

Whereas, on June 25, 1990, Fang Lizhi and Li Shuxian were allowed to leave China for the United Kingdom and then the United States;

Whereas, in 1992, Fang Lizhi received an appointment as a professor of physics at the University of Arizona in Tucson, where he continued his research in astrophysics and advocating for human rights in China;

Whereas, in the years since June 4, 1989, a new generation of Chinese activists has continued the struggle for democracy in their homeland, working "from below" to protect the rights of Chinese citizens, to increase the openness of the Chinese political system, and to reduce corruption among public officials; and

Whereas, with the passing of Fang Lizhi, China and the United States have lost a great scientist and one of the most eloquent human rights advocates of the modern era: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

- (1) mourns the loss of Fang Lizhi;
- (2) honors the life, scientific contributions, and service of Fang Lizhi to advance the cause of human freedom;
- (3) offers the deepest condolences of the Senate to the family and friends of Fang Lizhi; and
- (4) stands with the people of China as they strive to improve their way of life and create a government that is truly democratic and respectful of international norms in the area of human rights.

#### COMMENDING THE FIREFIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE PERSONNEL—USS "MIAMI" FIRE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 488.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 488) commending the efforts of the firefighters and emergency response personnel of Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Connecticut, who came together to extinguish the May 23rd, 2012, fire at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery, Maine.

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

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today in support of a resolution recognizing the incredible courage and tremendous skill of the firefighters and emergency first responders who extinguished the fire aboard the USS *Miami* (SSN 755), a Los Angeles-class nuclear-powered submarine, 2 weeks ago at Kittery-Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery, ME.

At approximately 5:41 p.m. on Wednesday, May 23, 2012, a four-alarm fire broke out inside the forward compartment of the USS *Miami*, which was 3 months into a 20-month overhaul at Kittery-Portsmouth. More than 100 first responders from 23 locations in 4 separate States responded to successfully contain the damage of the blaze and ensure that there was no tragic loss of life.

With nothing less than fearless determination in the face of what has been called the most significant emergency to strike the shipyard in decades, brave

firefighters battled zero visibility in tight, obstructed quarters filled with noxious smoke and searing heat for more than 10 hours to limit the fire to the forward quarters of the ship and eventually extinguish it entirely.

Due to the unimaginably challenging space constraints, Kittery-Portsmouth firefighters, in a command capacity and with a succinct collaborative effort with shipyard project team personnel, directed the rotation of multiple waves of groups of only three or four firefighters at a time to descend two stories into the ship to push back the flames. Their critical decision to immediately request assistance from mutual aid communities up and down the coast ensured sufficient manpower to sustain the continuous delivery of roughly three million gallons of water and fire suppressants needed to tame the blaze.

The integration of firefighters from so many seacoast communities was seamless, and should be held as an example of successful inter-jurisdictional cooperation that could be used as a model for similar emergencies in the future. Furthermore, the fact that each and every one of these exceptional firefighters, many of whom had no prior experience aboard a submarine, could walk into such an extraordinarily difficult situation and perform so successfully is a testament to their exhaustive training, remarkable abilities and undaunted valor.

Due to their inspirational efforts, with only seven responders suffering minor injuries, the fire and all subsequent damage was greatly limited, and the ship's nuclear reactor remained safe and stable throughout. After the fire, I had the privilege of meeting some of the firefighters who summoned unparalleled bravery and demonstrated such tenacity and skill in preventing the potentially catastrophic escalation of this fire. These men and women represent the very best of their field, and it is an honor to sponsor this resolution recognizing them.

Indeed, it is largely thanks to these able firefighters and emergency first responders that we have the opportunity to repair the USS *Miami*. When I spoke with Navy Vice Admiral McCoy, commander of Naval Sea Systems Command, after the fire, he said, "We're determined to send the *Miami* back to sea."

I join Admiral McCoy in this sentiment. With a growing shortage of submarines in our Navy, it is vital that the USS *Miami* and its crew are able to quickly return to their vital work of keeping this country safe and secure, as the boat has done since its commission in 1990. Indeed, in the coming weeks and months, I look forward to working with the Navy, the men and women of Kittery-Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, and my colleagues in the Senate to ensure that the USS *Miami* is quickly returned to service.

Mr. REID. Mr. 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. 488) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

#### S. RES. 488

Whereas the USS *Miami* (SSN-755), a Los Angeles-class nuclear attack submarine with a crew of 13 officers and 120 enlisted personnel, arrived at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard on March 1, 2012, for 20 months of scheduled maintenance;

Whereas at 5:41 p.m. EDT on May 23, 2012, a 4-alarm fire occurred in the forward compartment of the USS *Miami*;

Whereas emergency response personnel, led by the firefighters of Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, worked for nearly 10 hours in tight, obstructed quarters filled with noxious smoke and searing heat—

- (1) to prevent any loss of life;
- (2) to bring the fire under control; and
- (3) to successfully prevent the flames from reaching any nuclear material and allow the nuclear reactor to remain unaffected and stable throughout;

Whereas 23 fire departments and emergency response teams from the States of Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Connecticut provided mutual aid support during the fire, including—

- (1) Pease Air Force Base, New Hampshire;
- (2) York County Hazardous Materials Response Team, Maine;
- (3) Massachusetts Port Authority Logan Airport Crash Team;
- (4) South Portland Fire Department, Maine;
- (5) Eliot Fire Department, Maine;
- (6) Lee Fire Department, New Hampshire;
- (7) Dover Ambulance, New Hampshire;
- (8) Portsmouth Fire Department, New Hampshire;
- (9) Hampton Fire Department, New Hampshire;
- (10) Kittery Fire Department, Maine;
- (11) Newcastle Fire Department, New Hampshire;
- (12) American Medical Response Ambulance, New Hampshire;
- (13) Hanscom Air Force Base, Massachusetts;
- (14) Naval Submarine Base New London, Connecticut;
- (15) Rye Fire Department, New Hampshire;
- (16) Greenland Fire Department, New Hampshire;
- (17) York Fire Department, Maine;
- (18) Newington Fire Department, Connecticut;
- (19) Somersworth Fire Department, New Hampshire;
- (20) Rollinsford Fire Department, New Hampshire;
- (21) South Berwick Fire Department, Maine;
- (22) York Ambulance, Maine; and
- (23) York Beach Fire Department, Maine; and

Whereas the heroic actions of those firefighters, emergency response personnel, and the USS *Miami* crew and shipyard firefighters, 7 of whom suffered minor injuries during the fire, directly prevented catastrophe, and greatly limited the severity of the fire even in the most challenging of environments: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

- (1) commends the exemplary and courageous service of all the firefighters and emergency response personnel who came together to successfully contain the fire, minimizing damage to a critical national security asset and ensuring no loss of life; and

(2) expresses support for the Navy and the exceptionally skilled workforce at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery, Maine.

### RECOGNIZING THE SPRING PAGE CLASS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we have worked hard. Not as hard as I would have liked or not as long hours as I would have liked and not as much accomplished as I would have liked, but this is the last day for this group of pages.

These spring pages have been exemplary. I really enjoy walking past them. They are out there studying. They are sitting here as we speak now. I wish I could have been a page. I really do. I think it would have been a great life.

We have done a much better job of making sure they are safe and happy. When I first came here, the pages lived wherever they could find a place to live. Now we have wonderful, safe, secure dormitories for those young men and women. We have a wonderful educational program for them. It is hard; no one can say it is easy. They learn a lot.

Two of my granddaughters have been pages. It changed their lives. They came here not having much interest in government. By the time they left, they had started reading the newspapers—not like the Presiding Officer and I, they did most of their reading online. But they were interested in government, and they still are. I guess they are both seniors now, one at New York University and one at the New School in New York.

One of my prized possessions in my office is a picture of my first two grandchildren, these two little girls, Ryan and Mattie. They are in diapers, and they are hanging onto each other. Then I have a picture right on the same little table of them in their page uniforms. That is a wonderful picture for me. It shows the progress of people's lives. It is really meaningful to me.

I can say this to these pages: This will be an opportunity they will never forget. They will make friends here who will be friends for the rest of their lives. The Presiding Officer and I know the friends you make when you are young are just so important to you as you proceed through life. I still love to pick up the phone and call some of the young men and—in fact, I talked to a woman today with whom I went to school. That is good. That is what life is all about. Make good friends and maintain that friendship.

Now, they have seen some things in the Senate that I think will be in the history books forever. We passed the surface transportation bill, we passed the Violence Against Women Act, we passed the Ex-Im Bank reauthorization, Iran sanctions bill, FDA Modernization Act, postal reform—we passed that.

We are in the process of trying to resolve the student loan debate, but we

worked on that. That was something we were able to move on through this body. We did not pass the paycheck fairness—we did not, but we have been involved for a long time on the Paycheck Fairness Act. They have been able to watch all of this, and they can go home and tell their friends and family that they all relate to this stuff all of the time because they know now how the foundation of the government works. They have been here.

So I appreciate personally everything they have done. Senator McCONNELL is going to speak to the pages tomorrow. I am not going to be able to be here. But he will tell those assembled that he is speaking on our behalf. I appreciate that very much.

### ORDERS FOR MONDAY, JUNE 11, 2012

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 2 p.m. on Monday, June 11; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day.

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

### PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, when the Senate convenes on Monday, it will resume consideration of the farm bill postcloture. We are working on an agreement to move that bill forward.

There will be a cloture vote at 5:30, as I announced, on Andrew Hurwitz.

### ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, JUNE 11, 2012, AT 2 P.M.

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

There being no objection, the Senate, at 5:23 p.m., adjourned until Monday, June 11, 2012, at 2 p.m.

### NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

#### FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

MIGNON L. CLYBURN, OF SOUTH CAROLINA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS FROM JULY 1, 2012. (RE-APPOINTMENT)

#### UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

STEPHEN CRAWFORD, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A GOVERNOR OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 8, 2015. VICE ALAN C. KESSLER, RESIGNED.

#### DEPARTMENT OF STATE

JOHN M. KOENIG, OF WASHINGTON, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER—COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS.

#### FOREIGN SERVICE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSONS OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

FOR APPOINTMENT AS FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS OF THE CLASSES STATED.

FOR APPOINTMENT AS FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER OF CLASS TWO, CONSULAR OFFICER AND SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

NARENDRA CHANMUGAM, OF FLORIDA  
JOHN BREVARD CRIHFELD, OF CALIFORNIA  
LAUREL K. FAIN, OF CALIFORNIA  
GEOFFREY DISSTON MINOTT, OF PENNSYLVANIA

FOR APPOINTMENT AS FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER OF CLASS THREE, CONSULAR OFFICER AND SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

RICHARD BRIAN AARON, OF FLORIDA  
CHRISTOPHER W. ABRAMS, OF WASHINGTON  
WRENN F. R. BELLAMY, OF SOUTH DAKOTA  
SARAH BLANDING, OF TENNESSEE  
KRISTIN MARGARET BORK, OF OREGON  
ABBAS BOBBY BUSARI, OF VIRGINIA  
CLINT CAVANAUGH, OF NEVADA  
ANDREW COLBURN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
JENNIFER LYNN CROW YANG, OF VIRGINIA  
SUKHMINDER K. DOSANJH, OF CALIFORNIA  
ALIA EL MOHANDES, OF MARYLAND  
LEE KENNETH FORSYTHE, OF FLORIDA  
VICTORIA REBECCA GELLIS, OF NEW JERSEY  
KOVIA GRATZON-ERSKINE, OF OREGON  
WHITNEY ELLEN JENSEN-RODRIGUES, OF CALIFORNIA  
HAN KANG, OF CALIFORNIA  
JOSHUA THOMAS KARNES, OF MICHIGAN  
GEORGE N. KUM, OF VIRGINIA  
MICHELLE IRENE LINDER, OF INDIANA  
NANCY LOWENTHAL, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
CLIFFORD G. LUBITZ, OF VERMONT  
ROBIN FLOOD MARDEUSZ, OF ALASKA  
LINDA KAYE MCELROY, OF FLORIDA  
JULIA V. NENON, OF VIRGINIA  
BENJAMIN K. OWUSU, JR., OF MASSACHUSETTS  
ERIK PACIFIC, OF CONNECTICUT  
TAMMY L. PALMER, OF VIRGINIA  
CHARLES S. POPE, OF VIRGINIA  
PAUL J. RICHARDSON, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
ELIZABETH SANTUCCI, OF NEW YORK  
MARIETOU SATIN, OF VIRGINIA  
PADMA SHETTY, OF TEXAS  
REENA SHUKLA, OF TENNESSEE  
XERSES MANECK SIDHWA, OF TEXAS  
IZETTA YVONNE SIMMONS, OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
WILLIAM KANE SLATER, OF VIRGINIA  
STEPHAN SOLAT, OF CALIFORNIA  
CARA LEAH THANASSI, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
TRACY CLAIRE THOMAN, OF OHIO  
ALLYSON CLAIRE WAINER, OF CONNECTICUT  
ANEDA WARD, OF WASHINGTON  
SUSAN ANDREA WOFSEY, OF CALIFORNIA  
JANA S. WOODEN, OF CALIFORNIA

#### IN THE COAST GUARD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO SERVE AS THE DIRECTOR OF THE COAST GUARD RESERVE PURSUANT TO TITLE 14, U.S.C., SECTION 53 IN THE GRADE INDICATED:

#### To be rear admiral

RADM STEVEN E. DAY, USCGR

#### IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

#### To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. MARK F. RAMSAY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS THE SURGEON GENERAL OF THE AIR FORCE AND APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 8036 AND 801:

#### To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. THOMAS W. TRAVIS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

#### To be major general

BRIG. GEN. TIMOTHY M. RAY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

#### To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. DARREN W. MCDEW

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

#### To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. STANLEY T. KRESGE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601: