifice in the loss of a servicemember who proudly defended our Nation.

We in Congress have tried to do our part to help, and have made family support programs and initiatives a priority. In recent bills we have called for: the establishment of a Department of Defense Military Family Readiness Council; education, training, and tuition assistance to help spouses maintain careers; respite care for parents caring for children on their own due to deployments; authorized increased levels of Impact Aid for military dependents' education; and established and supported the nationwide expansion of the Department's Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program which is aimed at helping members and families of the Guard and Reserve. But there is still more to do.

With President and Mrs. Obama placing the support of our military families among their top priorities, we must take this opportunity to renew our commitment and express our deepest appreciation to military family members who bravely serve this Nation alongside their servicemembers. It is my hope that this Year of the Military Family inspires us, the Department of Defense, the military Services, and

Americans everywhere to commit to helping military families and servicemembers in any way we can, and to ensure that these strong men, women, and children are given the recognition, appreciation, and support that they so truly deserve.

Mr. MCCAIN. Madam President, it is my privilege to support S. Res. 165, a resolution encouraging the recognition of 2009 as the "Year of the Military Family." I am honored to be an original cosponsor of this resolution, along with my colleagues on the Committee on Armed Services, Senator LEVIN, Senator BEN NELSON and Senator GRAHAM.

Our Nation is honored by the brave men and women who selflessly risk their lives for our freedom, and by their families, who accept risks, both known and unknown, in support of their country and loved ones who serve. The programs and resources our Nation provides must match the quality of the service and sacrifice of military families. That is why I and others fought so hard to include a special provision in the post-9/11 G.I. bill to allow career service members the opportunity to share the educational benefits that they earn with their immediate family members.

Many military families are distinguished by generations, who have served, from the American Revolution, to the American Civil War, World Wars, Korea, Vietnam, the first gulf war and recent conflicts. The resolution before us today recognizes the contributions and resilience of all military families, and especially those who have endured multiple deployments, or the loss of a loved one who answered the call to service and paid the ultimate price in defense of our Nation.

SFC Kimberly Hazelgrove was serving as an intelligence expert in the U.S. Army when she received the news on January 23, 2004, that her husband, Army CW2 Brian Hazelgrove, had died. His helicopter crashed on its return from a combat mission in northern Iraq. On that tragic day, Kimberly Hazelgrove became a survivor of an American hero. But, like so many whose spouses have died as a consequence of their service to our Nation, she is also a hero in her own right. Kimberly had to abandon her own promising military career to care for four young children. She struggled, with the help of family and friends, to start over—to transition to civilian life, to find employment in which to apply her military skills, and return to school—and with courage and determination she succeeded. Today she balances a new career with the needs of the children that she and Brian had planned to raise, and has never abandoned her selfless advocacy on behalf of survivors of the fallen. Kimberly Hazelgrove represents the essence of service and sacrifice of military families, and I salute her.

Not all military families are defined only as the service member, a spouse,