

Whereas Mr. Gross was arrested on December 3, 2009, in Havana, Cuba;

Whereas Mr. Gross was detained without charge for 14 months;

Whereas Mr. Gross was charged in February 2011 with "actions against the independence or the territorial integrity of the state";

Whereas Mr. Gross's trial lasted only 2 days, after which he was sentenced to 15 years in prison;

Whereas Mr. Gross and his wife Judy have 2 daughters, one of which was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2010;

Whereas Mr. Gross's 90-year old mother was diagnosed with inoperable cancer in February 2011;

Whereas, in 2011, Mr. Gross's wife Judy underwent surgery, causing her to miss considerable time from work and putting further financial strain on their family;

Whereas Mr. Gross is 63 years old and has lost more than 105 pounds since being detained in Cuba;

Whereas Mr. Gross has developed degenerative arthritis in his leg and a mass behind his shoulder;

Whereas the Government of Cuba has denied requests by Mr. Gross for an independent medical examination;

Whereas Mr. Gross's legal representative filed an appeal to the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention of the United Nations in August 2012; and

Whereas, since Mr. Gross was detained by the Government of Cuba on December 3, 2009, his health has severely deteriorated and his family members have suffered health and financial problems: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) calls for the immediate and unconditional release of United States citizen Alan Phillip Gross; and

(2) urges the Government of Cuba in the meantime to provide all appropriate diagnostic and medical treatment to address the full range of medical issues facing Mr. Gross and to allow him to choose a doctor to provide him with an independent medical assessment.

TEEN CANCER AWARENESS WEEK

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 573 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 573) designating the third week of January 2013 as "Teen Cancer Awareness Week."

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

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent 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 any statements be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 573) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 573

Whereas cancer among adolescents is rare, but is still the leading cause of death from disease for teenagers between the ages of 15 and 19;

Whereas teenage cancer patients receive treatment at various types of medical establishments, including pediatric hospitals, pediatric oncology centers, and adult cancer facilities;

Whereas teenage cancer patients may feel out of place in any of these settings if their clinical and psychosocial needs are not met;

Whereas 40 percent of cancer patients aged 14 and younger are enrolled in clinical trials, compared with only 9 percent of cancer patients between the ages of 15 and 24;

Whereas teenagers with cancer have unique concerns about their education, social lives, body image, and infertility, among other concerns, and their needs may be misunderstood or unacknowledged;

Whereas many adolescent cancer survivors have difficulty readjusting to school and social settings, experience anxiety, and in some cases face increased learning difficulties; and

Whereas it is important to understand the biological and clinical needs of teenagers with cancer, seek the prevention of cancer in teenagers, and increase awareness in the general public of the unique challenges facing teenagers with cancer: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate designates the third week of January 2013 as "Teen Cancer Awareness Week" to promote awareness of teenage cancer and the unique medical and social needs of teenagers with cancer.

NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY AND NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the HELP Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 595 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 595) expressing support for the goals of National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month by promoting national awareness of adoption and the children awaiting families, celebrating children and families involved in adoption, and encouraging the people of the United States to secure safety, permanency, and well-being for all children.

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

Mr. CARDIN. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements be printed in the RECORD as if read.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 595) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 595

Whereas there are millions of unparented children in the world, including 400,540 chil-

dren in the foster care system in the United States, approximately 104,000 of whom are waiting for families to adopt them;

Whereas 59 percent of the children in foster care in the United States are age 10 or younger;

Whereas the average length of time a child spends in foster care is approximately 2 years;

Whereas for many foster children, the wait for a loving family in which they are nurtured, comforted, and protected seems endless;

Whereas in 2011, nearly 26,000 youth "aged out" of foster care by reaching adulthood without being placed in a permanent home;

Whereas every day, loving and nurturing families are strengthened and expanded when committed and dedicated individuals make an important difference in the life of a child through adoption;

Whereas a 2007 survey conducted by the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption demonstrated that though "Americans overwhelmingly support the concept of adoption, and in particular foster care adoption . . . foster care adoptions have not increased significantly over the past five years";

Whereas while 4 in 10 Americans have considered adoption, a majority of Americans have misperceptions about the process of adopting children from foster care and the children who are eligible for adoption;

Whereas 71 percent of those who have considered adoption consider adopting children from foster care above other forms of adoption;

Whereas 45 percent of Americans believe that children enter the foster care system because of juvenile delinquency, when in reality the vast majority of children who have entered the foster care system were victims of neglect, abandonment, or abuse;

Whereas 46 percent of Americans believe that foster care adoption is expensive, when in reality there is no substantial cost for adopting from foster care and financial support is available to adoptive parents after the adoption is finalized;

Whereas family reunification, kinship care, and domestic and inter-county adoption promote permanency and stability to a far greater degree than long-term institutionalization and long-term, often disrupted foster care;

Whereas both National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month occur in the month of November;

Whereas National Adoption Day is a collective national effort to find permanent, loving families for children in the foster care system;

Whereas since the first National Adoption Day in 2000, nearly 40,000 children have joined forever families during National Adoption Day;

Whereas in 2011, a total of 365 events were held in 47 States and the District of Columbia, finalizing the adoptions of 4,187 children from foster care and celebrating an additional 1,030 adoptions finalized during November or earlier in the year; and

Whereas the President traditionally issues an annual proclamation to declare the month of November as National Adoption Month, and National Adoption Day is on November 17, 2012: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month;

(2) recognizes that every child should have a permanent and loving family; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to consider adoption during the month of November and all throughout the year.

COMMEMORATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 610 submitted earlier today by Senators ROCKEFELLER and HUTCHISON.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 610) commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Graduate Research Fellowship Program of the National Science Foundation.

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

Mr. CARDIN. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements be printed in the RECORD as if read.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 610) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 610

Whereas the United States is a world leader in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fundamental research and related education;

Whereas an excellent STEM higher-education system is critical to the development of a robust and inclusive U.S. STEM workforce and to U.S. global science and engineering preeminence;

Whereas Congress and President Harry S. Truman created the National Science Foundation (NSF), an independent Federal agency, 62 years ago specifically to advance scientific discovery and innovation through the Nation's basic research and STEM education infrastructure;

Whereas fundamental research supported by NSF across all scientific disciplines have resulted in many significant contributions to Americans' health and security, as well as to technological innovation and U.S. economic prosperity;

Whereas advances in knowledge are made possible by researchers who focus on the fundamental properties of nature, and who mentor and educate the next generation of scientists and engineers;

Whereas 60 years ago, NSF purposefully created the Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP) as an instrument to prepare the Nation's reservoir of science and engineering talent;

Whereas the GRFP, the country's oldest graduate fellowship program, supports outstanding graduate students pursuing masters and doctoral degrees in research at accredited U.S. institutions;

Whereas the GRFP has contributed to the development of outstanding U.S. scholars, entrepreneurs, teachers, mentors, and inventors who continue to support and promote the Nation's science and engineering enterprise and the next generation of scientists and engineers;

Whereas this flagship program helps maintain high-quality and highly skilled grad-

uates who enter the Nation's STEM workforce prepared to innovate and collaborate in the global scientific arena;

Whereas NSF has funded more than 46,500 competitive graduate research fellows with selection criteria based on the intellectual merit of their research and its potential broader impacts for society;

Whereas of the more than 200 NSF-supported Nobel laureates, 40 were selected as graduate research fellows, and more than 440 graduate research fellows have become members of the National Academy of Sciences;

Whereas graduate research fellows have an exceptionally high rate of doctorate completion;

Whereas since 2001, graduate research fellows have filed more than 1,000 patents while working toward their graduate degrees, thus contributing directly to scientific advancement and discovery;

Whereas since 2007, 1145 graduate research fellows were selected from Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research jurisdictions; and

Whereas NSF's GRFP continues to be an essential component of the Nation's discovery and innovation ecosystem, and is instrumental in STEM workforce development: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commemorates the 60th anniversary of the Graduate Research Fellowship Program of the National Science Foundation; and

(2) continues to recognize U.S. STEM graduate education as central to U.S. workforce competitiveness and our country's international leadership and economic prosperity.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2012

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, December 6, 2012; 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; that following the leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business until 11:45 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the previous order regarding retirement speeches remaining in effect; and that following morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session under the previous order.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, the time from 10 a.m. until 11 a.m. tomorrow will be for speeches by our retiring Senators. At approximately 12:10 p.m., there will be two rollcall votes, the first on the passage of H.R. 6156, the Russia trade bill and the Magnitsky bill, and the second on confirmation of the Walker nomination.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. CARDIN. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I

ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:11 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, December 6, 2012, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

COAST GUARD RESERVE

PURSUANT TO TITLE 10, U.S. CODE, SECTION 12203, THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD RESERVE:

To be captain

ROBERT T. HANLEY
GARY W. JONES
DIRK A. STRINGER

IN THE COAST GUARD

PURSUANT TO TITLE 14, U.S.C., SECTION 271(E), THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD:

To be lieutenant commander

AUSTIN L. ADCOCK
LAWRENCE F. AHLIN
ANTONE S. ALONGI
MONICA P. ANDERSEN
MIKAEL D. ANDERSON
JENNIFER J. ANDREW
AUDIE J. ANDRY
EDWARD S. APONTE
MATTHEW S. AUSTIN
BERNARD C. AUTH
SAMUEL H. BABBITT
BRIAN D. BACHTEL
ENGRID A. BACKSTROM
MICHAEL W. BAIRD
JOHN E. BANNON
ROGER B. BARR
STEPHEN T. BAXTER
TODD M. BEHNEY
JAMES R. BENDLE
PATRICIA M. BENNETT
TORREY H. BERTHEAU
ROBERT A. BIXLER
KELLY C. BLACKBURN
JULIE E. BLANCHFIELD
RONALD D. BLEDSOE
BRIAN T. BOLAND
JEFFREY M. BOLLING
ERIN M. BOYLE
TOMMY J. BRACKINS
COREY A. BRADDOCK
ADAM C. BRENNELL
MICHAEL D. BRIMBLECOM
COLLIN R. BRONSON
MARY D. BROOKS
MEAGHAN H. BROSNAN
CODY L. BROWN
KATHERINE L. BROWN
STACEY K. BROWN
BRADLEY A. BRUNAUGH
CHRISTOPHER D. BRUNCLIK
MARTIN J. BRYANT
ELIZABETH A. BUENDIA
KENNETH J. BURGESS
NICOLE S. BURGESS
ADAM N. BURKLEY
ERIC S. BURLEY
KARA L. BURNS
WILLIAM R. CAHILL
MICHAEL J. CALDERONE
JAMES J. CAMP
JAMES M. CARABIN
LUIS O. CARMONA
JOEL B. CARSE
CHRISTOPHER L. CARTER
AARON J. CASAVANT
CHRISTY S. CASEY
DAVID K. CHAPMAN
JEFFREY J. CHONKO
GREGORY A. CLAYTON
BRYAN J. COFFMAN
BRADLEY D. CONWAY
ADAM J. COOLEY
JAMES R. COOLEY
GEORGE H. COTTRELL
JEREMY A. COURTADE
MICHAEL T. COURTNEY
ALLISON B. COX
JONATHAN W. COX
BROOKS C. CRAWFORD
BYRON A. CREECH
DANIEL A. CRUZ
DAVID B. CRUZ
WALTER L. DANIEL
MICHAEL R. DARRAH
ARTHUR M. DEHNZ
PHILIP A. DELISLE
JEREMY R. DENNING
JARRON M. DEWITZ
JENNIFER R. DOHERTY
DOUGLAS M. DOLL