

I urge my colleagues to pass S. 1471, the Alicia Dawn Koehl Respect for National Cemeteries Act, and ensure that our fallen veterans can rest in peace next to loved ones and fellow servicemembers, not criminals who were guilty of such a horrendous crime.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and 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. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### CALLING FOR THE RELEASE OF YULIA TYMOSHENKO

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 95, S. Res. 165.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 165) calling for the release from prison of former Prime Minister of Ukraine Yulia Tymoshenko in light of the recent European Court of Human Rights ruling.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution, which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment and an amendment to the preamble, as follows:

(Strike out all after the resolving clause and insert the part printed in italic.)

(Strike the preamble and insert the part printed in italic.)

#### S. RES. 165

*Whereas, in August 1991, the Ukrainian Parliament declared independence from the Soviet Union and approved decrees to mint its own currency and take command of all Soviet military units on its soil;*

*Whereas, in December 1991, 90 percent of Ukrainians voted in a referendum to support independence from the Soviet Union;*

*Whereas Ukraine has experienced increased economic and political cooperation with Europe and the United States since its independence from the Soviet Union;*

*Whereas, in 1996, Ukraine adopted its first democratic constitution that included basic freedoms of speech, assembly, religion, and press;*

*Whereas in 2004, Ukrainians organized a series of historic protests, strikes, and sit-ins known as the "Orange Revolution" to protest electoral fraud in the 2004 presidential election;*

*Whereas Yulia Tymoshenko was a leader of the Orange Revolution and was first elected as Prime Minister in 2005;*

*Whereas, in the 2010 presidential election, incumbent President Viktor Yushchenko won only 5.5 percent in the first round of voting, which left former Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich and then Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko to face one another in a run-off election;*

*Whereas Mr. Yanukovich defeated Ms. Tymoshenko by a margin of 49 percent to 44 percent;*

*Whereas, on October 11, 2011, Ms. Tymoshenko was found guilty and sentenced to seven years in prison on charges that she abused her position as Prime Minister in connection with a Russian natural gas contract;*

*Whereas, on January 26, 2012, the Parliamentary Assembly Council of Europe (PACE) passed a resolution (1862) that declared that the articles under which Ms. Tymoshenko was convicted were "overly broad in application and effectively allow for ex post facto criminalization of normal political decision making";*

*Whereas, on May 30, 2012, the European Parliament passed a resolution (C153/21) deploring the sentencing of Ms. Tymoshenko;*

*Whereas, on September 22, 2012, the United States Senate passed a resolution (S. Res. 466, 112th Congress) that condemned the selective and politically motivated prosecution and imprisonment of Yulia Tymoshenko, called for her release based on the politicized charges, and called on the Department of State to institute a visa ban against those responsible for the imprisonment of Ms. Tymoshenko and the other political leaders associated with the 2004 Orange Revolution;*

*Whereas, on April 7, 2013, President of Ukraine Viktor Yanukovich pardoned former interior minister Yuri Lutsenko and several other opposition figures allied with Ms. Tymoshenko;*

*Whereas, on April 30, 2013, the European Court of Human Rights, which settles cases of rights abuses after plaintiffs have exhausted appeals in their home country courts, ruled that Ms. Tymoshenko's pre-trial detention had been arbitrary; that the lawfulness of her pre-trial detention had not been properly reviewed; that her right to liberty had been restricted; and, that she had no possibility to seek compensation for her unlawful deprivation of liberty;*

*Whereas, on April 30, 2013, Department of State Spokesman Patrick Ventrell reiterated the United States call that Ms. Tymoshenko "be released and that the practice of selective prosecution end immediately" in light of the European Court of Human Rights decision;*

*Whereas Ukraine hopes to sign an association agreement with the European Union during the Eastern Partnership Summit in November 2013; and*

*Whereas, after the European Court of Human Rights ruling, European Parliament Committee on Foreign Affairs chairman Elmar Brok stated that "Ukraine is still miles away from fulfilling European standards" and must "end its selective justice" before signing the association agreement: Now, therefore, be it*

*Resolved That the Senate—*

*(1) calls on the Government of Ukraine to release former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko from imprisonment based on politicized and selective charges and in light of the April 2013 European Court of Human Rights verdict;*

*(2) calls on the European Union members to include the release of Ms. Tymoshenko from imprisonment based on politicized and selective charges as a criterion for signing an association agreement with Ukraine at the upcoming Eastern Partnership Summit in Lithuania;*

*(3) expresses its belief and hope that Ukraine's future rests with stronger ties to Europe, the United States, and others in the community of democracies; and*

*(4) expresses its concern and disappointment that the continued selective and politically motivated imprisonment of former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko unnecessarily detracts from Ukraine's otherwise strong relationship with Europe, the United States, and the community of democracies.*

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise to speak to an issue relative to the nation of Ukraine. It is the continued imprisonment of former Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko. Sadly, for over 2 years now, she has been languishing in prison on politicized

charges that she abused her position in connection with a natural gas contract with Russia.

This is a photo showing the former Prime Minister's trial in Ukraine. This occurred, as I said, more than 2 years ago.

I am not going to judge the wisdom of that contract—one of an endless series of policy decisions any chief executive makes in most nations. But this is an imprisonment that has been recognized by the international community and countless human rights organizations and by the European Court of Human Rights as selectively prosecuted and politically motivated. This is an imprisonment that has a whiff of the neighboring nation of Belarus, where those who run for President against strongman dictator Alexander Lukashenko not only always lose the election but virtually always get thrown in jail—talk about a disincentive to run for office—but not from Ukraine, which has looked to solidify its place among the community of democracies, do we expect this kind of conduct.

When I visited Ukraine last May, I had the opportunity to meet with President Yanukovich, the Prime Minister, and the Foreign Minister. I was grateful they gave me their time. During those discussions, I always raised the issue of Ms. Tymoshenko's imprisonment, hoping it would be solved. They gave me kind of indirect assurances that it would in a very brief time.

Last year, Senator INHOFE of Oklahoma, as well as Senators BOXER, CASEY, MENENDEZ, and I, introduced a Senate resolution calling for her release. It passed unanimously last September—over 1 year ago. Yet here we are today, more than 1 year later and a few weeks before an important opportunity for Ukraine to strengthen its ties to the West by potentially signing an agreement with the European Union, and Ms. Tymoshenko is still in jail.

This is not only embarrassing, it is disgraceful. This is a costly distraction from all the other important issues in the Ukraine, a nation which has such great potential. It plays into Russian President Putin's hands, who would like nothing more than to see the European Union Association Agreement scuttled because of the failure of the Ukrainian Government to release Ms. Tymoshenko. Why would Ukraine's leaders want to succumb to Russian bullying and jeopardize political ties to the West over a simple grudge regarding the previous Prime Minister?

I am dismayed by the seeming inability to find a reasonable compromise that would allow Ms. Tymoshenko to seek medical treatment abroad, a move that would allow us to instead focus on strengthening the important ties between the United States, the European Union, and Ukraine.

Ukraine is our friend and ally. It helped us in Libya and in Afghanistan.

Its leadership rightly sees Ukraine's future with the West. But when you join the community of democracies, you simply do not throw your former political opponents in jail over policy disagreements. You instead offer better ideas and beat them in an election.

That is why this summer, regrettably, I introduced a followup resolution again calling for the release of Ms. Tymoshenko. I am happy to note that Senators BARRASSO, BOOZMAN, BOXER, CARDIN, INHOFE, MENENDEZ, MURPHY, PORTMAN, RUBIO, SESSIONS, and SHAHEEN have joined me on that resolution. Let me add that is not a group of Senators we see agree on too many issues. We all agree on this. For months, we have been waiting, assured that a resolution to Ms. Tymoshenko's case would come to fruition. We saw Ukraine take promising steps toward political reform. We saw some of Ms. Tymoshenko's allies pardoned.

Over the course of the last few weeks in particular, we were optimistic that the negotiations led by former President of the European Parliament Pat Cox and former Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski were seemingly making headway toward a solution in which Ms. Tymoshenko would leave to go to Germany for medical treatment. We were hopeful such a solution would come in time for Ukraine to sign an association agreement with the EU during the Eastern Partnership Summit in Vilnius at the end of this month—a step strongly supported by the United States.

We held off in calling this resolution with the hope that real progress would take place. But last Wednesday, after 2 years of delay and obfuscation on this issue, the Ukrainian Parliament postponed a vote on the bill that would have secured this resolution—a move that only adds to the long list of missed opportunities in Ukraine. That is why today, with some disappointment, my colleagues and I have decided to move forward and pass this resolution in the Senate.

There is still time to find a solution before the Eastern partnership summit takes place at the end of the month, so I am hopeful our friends in the Ukraine will be able to find an honorable way forward to put the best interests of the country first and end Ms. Tymoshenko's detention.

I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment to the resolution be agreed to; the resolution, as amended, be agreed to; the committee-reported amendment to the preamble be agreed to; the preamble, as amended, be agreed to; and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

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

The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The resolution, (S. Res. 165), as amended, was agreed to.

The amendment to the preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, as amended, with its preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

#### TORNADOES IN ILLINOIS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, search and rescue operations are underway in several Illinois communities today after deadly tornadoes tore through my home State yesterday.

Eight people died as a result of the storms—six in Illinois—and dozens are seriously injured.

My heart goes out to the people who have lost so much and today are beginning to sort through the rubble.

Take a look at what the people in Washington, IL, near Peoria, woke up to this morning.

This photo shows what is left of the neighborhood on Devonshire Road.

It is difficult to know which property is which because the homes have been reduced to splinters.

The tornado cut a path from one end of Washington to the other, knocking down power lines, rupturing gas lines, and ripping off roofs.

This is another picture of the devastation in Washington, IL. It looks as though this whole neighborhood has been destroyed.

Mayor Gary Manier says between 2,000 and 3,000 homes were damaged by tornadoes in his city, alone. He credits the advance warning system for saving many lives. Mayor Manier estimates people in Washington had about 4-to-5 minutes to take cover.

Washington is a city of about 15,000 people. It is about 150 miles southeast of Chicago.

At least 400 homes were destroyed there—wiped off their foundations.

Standalone homes, multifamily homes, and apartment buildings were damaged. Rescue teams are searching the debris to make sure all the victims of the storm are accounted for.

Several stories have been reported of debris from Washington ending up near Streator, IL, which is more than 50 miles away. People in Streator found part of a plastic recycling bin with the Washington city emblem on it and a UPS package addressed to one of Washington's hardest hit neighborhoods. A person in Lockport, IL; which is two hours away, found a savings bond with a Washington, IL, address.

Many other Illinois communities were struck by the twisters. This photo shows some of the aftermath in Brookport, IL, which is in Massac County, in the southern part of the State.

Several people in Brookport said some homes moved as much as 20-feet off their foundations. Seventy homes were destroyed and many more are damaged.

Three of the six people who died in Illinois lived in Massac County.

The Village of Gifford, IL, a small community of 500 people, suffered severe damage. About 160 homes were destroyed there. People there say it looks as though half of the town has been wiped away.

In Washington County, two siblings, Joseph Hoy, who was 80 years old, and Frances Hoy, who was 78, died in the storms. They lived in the Village of New Minden.

Coal City, Nashville, East Peoria, Pekin—many Illinois communities were struck by the tornadoes.

In the face of all this devastation, people all over the State are beginning the painful task of assessing the damage.

In fact, we are starting to hear stories of bravery during the tornadoes.

In Washington, a 6-year-old boy is being credited for saving the lives of his mother and older brother.

Six-year-old Brevin Hunter was playing a video game when he heard the wail of the siren yesterday. He urged his mom to go down to the basement.

His mother, Lisa Hunter, had heard the siren, too, but said the skies looked deceptively calm, so she thought it was a drill.

Brevin wouldn't let up. He told his mother that he learned in school that when you hear the siren, you have to go somewhere safe.

Brevin, his mother, and Brevin's older brother, Brody, grabbed a futon and went to the basement just minutes before the tornado slammed into their duplex in Washington Estates.

Lisa Hunter credits her little boy for saving their lives.

Lorelei Cox, a teacher in the City of Washington, credits a former student for saving her life and her husband's.

Cox's house was directly in the path of the storm. She and her husband, Dave, took shelter when they heard the sirens, but they were buried by debris when the twister hit. They survived but could not get out.

Cox says she and her husband were dug out from under the rubble by one of her former students.

Governor Pat Quinn has declared seven Illinois counties State disaster areas.

Champaign, Grundy, LaSalle, Massac, Tazewell, Washington, and Woodford Counties are receiving the trucks, communications equipment, and heavy equipment needed to remove debris. More than 60 National Guardsmen are helping with recovery.

Earlier today I spoke with Jonathon Monken, the head of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency. He assured me that FEMA representatives are in the State, assessing the damage, and working with State and local officials to help people.

The State has dispatched technical rescue teams to a number of locations across the State, and is providing emergency generators, light towers, and communications systems.

The extent of the damage is breathtaking. I commend the mayors and first responders who are on the front lines, bringing order to the chaos, and Governor Quinn and his team, who are getting immediate help to the communities hardest hit.

And I am confident that the State will need Federal assistance to help