

to provide concession opportunities whereas the VCNP is motivated to develop captive services that do not provide such opportunities. These attributes of the NPS are best aligned among the three management options with our community's interests in realizing economic benefit from visitation and tourism.

In our experience in Los Alamos County, the involvement of the NPS in our community has far exceeded that of the other proposed management entities. Based on this experience, we believe that it is more likely that the NPS would be interested in working closely with our community for mutual benefit.

Please note that we do not expect the Valles Caldera to become "Los Alamos-centric" in any of the scenarios. We think that Los Alamos is a natural eastern gateway to the Valles and the Jemez Mountains just as we recognize that Jemez Pueblo and Jemez Springs are natural western gateway communities. We understand that it will be important for whatever management entity that is selected to reach out in both of these directions. We encourage that as general input regardless of the choice that is made.

We think that there is an opportunity to collaborate with the selected entity on a joint visitor center (or centers) in Los Alamos County. Such a facility would be a natural first stop for visitors to Los Alamos and would feature not only the Valles Caldera, but also Bandelier National Monument, the Bradbury Science Museum, the Los Alamos Historical Museum, the Pajarito Environmental Education Center, area Pueblos, and area recreational attractions. We are currently the operator of the visitor center here and we would welcome the opportunity to collaborate on a joint visitor center. We believe that this would enhance the visitor experience as well as enable economies of operation.

Thank you for listening to and accepting our input. Our organization stands ready to assist the selected management entity for the Valles Caldera.

Sincerely,

KEVIN HOLSAPPLE,  
*Executive Director.*

On behalf of the Board of Directors of LACDC.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. President, today I join Senator BINGAMAN in introducing a bill to designate the Valles Caldera National Preserve as a unit of the National Park System. Known as the Valle Grande, this icon of the Jemez Mountains is one of the largest volcanic calderas in the world. The vast grass-filled valleys, forested hillsides, and numerous volcanic peaks make the Valles Caldera a treasure to New Mexico, and a landscape of national significance millions of years in the making.

Volcanic activity began in the Jemez Mountains about 10 million years ago. This activity reached a climax about 1.5 million years ago with a series of explosive rhyolitic eruptions that dropped hundreds of meters of volcanic ash for miles surrounding the caldera, and gave the surrounding area its distinctive landscapes of pink and white tuff overlaying the black basalts of the Rio Grande Rift. In the millennia following the Caldera's explosive creation, natural processes of erosion and weathering carved vibrant canyons and left piñon topped mesa stretching like fingers away from the massive caldera.

As the great valley was drained of magma, and later a caldera lake, it filled with the diversity of plants and wildlife that makes the area so valuable to biologists and ecologists today. With such resources and natural beauty, it is no wonder that for millennia people have also been an integral part Valle Grande.

For generations innumerable, the Valles Caldera has been a part of life for the Pueblo Tribes of northern New Mexico. Today, the caldera continues to have important cultural and religious significance, something that must and will be respected and protected as the preserve moves into the management of the National Park Service.

In recent centuries, the Valles Caldera has been often in private ownership beginning with Spanish settlers who introduced livestock to the grassy valleys that continue to fatten elk and cattle in the summer months. Recognizing the unique national significance of the caldera, the Federal Government finally purchased the area in 2000 through the Valles Caldera Preservation Act, which I was proud to help shepherd through Congress with Senator BINGAMAN and then-Senator Domenici. The subsequent creation of the Valles Caldera National Preserve included the creation of a board of directors and the Valles Caldera Trust to manage the area. The legislation also included mandates for stakeholder involvement and eventual financial self-sufficiency of the preserve.

As Senator BINGAMAN and I take steps today to begin a transition of the Valles Caldera into the National Park System, I want to applaud the decade of work that both the Board of Trustees and the Valles Caldera Trust have dedicated to the preserve. I especially want to highlight the contributions of individual employees who have been on the ground in the caldera, day after day, developing research programs that utilize the unmatched natural resources of the caldera, managing cattle grazing and expanding the livestock program to include cutting edge scientific research, and extending educational opportunities in the caldera to students from across state and the country.

With the heavy mandate of self-sufficiency looming and the annual struggle to get sufficient funding for the caldera, Senator BINGAMAN and I are proposing a new direction forward. As a new unit of the National Park Service, the National Preserve will have a sustainable future with greater access to the public.

Since 1939, the National Park Service has conducted numerous studies of the Valles Caldera. In each, the Park Service consistently deemed the area of significant national value because of its unique and unaltered geology, and its singular setting, which are conducive to public recreation, reflection, education, and research. With this legislation the Secretary of Interior is di-

rected to continue the longstanding grazing, education, and hunting programs that so many New Mexicans value as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. By utilizing the resources and skills within the National Park Service, I believe the Valles Caldera National Preserve will continue to prosper as a natural wonder full of significant geology, ecology, history, and culture.

The Valle Grande is truly that: a great valley that so very many New Mexicans value and feel connected to. The future of the preserve is of utmost importance to us in New Mexico, and also has significance nationally. I look forward to working with Senator BINGAMAN and all of the stakeholders who care about the future of this preserve to ensure that this legislation emerges from the legislative process with improvements that are supported by my colleagues in the Senate and—most importantly—by the people of New Mexico.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 541—DESIGNATING JUNE 27, 2010, AS "NATIONAL POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER AWARENESS DAY"

Mr. CONRAD submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 541

Whereas the brave men and women of the United States Armed Forces, who proudly serve the United States, risk their lives to protect the freedom of the United States and deserve the investment of every possible resource to ensure their lasting physical, mental, and emotional well-being;

Whereas 12 percent of Operation Iraqi Freedom veterans, 11 percent of Operation Enduring Freedom veterans, 10 percent of Operation Desert Storm veterans, 30 percent of Vietnam veterans, and at least 8 percent of the general population of the United States suffers from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (referred to in this preamble as "PTSD");

Whereas the incidence of PTSD in members of the military is rising as the United States Armed Forces conducts 2 wars, exposing hundreds of thousands of soldiers to traumatic life-threatening events;

Whereas women, who are more than twice as likely to experience PTSD than men, are increasingly engaged in direct combat on the front lines, putting these women at even greater risk of PTSD;

Whereas—

(1) from 2003 to 2007, approximately 40,000 Department of Defense patients were diagnosed with PTSD; and

(2) from 2000 to 2009—

(A) more than 5,000 individuals were hospitalized with a primary diagnosis of PTSD; and

(B) more than 500,000 individuals were treated for PTSD in outpatient visits;

Whereas PTSD significantly increases the risk of depression, suicide, and drug and alcohol related disorders and deaths;

Whereas the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs have made significant advances in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of PTSD and the symptoms of PTSD, but many challenges remain; and

Whereas the establishment of a National Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Day will raise public awareness about issues related to PTSD: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates June 27, 2010, as “National Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Day”;

(2) urges the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Defense to continue working to educate servicemembers, veterans, the families of servicemembers and veterans, and the public about the causes, symptoms, and treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit a copy of this resolution to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Defense.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, today I am submitting a Senate resolution to designate June 27, 2010, as National Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Day. That date was inspired by the birthday of North Dakota National Guard Staff Sergeant Joe Biel. Staff Sergeant Biel served two tours of duty in Iraq as a Trailblazer, part of a unit responsible for route clearance operations. Each day, Joe’s mission was to go out with his unit every day to find and remove Improvised Explosive Devices and other dangers from heavily traveled roads to make it safe for coalition forces and Iraqi civilians to travel. As a result of those experiences, Joe suffered from PTSD and, tragically, took his own life in April 2007. There is absolutely no doubt that Joe Biel is a hero who gave his life for our country.

I learned of Joe’s story because friends from his platoon, the 4th Platoon, A Company, of the North Dakota National Guard’s 164th Combat Engineer Battalion, have organized an annual motorcycle ride across the state of North Dakota in his memory. The Joe Biel Memorial Ride serves as a reunion for the 164th, a memorial for a lost friend, and a beacon to those suffering from PTSD and other mental issues across the region. The key point made to me by the event’s organizer, Staff Sergeant Matt Leaf, is that we have to raise awareness of this disease so that the lives of servicemembers, veterans, and other PTSD sufferers can be by greater awareness of and treatment for this disorder.

For many, the war does not end when the warrior comes home. All too many servicemembers and veterans face PTSD symptoms like anxiety, anger, and depression as they try to adjust to life after war. We cannot sweep these problems under the rug. PTSD is real. The Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs have made significant advances in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of PTSD and its symptoms, but many challenges yet remain. More must be done to inform and educate veterans, families and communities on the facts about this illness and the resources and treatments available. That is why SSG Leaf and his fellow Trailblazers started the Joe Biel Memorial Bike Ride. And that is why I am introducing this Resolution. These efforts are about letting

our troops—past and present—know it’s okay to come forward and say they need help. It’s a sign of strength, not weakness, to seek assistance. It is my hope that this message will be heard. In the words of SSG Leaf, “maybe if we all take a minute to listen, we can stop one more tragedy from ever happening again.”

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a letter about Joe Biel be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

#### JOE BIEL MEMORIAL BIKE RIDE

On April 26th 2007 we lost one of the best soldiers the United States Military and the North Dakota Army National Guard had ever had the privilege of enlisting. Staff Sergeant Joseph Arthur Biel took his own life in Devils Lake North Dakota surrounded by his peers superiors and some of his best friends. He shot himself in the mouth while these people looked on and his last words were “tell everybody I love them” the shot was heard as far away as Fargo North Dakota. Specialist David Young was on the phone with SSG Matthew Leaf while standing directly in front of SSG Biel as he pulled the trigger. This was the most horrific and worst day of our lives. Tears did not stop for 3 days as Joe’s platoon (4th platoon A Company 164 Combat Engineers) deployed upon the small town of Devils Lake North Dakota. Everybody was asking one question “Why?”

Why we failed Joe Biel? Why we did not understand PTSD? Why so many of us have problems when we return from overseas? Why nobody wants to listen? Why nobody understands? Why we are afraid to talk about it? Why we think nobody cares? Why can’t I get help? Why will nobody listen to me? These are the questions that race through our minds after this tragedy. We deserve and have earned the right to be understood. The answer is too simple. PTSD is real and it needs to be addressed now. With the help of fellow veterans, spouses, loved ones, the V.A. and our Government. Please take the time to listen too and understand this disorder and at the very least be made aware of how this is affecting our Veterans and our lives, not just those who have served but all of the fine citizens of the United States. Maybe if we all take a minute to listen we can stop one more tragedy from ever happening again.

Sincerely SSG Matthew James Leaf, North Dakota Army National Guard.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 542—DESIGNATING JUNE 20, 2010, AS “AMERICAN EAGLE DAY”, AND CELEBRATING THE RECOVERY AND RESTORATION OF THE BALD EAGLE, THE NATIONAL SYMBOL OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself, Mr. BYRD, Mr. CORKER, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. CRAPO, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GREGG, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. BROWNBACK, and Mr. BAYH) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

#### S. RES. 542

Whereas on June 20, 1782, the bald eagle was officially designated as the national emblem of the United States by the founding fathers at the Second Continental Congress;

Whereas the bald eagle is the central image of the Great Seal of the United States;

Whereas the image of the bald eagle is displayed in the official seal of many branches and departments of the Federal Government, including—

- (1) the Office of the President;
- (2) the Office of the Vice President;
- (3) Congress;
- (4) the Supreme Court;
- (5) the Department of the Treasury;
- (6) the Department of Defense;
- (7) the Department of Justice;
- (8) the Department of State;
- (9) the Department of Commerce;
- (10) the Department of Homeland Security;
- (11) the Department of Veterans Affairs;
- (12) the Department of Labor;
- (13) the Department of Health and Human Services;
- (14) the Department of Energy;
- (15) the Department of Housing and Urban Development;
- (16) the Central Intelligence Agency; and
- (17) the Postal Service;

Whereas the bald eagle is an inspiring symbol of—

- (1) the spirit of freedom; and
  - (2) the democracy of the United States;
- Whereas, since the founding of the Nation, the image, meaning, and symbolism of the bald eagle have played a significant role in the art, music, history, commerce, literature, architecture, and culture of the United States;

Whereas the bald eagle is prominently featured on the stamps, currency, and coinage of the United States;

Whereas the habitat of bald eagles exists only in North America;

Whereas, by 1963, the population of bald eagles that nested in the lower 48 States had declined to approximately 417 nesting pairs;

Whereas, due to the dramatic decline in the population of bald eagles in the lower 48 States, the Secretary of the Interior listed the bald eagle as an endangered species on the list of endangered species published under section 4(c)(1) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1533(c)(1));

Whereas caring and concerned individuals from the Federal, State, and private sectors banded together to save, and help ensure the recovery and protection of, bald eagles;

Whereas, on July 20, 1969, the first manned lunar landing occurred in the Apollo 11 Lunar Excursion Module, which was named “Eagle”;

Whereas the “Eagle” played an integral role in achieving the goal of the United States of landing a man on the Moon and returning that man safely to Earth;

Whereas, in 1995, as a result of the efforts of those caring and concerned individuals, the Secretary of the Interior listed the bald eagle as a threatened species on the list of threatened species published under section 4(c)(1) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1533(c)(1));

Whereas, by 2007, the population of bald eagles that nested in the lower 48 States had increased to approximately 10,000 nesting pairs, an increase of approximately 2,500 percent from the preceding 40 years;

Whereas, in 2007, the population of bald eagles that nested in the State of Alaska was approximately 50,000 to 70,000;

Whereas, on June 28, 2007, the Secretary of the Interior removed the bald eagle from the list of threatened species published under section 4(c)(1) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1533(c)(1));

Whereas bald eagles remain protected in accordance with—

- (1) the Act of June 8, 1940 (16 U.S.C. 668 et seq.) (commonly known as the “Bald Eagle Protection Act of 1940”); and
- (2) the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703 et seq.);

Whereas, on January 15, 2008, the Secretary of the Treasury issued 3 limited edition bald