

The resolution, as amended, with its preamble, as amended, reads as follows:

S. RES. 418

Whereas brave American aircraft crewmen, led by Lieutenant Colonel James Doolittle, volunteered for an "extremely hazardous mission" without knowing the target, location, or assignment and willingly put their lives in harm's way, risking death, capture, and torture;

Whereas the conducting of medium bomber operations from a Navy aircraft carrier under combat conditions had never before been attempted;

Whereas after the discovery of the USS Hornet by Japanese picket ships 170 miles further away from the prearranged launch point, the Raiders proceeded to take off 670 miles from the coast of Japan;

Whereas by launching more than 100 miles beyond the distance considered to be minimally safe for the mission, the Raiders deliberately accepted the risk that the B-25s might not have enough fuel to reach the designated air-fields in China;

Whereas the additional launch distance greatly increased the risk of crash landing in Japanese occupied China, exposing the crews to higher probability of death, injury, or capture;

Whereas because of that deliberate choice, after bombing their targets in Japan, low on fuel and in setting night and deteriorating weather, none of the 16 airplanes reached the prearranged Chinese airfields;

Whereas of the 80 Raiders who launched on the raid, 8 were captured, 2 died in the crash, and 70 returned to the United States; and

Whereas of the 8 captured, 3 were executed and 1 died of disease: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the valor, skill, and courage of the Raiders that proved invaluable to the eventual defeat of Japan during the Second World War;

(2) acknowledges that the actions of the Raiders helped to forge an enduring example of heroism in the face of uncertainty for the Army Air Force of the Second World War, the future of the Air Force, and the United States as a whole; and

(3) commends the 5 living members and 80 original members of the Doolittle Tokyo Raiders for their participation in the Tokyo bombing raid of April 18, 1942.

REAFFIRMING STRONG SUPPORT OF THE UNITED STATES OF THE PARTIES IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Foreign Relations Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 524, and the Senate proceed to its consideration.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 524) reaffirming the strong support of the United States for the 2002 declaration of conduct of parties in the South China Sea among the member states of ASEAN and the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be

agreed to, the Webb amendment to the preamble be agreed to, the preamble, as amended, be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any related statements be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 524) was agreed to.

The amendment (No. 2779) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the preamble)

In the preamble, strike the 6th whereas clause and all that follows through the end and insert the following:

Whereas ASEAN plays an important role, in partnership with others in the regional and international community, in addressing maritime security issues in the Asia-Pacific region and into the Indian Ocean, including open access to the maritime domain of Asia;

Whereas the South China Sea is a vital part of the maritime domain of Asia, including critical sea lanes of communication and commerce between the Pacific and Indian oceans;

Whereas, in the declaration on the conduct of parties in the South China Sea, the governments of the member states of ASEAN and the Government of the People's Republic of China have affirmed "that the adoption of a code of conduct in the South China Sea would further promote peace and stability in the region" and have agreed to work towards the attainment of a code of conduct;

Whereas, pending the peaceful settlement of territorial and jurisdictional disputes, the member states of ASEAN and the People's Republic of China have committed to "exercise self-restraint in the conduct of activities that would complicate or escalate disputes and stability, including, among others, refraining from action of inhabiting presently uninhabited islands, reefs, shoals, and other features and to handle their differences in a constructive manner";

Whereas, pending the peaceful settlement of territorial and jurisdictional disputes, the member states of ASEAN and the People's Republic of China affirmed their commitment "to the freedom of navigation in and overflight of the South China Sea provided for by the universally recognized principles of international law, including the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea";

Whereas, although not a party to these disputes, the United States has national interests in freedom of navigation, the maintenance of peace and stability, respect for international law, and unimpeded lawful commerce;

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China has recently taken unilateral steps to declare the Paracel and Spratly Islands, and their adjacent waters to be a prefectural-level city, and has identified government leaders to assert administrative control over 200 islets, sandbanks, and reefs and 2,000,000 square kilometers of water;

Whereas the Central Military Commission in China also announced the deployment of a garrison of soldiers to this area; and

Whereas these steps are contrary to agreed upon principles with regard to resolving disputes and impede a peaceful resolution of the sovereignty disputes in the South China Sea: Now, therefore, be it

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The resolution with its preamble as amended, reads as follows:

S. RES. 524

Whereas the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) plays a key role in strengthening and contributing to peace, stability, and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region;

Whereas the vision of the ASEAN Leaders in their goals set out in the ASEAN Charter to integrate ASEAN economically, politically, and culturally furthers regional peace, stability, and prosperity;

Whereas the United States Government recognizes the importance of a strong, cohesive, and integrated ASEAN as a foundation for effective regional frameworks to promote peace and security and economic growth and to ensure that the Asia-Pacific community develops according to rules and norms agreed upon by all of its members;

Whereas the United States is enhancing political, security and economic cooperation in Southeast Asia through ASEAN, and seeks to continue to enhance its role in partnership with ASEAN and others in the region in addressing transnational issues ranging from climate change to maritime security;

Whereas the United States Government welcomes the development of a peaceful and prosperous China which respects international norms, international laws, international institutions, and international rules, and enhances security and peace, and seeks to advance a "cooperative partnership" between the United States and China;

Whereas ASEAN plays an important role, in partnership with others in the regional and international community, in addressing maritime security issues in the Asia-Pacific region and into the Indian Ocean, including open access to the maritime domain of Asia;

Whereas the South China Sea is a vital part of the maritime domain of Asia, including critical sea lanes of communication and commerce between the Pacific and Indian oceans;

Whereas in the declaration on the conduct of parties in the South China Sea, the governments of the member states of ASEAN and the Government of the People's Republic of China have affirmed "that the adoption of a code of conduct in the South China Sea would further promote peace and stability in the region" and have agreed to work towards the attainment of a code of conduct;

Whereas pending the peaceful settlement of territorial and jurisdictional disputes, the member states of ASEAN and the People's Republic of China have committed to "exercise self-restraint in the conduct of activities that would complicate or escalate disputes and stability, including, among others, refraining from action of inhabiting presently uninhabited islands, reefs, shoals, and other features and to handle their differences in a constructive manner";

Whereas pending the peaceful settlement of territorial and jurisdictional disputes, the member states of ASEAN and the People's Republic of China affirmed their commitment "to the freedom of navigation in and overflight of the South China Sea provided for by the universally recognized principles of international law, including the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea";

Whereas although not a party to these disputes, the United States has national interests in freedom of navigation, the maintenance of peace and stability, respect for international law, and unimpeded lawful commerce;

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China has recently taken unilateral steps to declare the Paracel and Spratly Islands, and their adjacent waters to be a prefectural-level city, and has identified government leaders to assert administrative control over 200 islets, sandbanks, and reefs and 2,000,000 square kilometers of water;

Whereas the Central Military Commission in China also announced the deployment of a garrison of soldiers to this area; and

Whereas these steps are contrary to agreed upon principles with regard to resolving disputes and impede a peaceful resolution of the sovereignty disputes in the South China Sea: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) reaffirms the strong support of the United States for the 2002 declaration of conduct of parties in the South China Sea among the member states of ASEAN and the People's Republic of China;

(2) supports the member states of ASEAN, and the Government of the People's Republic of China, as they seek to adopt a legally binding code of conduct of parties in the South China Sea, and urges all countries to substantively support ASEAN in its efforts in this regard;

(3) strongly urges that, pending adoption of a code of conduct, all parties, consistent with commitments under the declaration of conduct, "exercise self-restraint in the conduct of activities that would complicate or escalate disputes and stability, including, among others, refraining from action of inhabiting presently uninhabited islands, reefs, shoals and other features and to handle their differences in a constructive manner";

(4) supports a collaborative diplomatic process by all claimants for resolving outstanding territorial and jurisdictional disputes, allowing parties to peacefully settle claims and disputes using international law;

(5) reaffirms the United States commitment—

(A) to assist the nations of Southeast Asia to remain strong and independent;

(B) to help ensure each nation enjoys peace and stability;

(C) to broaden and deepen economic, political, diplomatic, security, social, and cultural partnership with ASEAN and its member states; and

(D) to promote the institutions of emerging regional architecture and prosperity; and

(6) supports enhanced operations by the United States armed forces in the Western Pacific, including in the South China Sea, including in partnership with the armed forces of others countries in the region, in support of freedom of navigation, the maintenance of peace and stability, respect for international law, including the peaceful resolution of issues of sovereignty, and unimpeded lawful commerce.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed en bloc to the following resolutions: S. Res. 544, S. Res. 545, S. Res. 546, and S. Res. 547.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc, with no intervening action or debate and any statements relating to the resolutions be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

The resolutions, with their preambles, read as follows:

S. RES. 544

(Congratulating the Navy Dental Corps on its 100th anniversary)

Whereas on August 22, 1912, Congress passed an Act recognizing Navy dentistry as a distinct branch among naval medical professions;

Whereas in the last century, the Navy Dental Corps has supported the Navy by sustaining Sailor and Marine readiness and providing routine and emergency dental care, ashore and afloat, in peace and in war;

Whereas the Navy Dental Corps works continuously to improve the health of Sailors, Marines, and their families by supporting individual and community prevention initiatives, good oral hygiene practices, and treatment;

Whereas the Navy Dental Corps endeavors to improve oral health worldwide by participating in the spectrum of military combat, peacekeeping, and humanitarian operations and exercises;

Whereas the Navy Dental Corps, in collaboration with national and international dental organizations, promotes dental professionalism and quality of care;

Whereas the Navy Dental Corps supports the mission of the Federal dental research program and endorses improved dental technologies and therapies through research and adherence to sound scientific principles; and

Whereas the Navy Dental Corps recognizes the importance of continuing professional dental education, requiring and supporting specialty dental education and postgraduate residencies and fellowships for its members: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the Navy Dental Corps on its 100th anniversary;

(2) commends the Navy Dental Corps for working to sustain the dental readiness and the oral health of a superb fighting force; and

(3) recognizes the thousands of dentists who have served in the Navy Dental Corps over the last 100 years, providing dental care to millions of members of the Armed Forces and their families.

S. RES. 545

(Commemorating the 75th Anniversary of Air Force Weather)

Whereas the United States Army Air Corps assumed responsibility for military weather services on July 1, 1937, beginning a legacy of superior service to Army and Air Force commanders for the next 75 years;

Whereas the United States Army Air Forces activated the Weather Wing on April 14, 1943, in time to provide General Dwight D. Eisenhower with reports and forecasts vital to the success of Operation Overlord, the reentry of the Allies into Europe against resistance from German occupation forces, and subsequent operations in Europe and the Pacific;

Whereas 68 personnel from the Weather Wing lost their lives in World War II;

Whereas the Weather Wing was redesignated as the Army Air Forces Weather Service in 1945, and the Air Weather Service in 1946;

Whereas, in July of 1947, the Air Weather Service became a part of the newly formed United States Air Force with a mission to support both the Army and Air Force;

Whereas, in 1948, the Air Weather Service issued its first tornado warning;

Whereas the Air Weather Service provided critical reports and forecasts to commanders, planners, and aircrews in support of the Berlin Airlift, enabling the successful efforts to stare down Premier of the Soviet Union Joseph Stalin in the first major confrontation of the Cold War;

Whereas the Air Weather Service has participated in every military operation from operations in Vietnam to Iraq and Afghanistan;

Whereas the Air Weather Service was reorganized into a field operating agency on April 1, 1991, reporting directly to the Air Staff;

Whereas, on October 15, 1997, the Air Weather Service was redesignated as the Air Force Weather Agency and subsequently headquartered at Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska;

Whereas, in June 2008, construction was completed on a new 188,000-square-foot headquarters building for the Air Force Weather Agency at Offutt Air Force Base;

Whereas the civilian community surrounding Offutt Air Force Base fully recognizes the tremendous dedication and contributions of the personnel stationed at Offutt Air Force Base to the global fighting force, and likewise, base personnel express constant praise and appreciation to the civilian community for its outstanding support;

Whereas, in close cooperation with the National Weather Service, Air Force Weather has supported a wide variety of missions from its base in Nebraska, including space launches and solar observation; and

Whereas Air Force Weather has continued to produce timely, accurate, and continuous weather information to locate targets in any battle around the world or in space: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the 75th anniversary of Air Force Weather and its prominent role in national security;

(2) remembers the immeasurable contributions of Air Force Weather in protecting the lives of members of the Armed Forces and citizens of the United States through timely and accurate reporting and forecasting; and

(3) honors the 1,200 personnel who currently serve within Air Force Weather and those who have carried on its tradition of excellence through their continued service at Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska.

S. RES. 546

(Designating the week of September 10, 2012, as "National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week")

Whereas the National Assessment of Adult Literacy reports that 90,000,000 adults lack the literacy, numeracy, or English-language skills necessary to succeed at home, in the workplace, and in society;

Whereas the literacy of the people of the United States is essential for the economic and societal well-being of the United States;

Whereas the United States reaps the economic benefits of individuals who improve their literacy, numeracy, and English-language skills;

Whereas literacy and educational skills are necessary for individuals to fully benefit from the range of opportunities available in the United States;

Whereas the United States' economy and position in the world marketplace depend on having a literate, skilled population;

Whereas the unemployment rate in the United States is highest among those without a high school diploma or an equivalent credential, demonstrating that education is important to economic recovery;

Whereas the educational skills of a child's parents and the practice of reading to a child have a direct impact on the educational success of the child;

Whereas parental involvement in a child's education is a key predictor of a child's success, and the level of parental involvement in a child's education increases as the educational level of the parent increases;