

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

eagle commemorative coins under the American Bald Eagle Recovery and National Emblem Commemorative Coin Act (Public Law 108-486; 118 Stat. 3934);

Whereas the sale of the limited edition bald eagle commemorative coins issued by the Secretary of the Treasury has raised approximately \$7,800,000 for the nonprofit American Eagle Foundation of Pigeon Forge, Tennessee to support efforts to protect the bald eagle;

Whereas, if not for the vigilant conservation efforts of concerned Americans and the enactment of strict environmental protection laws (including regulations) the bald eagle would probably be extinct;

Whereas the American Eagle Foundation has brought substantial public attention to the cause of the protection and care of the bald eagle nationally;

Whereas November 4, 2010, marks the 25th anniversary of the American Eagle Foundation;

Whereas the dramatic recovery of the population of bald eagles—

(1) is an endangered species success story; and

(2) an inspirational example for other wildlife and natural resource conservation efforts around the world;

Whereas the initial recovery of the population of bald eagles was accomplished by the concerted efforts of numerous government agencies, corporations, organizations, and individuals; and

Whereas the continuation of recovery, management, and public awareness programs for bald eagles will be necessary to ensure—

(1) the continued progress of the recovery of bald eagles; and

(2) that the population and habitat of bald eagles will remain healthy and secure for future generations: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates June 20, 2010, as “American Eagle Day”;;

(2) applauds the issuance of bald eagle commemorative coins by the Secretary of the Treasury as a means by which to generate critical funds for the protection of bald eagles; and

(3) encourages—

(A) educational entities, organizations, businesses, conservation groups, and government agencies with a shared interest in conserving endangered species to collaborate and develop educational tools for use in the public schools of the United States; and

(B) the people of the United States to observe American Eagle Day with appropriate ceremonies and other activities.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 543—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF A NATIONAL PRADER-WILLI SYNDROME AWARENESS MONTH TO RAISE AWARENESS OF AND PROMOTE RESEARCH ON THE DISORDER.

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. CARDIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to.

S. RES. 543

Whereas Prader-Willi syndrome is a complex genetic disorder that occurs in approximately 1 out of every 15,000 births;

Whereas Prader-Willi syndrome is the most commonly known genetic cause of life-threatening obesity;

Whereas Prader-Willi syndrome affects—

(1) males and females with equal frequency; and

(2) all races and ethnicities;

Whereas Prader-Willi syndrome causes an extreme and insatiable appetite, often resulting in morbid obesity;

Whereas morbid obesity is the major cause of death for individuals with the Prader-Willi syndrome;

Whereas Prader-Willi syndrome causes cognitive and learning disabilities and behavioral difficulties, including obsessive-compulsive disorder and difficulty controlling emotions;

Whereas the hunger, metabolic, and behavioral characteristics of Prader-Willi syndrome force affected individuals to require constant and lifelong supervision in a controlled environment;

Whereas studies have shown that individuals with Prader-Willi syndrome have a high morbidity and mortality rate;

Whereas there is no known cure for Prader-Willi syndrome;

Whereas early diagnosis of Prader-Willi syndrome allows families to access treatment, intervention services, and support from health professionals, advocacy organizations, and other families who are dealing with the syndrome;

Whereas recently discovered treatments, including the use of human growth hormone, are improving the quality of life for individuals with the syndrome and offer new hope to families, but many difficult symptoms associated with Prader-Willi syndrome remain untreated;

Whereas increased research into Prader-Willi syndrome—

(1) may lead to a better understanding of the disorder, more effective treatments, and an eventual cure for Prader-Willi syndrome; and

(2) is likely to lead to a better understanding of common public health concerns, including childhood obesity and mental health; and

Whereas advocacy organizations have designated May as Prader-Willi Syndrome Awareness Month: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) supports raising awareness and educating the public about Prader-Willi syndrome;

(2) applauds the efforts of advocates and organizations that encourage awareness, promote research, and provide education, support, and hope to those impacted by Prader-Willi syndrome;

(3) recognizes the commitment of parents, families, researchers, health professionals, and others dedicated to finding an effective treatment and eventual cure for Prader-Willi syndrome; and

(4) expresses support for the designation of a National Prader-Willi Syndrome Awareness Month.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 544—SUPPORTING INCREASED MARKET ACCESS FOR EXPORTS OF UNITED STATES BEEF AND BEEF PRODUCTS

Mr. BAUCUS (for himself, Mr. JOHANNES, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BINGAMAN, and Mr. ROBERTS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 544

Whereas in 2003, United States beef exports to China, Japan, Hong Kong, Taiwan, South Korea, Mexico, and Vietnam were valued at \$3,300,000,000.

Whereas after the discovery of 1 Canadian-born cow infected with bovine spongiform

encephalopathy (BSE) disease in the State of Washington in December 2003, China, Japan, Hong Kong, Taiwan, South Korea, Mexico, and Vietnam, among others, closed their markets to United States beef;

Whereas for years the Government of the United States has developed and implemented a multilayered system of interlocking safeguards to ensure the safety of United States beef, and after the 2003 discovery, the United States implemented further safeguards to ensure beef safety;

Whereas a 2006 study by the United States Department of Agriculture found that BSE was virtually nonexistent in the United States;

Whereas the internationally recognized standard-setting body, the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), has classified the United States as a controlled risk country for BSE, which means that all United States beef and beef products from cattle of all ages is safe for export and consumption;

Whereas China continues to prohibit imports of all beef and beef products from the United States;

Whereas Japan has opened its market for United States exporters of beef and beef products from cattle less than 21 months of age, but has not yet opened its market for all United States beef and beef products from cattle of all ages;

Whereas Hong Kong has opened its market for United States exporters of deboned beef from cattle less than 30 months of age, but has not yet opened its market for all United States beef and beef products from cattle of all ages;

Whereas Taiwan has opened its market for United States exporters of deboned and bone-in beef and certain offal products from cattle less than 30 months of age and has agreed to open, but has not yet opened, its market for all United States beef and beef products from cattle of all ages;

Whereas South Korea has opened its market for United States exporters of beef and beef products from cattle less than 30 months of age and has agreed to open eventually, but has not yet opened, its market for all United States beef and beef products from cattle of all ages;

Whereas Mexico has opened its market for United States exporters of deboned and bone-in beef and certain offal from cattle less than 30 months of age, but has not yet opened its market for all United States beef and beef products from cattle of all ages;

Whereas Vietnam has opened its market for United States exporters of beef and beef products from cattle less than 30 months of age, but has not yet opened its market for all United States beef and beef products from cattle of all ages;

Whereas between 2004 through 2009, United States beef exports declined due to these restrictions, causing significant revenue losses for United States cattle producers, for example, United States beef exports to Japan and South Korea averaged less than 15 percent of the amount the United States sold to Japan and South Korea in 2003; and

Whereas, while China, Japan, Hong Kong, Taiwan, South Korea, Mexico, and Vietnam remain important trading partners of the United States, unscientific trade restrictions are not consistent with their trade obligations: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) sanitary measures affecting trade in beef and beef products between the United States and China, Japan, Hong Kong, Taiwan, South Korea, Mexico, and Vietnam should be based on science;

(2) since banning United States beef in December 2003, China, Japan, Hong Kong, Taiwan, South Korea, Mexico, and Vietnam