

Whereas a search and rescue effort was launched immediately following the explosion that involved dozens of courageous volunteers, first responders, and mine rescue teams who fearlessly risked their lives to rescue survivors and find lost miners;

Whereas Carl “Pee Wee” Acord, Jason Matthew Atkins, Christopher Lee Bell, Sr., Gregory Steven Brock, Kenneth A. Chapman, Sr., Robert Eugene Clark, Cory Davis, Charles Timothy Davis, Michael Lee Elswick, William Ildon Griffith, Steven J. “Smiley” Harrah, Edward “Dean” Jones, Richard Keith Lane, William Roosevelt Lynch, Joe Marcum, Ronald Lee Maynor, Nicolas D. McCroskey, James “Eddie” Moonney, Adam K. Morgan, Rex Lane Mullins, Joshua Scott Napper, Howard “Boone” Payne, Jr., Dillard Earl “Dewey” Persinger, Joel R. “Jody” Price, Gary Wayne Quarles, Deward Allan Scott, Grover Dale Skeens, Benny Ray Willingham, and Ricky L. Workman perished in the explosion at the Upper Big Branch Mine;

Whereas the terrible tragedy broke the hearts of the people of the United States;

Whereas since the beginning of 2010, 77 miners of coal and other resources have lost their lives on the job, and thousands more have been injured or diagnosed with occupational illnesses, such as Black Lung disease;

Whereas the families of the deceased continue to suffer, as do those miners who have become seriously injured or ill; and

Whereas Congress has long recognized the need to protect the safety and health of miners: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the coal miners who lost their lives in the explosion at the Upper Big Branch Mine in Montcoal, West Virginia, on April 5, 2010;

(2) extends its continued heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased, who are still looking for answers to the tragedy;

(3) recognizes the hardships faced by survivors of the tragedy and fellow miners who worked side-by-side with the deceased;

(4) acknowledges the risks faced by all miners, as well as the important and often overlooked contributions that miners make to the United States;

(5) expresses its appreciation for the volunteers, first responders, and mine rescue teams who fearlessly risk their lives to save miners after tragedies; and

(6) reaffirms its commitment to keep miners safe and healthy on the job.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

GOLD STAR WIVES DAY

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 130, which was submitted earlier today.

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

The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 130) designating April 5, 2011, as “Gold Star Wives Day.”

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

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 130) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 130

Whereas the Senate honors the sacrifices made by the spouses and families of the fallen members of the Armed Forces of the United States;

Whereas the Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. represents the spouses and families of the members and veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States who have died on active duty or as a result of a service-connected disability;

Whereas the primary mission of the Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. is to provide services, support, and friendship to the spouses of the fallen members and veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States;

Whereas, in 1945, the Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. was organized with the help of Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt to assist the families left behind by the fallen members and veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States;

Whereas the first meeting of the Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. was held on April 5, 1945;

Whereas April 5, 2011, marks the 66th anniversary of the first meeting of the Gold Star Wives of America;

Whereas the members and veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States bear the burden of protecting freedom for the United States; and

Whereas the sacrifices of the families of the fallen members and veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States should never be forgotten: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates April 5, 2011, as “Gold Star Wives Day”;

(2) honors and recognizes—

(A) the contributions of the members of the Gold Star Wives of America, Inc.; and

(B) the dedication of the members of the Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. to the members and veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe “Gold Star Wives Day” to promote awareness of—

(A) the contributions and dedication of the members of the Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. to the members and veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States; and

(B) the important role the Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. plays in the lives of the spouses and families of the fallen members and veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States.

TSUNAMI AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 131, submitted earlier today.

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

The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 131) designating April 2011 as “Tsunami Awareness Month.”

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

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, today I rise in support of my resolution designating April 2011 as Tsunami Awareness Month.

The recent events in Japan serve as a reminder of the importance of tsunami preparedness and mitigation. As we recently saw, tsunamis can strike at any time, continue for hours, wash away homes, buildings, and roads, and claim thousands of lives. Deadly tsunamis have struck Hawaii, Alaska, California, Oregon, Washington, American Samoa, Puerto Rico, and the United States Virgin Islands within the last 150 years. All coastline communities in the United States are at risk of being impacted by tsunamis.

Sixty-five years ago, my home State of Hawaii experienced the most devastating and destructive tsunami in its history, which claimed the lives of 159 individuals. Hawaii’s geographic location in the middle of the Pacific Ocean makes us extremely vulnerable to tsunamis because 80 percent of all tsunamis occur in the Pacific.

To encourage citizens to educate themselves on tsunami preparedness, President Obama has designated March 20–26, 2011, as Tsunami Awareness Week. For the month of April, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s (NOAA) National Weather Service in Hawaii will conduct activities to raise public awareness of the dangers of tsunamis and commemorate the lives lost to the April 1, 1946 tsunami. Additionally, Hawaii State and local officials have partnered with NOAA to develop a Tsunami Safety Booklet to educate school-aged children about the dangers of tsunamis, and they plan to distribute the booklets and other preparedness materials at sponsored events.

I encourage all citizens to observe Tsunami Awareness Month and prepare for tsunamis by finding out if their homes, schools, and workplaces are in areas likely to flood should a tsunami occur; identifying evacuation routes; and preparing portable disaster supply kits. Additional information about tsunami preparedness can be found at TsunamiReady (www.tsunamiready.noaa.gov).

As Congress continues debates about cuts to the Federal budget, I remind my colleagues of the importance of federal funding for tsunami programs.

Funding for NOAA tsunami program supports warning, mitigation, and research activities that are critical to our Nation’s safety and security. The NOAA operates two tsunami warning centers, the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center at Ewa Beach, Hawaii, and the West Coast and Alaska Tsunami Warning Center at Palmer, Alaska. Through Deep-Ocean Assessment and Reporting of Tsunamis stations, these Centers monitor an extensive network of deep

sea buoys providing real-time information needed to detect and issue warnings for tsunamis generated in the Pacific Ocean.

Furthermore, NOAA, in coordination with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the United States Geological Survey, partners with all 29 coastal States, Territories and Commonwealths in the United States to reduce the impact of tsunamis through the National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program.

These programs save lives. The House-passed continuing resolution would decrease funding for NOAA by approximately \$450 million. Funding increases in recent years have allowed NOAA to strengthen our Nation's tsunami warning capabilities by expanding the operating hours and geographic areas of responsibility for both tsunami warning centers. Making drastic cuts to the NOAA's budget would severely impair our Nation's ability to warn citizens of potential disasters. Maintaining this funding is critical.

As Japan recovers from the deadly earthquake and tsunami of March 11, 2011, I continue to pledge my support for the people of Japan and keep all those affected by this tragedy in my thoughts and prayers.

Mr. BENNET. 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 matter be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 131) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 131

Whereas a tsunami is a series of ocean or sea waves generated by a sea floor disturbance, such as an earthquake, landslide, volcanic eruption, or meteorite;

Whereas a tsunami could occur during any season and at any time;

Whereas a tsunami is a threat to life and property for all coastal communities, and tsunamis have caused serious injuries and millions of dollars in property damage in the United States;

Whereas the danger posed by a tsunami cannot be eliminated, but the impact of a tsunami can be mitigated through community preparedness, timely warnings, and effective response;

Whereas tsunamis historically have posed the greatest hazard to Hawaii, Alaska, California, Oregon, Washington, American

Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands, tsunamis also pose risks to all ocean coasts of the United States;

Whereas Federal, State, and local officials have partnered to coordinate a national effort to reduce the impact of tsunamis through the National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program;

Whereas the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service operates 2 tsunami warning centers, the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center and the West Coast and Alaska Tsunami Warning Center, that detect potential tsunamis and issue warnings;

Whereas Tsunami Awareness Month provides an opportunity to highlight the importance of tsunami preparedness and to encourage the people of the United States to take steps to be better prepared for tsunamis at home, work, and school;

Whereas the people of the United States can prepare for tsunamis by finding out if their home, school, workplace or other frequently visited locations are in tsunami hazard areas, and by identifying evacuation routes; and

Whereas additional information about tsunami preparedness may be obtained through TsunamiReady at National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, at www.tsunamiready.noaa.gov: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates April 2011 as "Tsunami Awareness Month"; and

(2) encourages the Federal Government, States, localities, schools, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and other applicable entities, along with the people of the United States, to observe Tsunami Awareness Month with appropriate events and activities to promote tsunami preparedness.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 1255

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I understand that H.R. 1255 has been received from the House and is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title for the first time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1255) to prevent a shutdown of the government of the United States, and for other purposes.

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask for its second reading and object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The bill will have its second reading on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6, 2011

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Sen-

ate completes its business today, it recess until 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 6; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate proceed to a period for the transaction of morning business until 11 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time until 12:40 p.m. 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 at 10:40 a.m., Senator AYOTTE be recognized to deliver her maiden speech to the Senate; and that following morning business, the Senate resume consideration of S. 493, the small business jobs bill, as provided for under the previous order.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, Senators should expect a series of up to seven rollcall votes to begin at approximately 4 p.m. in relation to amendments to the small business jobs bill.

RECESS UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

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

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:35 p.m., recessed until Wednesday, April 6, 2011, at 9:30 a.m.

DISCHARGED NOMINATION

The Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs was discharged from further consideration of the following nomination pursuant to the order of January 7, 2009 and the nomination was placed on the Executive Calendar pursuant to an order of January 7, 2009:

*JONATHAN ANDREW HATFIELD, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE.

*Nominee has committed to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.