

S. RES. 446

Whereas on May 4, 1964, Congress declared bourbon whiskey a distinctive product of the United States that is unlike other types of alcoholic beverages, whether foreign or domestic;

Whereas to be designated as “bourbon,” a product must conform to high standards and be manufactured in accordance with the laws and regulations of the United States, which prescribe Federal Standards of Identity for “bourbon whiskey”;

Whereas bourbon whiskey has achieved recognition and acceptance throughout the world as a distinctive product of the United States;

Whereas Kentucky, the birthplace of bourbon, produces 95 percent of the world’s supply;

Whereas Kentucky’s iconic bourbon brands are reaching farther than ever, with more than 30,000,000 gallons shipped to 126 countries, making bourbon the largest export category among all United States distilled spirits and a source of national pride;

Whereas bourbon production has increased by more than 120 percent since 1999, contributing to the development of a vibrant bourbon tourism industry in Kentucky;

Whereas bourbon is a vital part of American culture and the economy, generating close to 9,000 jobs in Kentucky and almost \$2,000,000,000 in gross Kentucky product in 2010; and

Whereas the bourbon industry continues its efforts to promote the responsible and moderate use of its product, and to curb drunken driving and underage drinking: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate recognizes the 50th anniversary of the Congressional declaration of bourbon whiskey as a distinctive product of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 447—RECOGNIZING THE THREATS TO FREEDOM OF THE PRESS AND EXPRESSION AROUND THE WORLD AND REAFFIRMING FREEDOM OF THE PRESS AS A PRIORITY IN THE EFFORTS OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO PROMOTE DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. RUBIO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 447

Whereas Article 19 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted at Paris December 10, 1948, states that “everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive, and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers”;

Whereas, in 1993, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed May 3 of each year as “World Press Freedom Day” to celebrate the fundamental principles of freedom of the press, to evaluate freedom of the press around the world, to defend the media from attacks on its independence, and to pay tribute to journalists who have lost their lives in the exercise of their profession;

Whereas, on December 18, 2013, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution (A/RES/68/163) on the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity, which unequivocally condemns all attacks and violence against journalists and media workers, including torture, extrajudicial killings, en-

forced disappearances, arbitrary detention, and intimidation and harassment in both conflict and non-conflict situations;

Whereas 2014 is the 21st anniversary of World Press Freedom Day, which focuses on the theme “Media Freedom for a Better Future: Shaping the Post-2015 Development Agenda”;

Whereas the Daniel Pearl Freedom of the Press Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-16622; U.S.C. 2151 note), which was passed by unanimous consent in the Senate and signed into law by President Barack Obama in 2010, expanded the examination of freedom of the press around the world in the annual human rights report of the Department of State;

Whereas, according to Reporters Without Borders, 71 journalists and 39 citizen journalists were killed in 2013 in connection with their collection and dissemination of news and information;

Whereas, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, the 3 deadliest countries for journalists on assignment in 2013 were Syria, Iraq, and Egypt, and in Syria, the deadliest country for such journalists, an unprecedented number of journalists were abducted;

Whereas, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, 617 journalists have been murdered since 1992 without the perpetrators of such crimes facing punishment;

Whereas, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, the 5 countries with the highest number of unsolved journalist murders are Iraq, the Philippines, Algeria, Colombia, and Somalia;

Whereas, according to Reporters Without Borders, 826 journalists and 127 citizen journalists were arrested in 2013;

Whereas, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, 211 journalists worldwide were in prison on December 1, 2013;

Whereas, according to Reporters Without Borders, the 5 countries with the highest number of journalists in prison are Syria, China, Eritrea, Turkey, and Iran;

Whereas, according to Reporters Without Borders, the Government of Syria and extremist rebel militias have intentionally targeted journalists, causing dramatic repercussions for the freedom of the press throughout the region;

Whereas the Government of the Russian Federation has engaged in an unprecedented campaign to silence the independent press and undermine freedom of expression, including its recent efforts to destabilize Ukraine;

Whereas freedom of the press is a key component of democratic governance, the activism of civil society, and socioeconomic development; and

Whereas freedom of the press enhances public accountability, transparency, and participation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses concern about the threats to freedom of the press and expression around the world following World Press Freedom Day, held on May 3, 2014;

(2) commends journalists and media workers around the world for their essential role in promoting government accountability, defending democratic activity, and strengthening civil society, despite threats to their safety;

(3) pays tribute to the journalists who have lost their lives carrying out their work;

(4) calls on governments abroad to implement United Nations General Assembly Resolution (A/RES/68/163), by thoroughly investigating and seeking to resolve outstanding cases of violence against journalists, including murders and kidnappings, while ensuring the protection of witnesses;

(5) condemns all actions around the world that suppress freedom of the press, such as

the recent kidnappings of journalists and media workers in eastern Ukraine by pro-Russian militant groups;

(6) reaffirms the centrality of freedom of the press to efforts by the United States Government to support democracy, mitigate conflict, and promote good governance domestically and around the world; and

(7) calls on the President and the Secretary of State—

(A) to improve the means by which the United States Government rapidly identifies, publicizes, and responds to threats against freedom of the press around the world;

(B) to urge foreign governments to transparently investigate and bring to justice the perpetrators of attacks against journalists; and

(C) to highlight the issue of threats against freedom of the press year-round.

SENATE RESOLUTION 448—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE ON THE POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES REGARDING STABILIZING THE CURRENCY OF UKRAINE

Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. CRUZ) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 448

Whereas the territorial integrity of Ukraine has been compromised by the unlawful annexation of Crimea by the Russian Federation;

Whereas the territorial integrity of Ukraine continues to be under threat because of unlawful provocations by the Russian Federation;

Whereas ongoing economic hardships in Ukraine are being exploited by unlawful separatist elements with allegiances to the Russian Federation;

Whereas strengthening of the economy of Ukraine can help stabilize the unrest in the southern and eastern parts of Ukraine and support the territorial integrity of Ukraine;

Whereas the Russian Federation has declared the Russian ruble to be legal tender in Crimea following its unlawful annexation of Crimea, to circulate in parallel with the hryvnia, the national currency of Ukraine, until January 1, 2016;

Whereas the Russian Federation will exploit currency competition between the ruble and the hryvnia during the period both currencies are in circulation in Crimea in an attempt to portray the Russian-controlled managed economy as superior to Western-style democracy and free markets;

Whereas a stable national currency can be important to facilitate economic growth;

Whereas the hryvnia dropped in value by 35 percent relative to the United States dollar between January and May 2014;

Whereas currency boards have a long record of promoting superior performance in countries with emerging markets by spurring higher economic growth rates, lower inflation rates, and more fiscal discipline than central banks that employ floating exchange rates;

Whereas the establishment of a national currency board for Ukraine can generate a more stable currency and enhance demand for the hryvnia;

Whereas, under a currency board, the hryvnia could be convertible into the United States dollar or the euro, both of which are dominant global reserve currencies;

Whereas the ability to convert the hryvnia into the United States dollar or the euro would help make the hryvnia stable and its exchange more reliable;

Whereas a stable national currency can boost investor confidence and make Ukraine less susceptible to destabilizing rhetoric from the Russian Federation;

Whereas the International Monetary Fund has a long track record of supporting the establishment of currency boards and financial mechanisms that approximate currency boards, notably through the implementation of Article VII of Annex 4 of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, initiated at Dayton, November 21, 1995 (commonly known as the “Dayton Peace Accords”), which mandated a currency board for Bosnia and Herzegovina;

Whereas the International Monetary Fund can provide the technical expertise necessary to ensure that a currency board run by monetary authorities in Ukraine is implemented properly;

Whereas currency board systems have been designed for other countries in Europe with positive results, including Estonia, Lithuania, and Bosnia and Herzegovina;

Whereas the United States Congress sent a strong message of solidarity with the people of Ukraine by passing the Support for the Sovereignty, Integrity, Democracy, and Economic Stability of Ukraine Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–95; 128 Stat. 1088), which included financial assistance for Ukraine; and

Whereas strengthening of the national currency of Ukraine and supporting the institution of a disciplined monetary regime would send a powerful signal of support for Ukraine: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the United States and Ukraine should examine the benefits of implementing a currency board system as a way to stabilize the national currency of Ukraine and to improve the economy of Ukraine; and

(2) if Ukraine decides to pursue the implementation of a currency board system, the United States Secretary of the Treasury should work with the International Monetary Fund to help create a currency board for Ukraine that can assist Ukraine to improve its economy.

SENATE RESOLUTION 449—COMMEMORATING AND HONORING THE DEDICATION AND SACRIFICE OF THE FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS WHO HAVE BEEN KILLED OR INJURED IN THE LINE OF DUTY

Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. COONS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. REED, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. WICKER, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. PRYOR, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. HEINRICH, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 449

Whereas the well-being of all individuals in the United States is preserved and enhanced as a direct result of the vigilance and dedication of law enforcement officers;

Whereas more than 900,000 law enforcement officers greatly risk their personal safety to serve individuals in the United States as guardians of the peace;

Whereas law enforcement officers are often on the front lines in protecting the schools and school children in the United States;

Whereas, in 2013, 101 law enforcement officers across the United States were killed in the line of duty;

Whereas Congress should strongly support initiatives to reduce violent crime and contribute to the safety of law enforcement officers, including—

(1) providing such officers with equipment of the highest quality and modernity;

(2) increasing the availability and use of bullet-resistant vests for such officers;

(3) improving training for such officers; and

(4) providing advanced emergency medical care for such officers;

Whereas more than 19,000 Federal, State, and local law enforcement officers lost their lives in the line of duty while protecting citizens of the United States, and the names of such officers are engraved on the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, DC;

Whereas, in 1962, President John F. Kennedy designated May 15 as “National Peace Officers Memorial Day”; and

Whereas, on May 15, 2014, more than 20,000 law enforcement officers are expected to gather in Washington, DC, to join the families of their fallen comrades to honor those comrades and all law enforcement officers who have fallen before them: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commemorates and acknowledges the dedication and sacrifices of the Federal, State, and local law enforcement officers who have been killed or injured in the line of duty;

(2) recognizes May 15, 2014, as “National Peace Officers Memorial Day”; and

(3) calls on the people of the United States to observe that day with appropriate ceremonies, solemnity, appreciation, and respect.

SENATE RESOLUTION 450—DESIGNATING MAY 17, 2014, AS “KIDS TO PARKS DAY”

Mr. UDALL of Colorado (for himself, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. PORTMAN, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 450

Whereas the 4th annual Kids to Parks Day will be celebrated on May 17, 2014;

Whereas the goal of Kids to Parks Day is to empower young people and encourage families to get outdoors and visit the parks of the United States;

Whereas on Kids to Parks Day, individuals from rural and urban areas of the United States are reintroduced to the splendid Federal, State, and neighborhood parks that are located in their communities;

Whereas communities across the United States offer a variety of natural resources and public land, often with free access, to individuals seeking outdoor recreation;

Whereas the people of the United States, young and old, should be encouraged to lead more healthy and active lifestyles;

Whereas Kids to Parks Day is an opportunity for families to take a break from their busy lives and come together for a day of wholesome fun; and

Whereas Kids to Parks Day will broaden the appreciation of young people for nature and the outdoors: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates May 17, 2014, as “Kids to Parks Day”;

(2) recognizes the importance of outdoor recreation and the preservation of open spaces to the health of the young people of the United States; and

(3) calls on the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 451—RECALLING THE GOVERNMENT OF CHINA'S FORCIBLE DISPERSION OF THOSE PEACEABLY ASSEMBLED IN TIANANMEN SQUARE 25 YEARS AGO, IN LIGHT OF CHINA'S CONTINUED ABYSMAL HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD

Mr. BARRASSO submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 451

Whereas, in 1989, Chinese citizens involved in a peaceful democratic movement gathered in Tiananmen Square to call for the establishment of a dialogue with their government on democratic reforms, including freedom of expression and freedom of assembly;

Whereas, on June 4, 1989, Chinese authorities ordered the People's Liberation Army and other security forces to use lethal force to disperse demonstrators in Tiananmen Square;

Whereas the number of peaceful protesters killed or injured by the forcible dispersion remains unknown to this day;

Whereas, 25 years after these deaths, there has been no accountability on the part of the Government of the People's Republic of China in disciplining involved officials;

Whereas there remain imprisoned to this day individuals who expressed their desire for democracy in China 25 years ago in Tiananmen Square;

Whereas the Department of State's most recent human rights report on China found that “citizens did not have the right to change their government”;

Whereas, even in recent weeks, the Government of the People's Republic of China has detained those who attempt to peacefully commemorate the events of June 1989, including activists such as Pu Zhiqiang and Wen Kejian;

Whereas the Department of State's most recent human rights report on China found “extrajudicial killings” remained a problem in China;

Whereas the Department of State's most recent human rights report on China found the government continued to target “for arbitrary detention or arrest” “human rights activists, journalists, . . . and former political prisoners and their family members”; and

Whereas June 4, 2014, is the 25th anniversary of the Tiananmen Square massacre: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses sympathy to the families of those killed, tortured, and imprisoned as a result of their participation in the democracy gathering on June 4, 1989, in Tiananmen Square, Beijing, in the People's Republic of China;

(2) commends all peaceful advocates for democracy and human rights in China;

(3) condemns the ongoing and egregious human rights abuses by the Communist Government of the People's Republic of China;

(4) calls on the Communist Government of the People's Republic of China to—

(A) release all prisoners of conscience, including those persons still in prison as a result of their participation in the peaceful pro-democracy gatherings of 1989 and those