

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise to introduce the New Columbia Admissions Act that will create a 51st State from the populated portions of Washington, D.C., giving these more than 600,000 disenfranchised Americans the voice they deserve in our national government. The United States is the only democracy in the world that denies voting representation to the people who live in its capital city. It is long past time to end this unjust and embarrassing distinction.

I am not the only Senator who feels this way—Senators DURBIN, BOXER, and MURRAY join me in cosponsoring this bill today. My friend Senator Inouye had planned to cosponsor this bill as he was a strong supporter of the District's right to have congressional representation.

Under this bill, there would still be Federal district called Washington, D.C., which would be under the control of Congress as the Constitution mandates. But it would be a smaller area encompassing the White House, the Capitol, the Supreme Court and the National Mall, where few people actually live. The rest of the current District of Columbia—diverse business districts and residential neighborhoods that are home to more than half a million U.S. citizens—would become a new State.

This is completely in accord with the principles and mandates of the Constitution and our Founding Fathers. Indeed, I think it is worth remembering why our Founding Fathers created a Federal district in the first place.

After the Revolutionary War, Philadelphia, PA, was the capital of the government formed by the Articles of Confederation. That Congress met in what we now know as Independence Hall in Philadelphia.

In 1783, a mob of Revolutionary War veterans besieged Independence Hall, demanding promised payments for their service during the war. Congress asked the governor of Pennsylvania, John Dickinson, to call out the militia to defend the capital, but he sided with the veterans and refused.

Congress had to flee to Princeton, NJ.

This failure of a state government to protect the national government became a major concern of the Constitutional Convention in 1787 and it was decided the Constitution must create a Federal district that could be controlled and protected by the new Federal government.

But Article One, Section Eight of the Constitution, which created the Federal district, did not order a particular location. It only said only that it may not exceed "10 miles square"—or 100 square miles.

The Residence Act of 1790 gave President Washington authority to pick the final site of the capital, and the site of the current Washington D.C. was chosen as a result of a compromise between Thomas Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton.

When John Adams moved into the White House in 1800, Washington, D.C. had a population of just 3,210 people—in a Nation of roughly 5 million. Even then the founders were concerned about voting rights for residents of the new capital. In the early days before the capital was fully established, its residents were allowed to vote in Maryland or Virginia. There were proposals to guarantee their suffrage going forward but unfortunately they did not get enacted amid the press to establish the new government. Certainly, though, it would have been unimaginable to the founders that a population of more than half a million in our capital city should be disenfranchised in the national legislature.

Yet that is the current reality. Now we are a Nation of more than 300 million and Washington, D.C. is a thriving community of 618,000 people. That's more people than Wyoming has and about the same as Vermont and North Dakota have, which, of course, have full representation in Congress. According to the U.S. Census, Washington, D.C. is growing faster than all 50 States. Demographers expect it will only get bigger in the years to come because much of that growth has been with young people who want to raise families in the District.

The District of Columbia already functions as a state in many respects—indeed the Federal Government treats it as a State for purposes of most Federal programs.

More important, the residents of the District of Columbia have all the responsibilities of U.S. citizenship. They pay more Federal income tax per capita than residents of any state; D.C. residents and businesses send on average \$20 billion to the Federal treasury each year. D.C. residents must serve on Federal juries and male residents must register for Selective Service. More than 190,000 D.C. residents have served in the military in wartime and about 1,700 have died for our country in the wars of the last century alone. All this occurred while the District's residents were denied voting representation in Congress.

The current inequity has even been noted by international bodies, including the United Nations Human Rights Commission, as a possible violation of international human rights accords.

It is long past time to give these American citizens who have chosen Washington as their home full participation in our democracy. People who live in D.C. are, of course, as American as people who live throughout our country—teachers, firefighters, doctors, janitors, parents, children, veterans, retirees. Why do their contributions to our democracy—financial and otherwise—merit rights and representation any less than those of their fellow citizens in the 50 states?

In sum, nothing in the Constitution prevents Congress from ceding this territory to a new State. There will still be a Federal district under Congress-

sional control and protected by Federal authorities.

The voters of this new state will have the same rights we give voters in every other State, including those seven small states with populations under 1 million. If the idea seems strange, remember that many also once could not imagine full voting rights for women or racial minorities. It is the nature of civil rights that the disenfranchised must fight to gain acceptance of rights that, in retrospect, seem morally compelled and beyond question. We must right this injustice toward the residents of the District just as Congress historically has righted other voting injustices that stretched back to the very founding of the Nation.

I will soon leave Congress after having had the great privilege of serving here for 24 years. Securing full voting rights for the 600,000 Americans who live in the District of Columbia is unfinished business, not just for me, but for the United States of America.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 625—RECOGNIZING THE JANUARY 12, 2013, OPENING OF THE UNITED STATES FREEDOM PAVILION: THE BOEING CENTER AT THE NATIONAL WORLD WAR II MUSEUM IN NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA, AND SUPPORTING PLANS FOR OTHER EDUCATIONAL PAVILIONS AND INITIATIVES

Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself and Mr. VITTER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 625

Whereas historians Stephen E. Ambrose and Gordon H. "Nick" Mueller, among others, founded the National D-Day Museum on June 6, 2000;

Whereas section 8134(c) of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-87; 117 Stat. 1105) designated the National D-Day Museum as "America's National World War II Museum";

Whereas the National World War II Museum advances the mission of educating the public about the experience of the United States in World War II, covering all branches of the Armed Forces and the Merchant Marine, and documenting and highlighting activities on both the battlefield and home front;

Whereas the exhibits and programs of the National World War II Museum portray why the War occurred, how the War was won, and what the War means today, and celebrate the spirit of the United States and enduring values displayed during the War;

Whereas the National World War II Museum emphasizes the diverse nature of the war effort of the United States, reflecting the contributions of women, African-Americans, Japanese-Americans, Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, and other groups that have been neglected in many accounts of World War II;

Whereas the 12,000 landing craft designed and built by Higgins Industries in New Orleans made amphibious invasions possible and

carried United States soldiers ashore in every theatre and campaign during the War;

Whereas President Dwight D. Eisenhower, the former Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Forces in Europe, credited Andrew Jackson Higgins, the chief executive officer of Higgins Industries, as the “man who won the war for us,” in a 1960s conversation with the preeminent historian Stephen E. Ambrose, leading Ambrose to initiate plans for the National World War II Museum;

Whereas the National D-Day Museum, now known as the “National World War II Museum”, has made great strides in the development of the facilities, exhibits, and programs at the Museum;

Whereas the National World War II Museum, since the grand opening on June 6, 2000, which was the 56th anniversary of the D-Day invasion of Normandy, France, has attracted more than 3,000,000 visitors from across the United States and around the world, and has reached millions more through Internet-based and other distance learning programs;

Whereas World War II veterans and home front supporters, recognized as the “greatest generation” because of the sacrifices of the veterans and home front supporters at a pivotal time in United States history, are passing away at a rapid rate, creating an urgent need to preserve the stories, and to pay tribute to the service of the veterans and home front supporters;

Whereas Congress recognizes the need to preserve forever the knowledge and history of the most decisive achievement of the United States during the 20th century and to portray that history to citizens, scholars, visitors, and school children for generations to come;

Whereas Congress appropriated funds in 1992 to authorize the design and construction of the National D-Day Museum to commemorate the epic 1944 Normandy invasion, and appropriated additional funds in 1998, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, and 2009 to help expand the Museum to cover the entire experience of the United States in World War II, and the transformational impact on the United States and the world;

Whereas the World War II Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, DC, will always be the symbolic memorial where people come to remember the sacrifices made during World War II;

Whereas the National World War II Museum in New Orleans will always be the educational institution where people come to learn about the monumental struggle by the United States against would-be oppressors, so that future generations can understand the role the United States played in the preservation and advancement of freedom in the middle of the 20th century;

Whereas the State of Louisiana and thousands of donors, including foundations, companies, and Museum members in every State, have contributed millions of dollars and other support to help build and advance the National World War II Museum, and hundreds of volunteers, many from the World War II era, have provided invaluable assistance to the Museum;

Whereas the Board of Trustees of the National World War II Museum, national in scope, and the Presidential Counselors advisory group, featuring leading historians and museum professionals, provide effective guidance and oversight for the National World War II Museum;

Whereas the National World War II Museum continues to add to and maintain 1 of the largest personal history collections in the United States, representing the experiences of the men and women who fought in World War II and served on the home front,

with more than 7,000 videotaped, oral, and written accounts in the collection, and plans to digitize the collection to vastly improve public access;

Whereas the National World War II Museum is an official affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, with a formal agreement to borrow Smithsonian artifacts for exhibits;

Whereas the National World War II Museum collaborates with other museums and memorials in the United States and around the world;

Whereas the National World War II Museum has added major facilities in recent years through donor support, including the Solomon Victory Theater complex, which features a 4-D theater, the Stage Door Canteen, a United Service Organization-styled entertainment venue, and the Kushner Restoration Pavilion, home to a major patrol torpedo boat restoration project;

Whereas the National World War II Museum will open the United States Freedom Pavilion: The Boeing Center in January 2013;

Whereas the Pavilion will feature aircraft such as the B-17 bomber and the P-51 fighter, the latter flown by the Tuskegee Airmen, and a submarine experience and exhibits honoring Medal of Honor recipients, government leaders who served in World War II, and industries that became known as the “Arsenal of Democracy”;

Whereas other major pavilions and interactive exhibits are planned or under development as the Museum anticipates the completion of the campus by 2016, including the Campaigns of Courage: European and Pacific Theaters Pavilion, the Liberation Pavilion, and a Union Station train experience in the original Louisiana Memorial Pavilion: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes and applauds the planned January 12, 2013, opening of the United States Freedom Pavilion: The Boeing Center, an iconic pavilion funded in part by the Federal Government and a major feature of the institution designated by section 8134(c) of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-87; 117 Stat. 1105) as “America’s National World War II Museum”;

(2) recognizes the generous assistance from private individuals, corporations, foundations, the Federal Government, the State of Louisiana, and other public entities committed to offering a lasting tribute to the achievements of the United States in World War II; and

(3) expresses support for the mission of the National World War II Museum as vital to the preservation of democratic values, to the understanding of United States history and founding principles, and to the education of future generations about the relevance of the War experience to the past and future greatness of the United States.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 65—CONGRATULATING THE NAVY AND THE CURRENT AND FORMER OFFICERS AND CREW OF THE U.S.S. ENTERPRISE (CVN 65) ON COMPLETION OF THE 25TH AND FINAL DEPLOYMENT OF THE VESSEL

Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. WEBB, and Mr. McCAIN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

S. CON. RES. 65

Whereas on November 4, 2012, the U.S.S. Enterprise returned to her homeport of Nor-

folk, Virginia, after completing the 25th and final deployment of the vessel;

Whereas the U.S.S. Enterprise, the first nuclear powered aircraft carrier to serve the United States, is scheduled for inactivation in December 2012 after more than 51 years in active service to the Navy and the Nation;

Whereas the U.S.S. Enterprise is the 8th vessel to bear that name and justly and rightfully maintained the honor and tradition of those vessels that previously bore the name;

Whereas the U.S.S. Enterprise participated in the embargo of the island of Cuba ordered by President John Kennedy in the fall of 1962, helping to prevent an escalation of that crisis;

Whereas the U.S.S. Enterprise conducted multiple deployments in support of combat operations during the Vietnam War;

Whereas the U.S.S. Enterprise, upon receiving the news of the September 11, 2001, attacks on the United States while returning home from a six-month deployment, immediately reversed course and was deployed in the Arabian Sea;

Whereas the U.S.S. Enterprise launched hundreds of air strikes into Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom throughout October 2001 to destroy Taliban and al Qaeda targets;

Whereas the U.S.S. Enterprise deployed six times over the last 11 years to conduct combat operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom; and

Whereas the U.S.S. Enterprise and the 10 Nimitz-class aircraft carriers of the Navy have proven the wisdom and value of nuclear powered aircraft carriers, which have played crucial roles across the range of military operations, from humanitarian assistance to combat operations, including operations in Iraq and Afghanistan since the beginnings of hostilities, providing, from the sea, unparalleled precision strike, close air support, and surveillance in support of ground combat operations: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) congratulates the Navy and the many crews of the U.S.S. Enterprise (CVN 65) on having provided the United States an incalculable service in international relations and engagement and in the prevention and winning of armed conflicts over the 51-year period of the service of the U.S.S. Enterprise;

(2) honors the service and memory of the 121 Sailors who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country while serving onboard U.S.S. Enterprise, including the 30 that were killed in action during the Vietnam War;

(3) honors the service of the 20 U.S.S. Enterprise Sailors who were held as Prisoners of War during the Vietnam War, the 3 who died in captivity, and the 5 that are still listed as missing-in-action; and

(4) congratulates the nearly 100,000 current and former Sailors who have served on the U.S.S. Enterprise and thanks them for the selfless sacrifice they made in service to the United States.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3382. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1, making appropriations for the Department of Defense and the other departments and agencies of the Government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2011, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3383. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.