

a rush of saltwater into the interior delta would damage this already fragile ecosystem, disrupt drinking water supplies, flood agricultural land, inundate towns, and damage roads, powerlines, and water infrastructure.

Establishing the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area will secure much needed Federal resources for delta communities. Our legislation recognizes the delta as a working landscape central to California life and seeks to further local projects already underway that promote environmental stewardship, heritage conservation, community revitalization, and economic development throughout the delta.

This legislation also seeks to fulfill the broadly supported 2009 California State law that called for a heritage area designation for the delta and the Delta Protection Commission's own feasibility report in 2012.

Our legislation is a small part of the commitment the Federal Government must make to the California delta. I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues at every level of government to restore the delta and its native species, upgrade California's water supply, safeguard against flood risk, improve water quality, and preserve delta communities' rich heritage and continued vibrancy.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 98—DESIGNATING THE FIRST WEEK OF APRIL 2017 AS "NATIONAL ASBESTOS AWARENESS WEEK"

Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. DAINES, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. LEAHY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 98

Whereas dangerous asbestos fibers are invisible and cannot be smelled or tasted;

Whereas the inhalation of airborne asbestos fibers can cause significant damage;

Whereas asbestos fibers can cause cancer (such as mesothelioma), asbestosis, and other health problems;

Whereas symptoms of asbestos-related diseases can take between 10 and 50 years to present themselves;

Whereas the projected life expectancy for an individual diagnosed with mesothelioma is between 6 and 24 months;

Whereas generally, little is known about late-stage treatment of asbestos-related diseases, and there is no cure for asbestos-related diseases;

Whereas early detection of asbestos-related diseases may give some patients increased treatment options and might improve the prognoses of those patients;

Whereas the United States has substantially reduced the consumption of asbestos in the United States, yet the United States continues to consume tons of the fibrous mineral each year for use in certain products throughout the United States;

Whereas asbestos-related diseases have killed thousands of people in the United States;

Whereas while exposure to asbestos continues, safety and prevention of asbestos exposure has significantly reduced the incidence of asbestos-related diseases and can further reduce the incidence of asbestos-related diseases;

Whereas thousands of workers in the United States face significant asbestos exposure, which has been a cause of occupational cancer;

Whereas thousands of people in the United States die from asbestos-related diseases every year;

Whereas a significant percentage of all asbestos-related disease victims were exposed to asbestos on naval ships and in shipyards;

Whereas asbestos was used in the construction of a significant number of office buildings and public facilities built before 1975;

Whereas people in the small community of Libby, Montana, suffer from asbestos-related diseases, including mesothelioma, at a significantly higher rate than people in the United States as a whole; and

Whereas the designation of a "National Asbestos Awareness Week" will raise public awareness about the prevalence of asbestos-related diseases and the dangers of asbestos exposure: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the first week of April 2017 as "National Asbestos Awareness Week";

(2) urges the Surgeon General of the United States to warn and educate people about the public health issue of asbestos exposure, which may be hazardous to their health; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit a copy of this resolution to the Office of the Surgeon General.

SENATE RESOLUTION 99—RECOGNIZING THE 11 AFRICAN-AMERICAN SOLDIERS OF THE 333RD FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION WHO WERE MASSACRED IN WERETH, BELGIUM, DURING THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE IN DECEMBER 1944

Mr. MANCHIN (for himself and Mr. COTTON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

S. RES. 99

Whereas, in December 1944, during the Battle of the Bulge in Belgium, soldiers of the 333rd Field Artillery Battalion, an African-American unit of the Army, were operating in support of the 106th Infantry Division when the 106th Infantry Division and the soldiers from the 333rd Field Artillery Battalion were overrun;

Whereas, months after the Battle of the Bulge, the frozen bodies of 11 soldiers from the 333rd Field Artillery Battalion were found near the Belgian hamlet of Wereth;

Whereas the bodies of the 11 soldiers were—

(1) identified as James Stewart of West Virginia, Due Turner of Arkansas, Curtis Adams of South Carolina, Mager Bradley of Mississippi, George Davis, Jr. of Alabama, Thomas Forte of Mississippi, Robert Green of Georgia, James Leatherwood of Mississippi, Nathaniel Moss of Texas, George Motten of Texas, and William Pritchett of Alabama;

(2) examined by Army Medical Corps officials; and

(3) found to have been stabbed, shot, and struck by blunt force;

Whereas the massacre of the 11 African-American soldiers of the 333rd Field Artillery Battalion in Wereth remains unknown to the vast majority of the people of the United States;

Whereas, in 2004, a permanent monument in Wereth was dedicated to the 11 African-American soldiers of the 333rd Field Artillery Battalion who lost their lives in Wereth during the Battle of the Bulge in the effort to defeat fascism and defend freedom; and

Whereas the 11 patriots have become known as the "Wereth 11": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate, on behalf of the United States, recognizes the dedicated service and ultimate sacrifice of the 11 African-American soldiers of the 333rd Field Artillery Battalion who were massacred in Wereth, Belgium, during the Battle of the Bulge in December 1944.

SENATE RESOLUTION 100—CONDEMNING ILLEGAL RUSSIAN AGGRESSION IN UKRAINE ON THE THREE YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE ANNEXATION OF CRIMEA

Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. COONS, Mr. GARDNER, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. JOHNSON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 100

Whereas the illegal Russian military occupation of the Crimea region of Ukraine is an affront to international norms, an unprovoked aggression, and a threat to regional stability;

Whereas Russian President Vladimir V. Putin has a history of regional aggression, including the Russian invasion of the South Ossetia and Abkhazia regions of the Georgia in 2008 and intervention in favor of the breakaway region of Transnistria in Moldova in 1991-1992;

Whereas Article II of the Charter of the United Nations states that "all members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state";

Whereas, in 1994, the United States, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and Ukraine signed the Budapest Memorandum, in which all parties pledged to respect and uphold Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity in exchange for Ukraine voluntarily giving up the world's third-largest nuclear arsenal, which it inherited following the collapse of the Soviet Union;

Whereas a failure of the United States to uphold the terms of the Budapest Memorandum would have significant consequences for the credibility of United States guarantees related to nuclear nonproliferation and undermine America's commitment to the principle of the inviolability of national borders;

Whereas an association agreement between Ukraine and the European Union was signed in 2014, a move which will strengthen ties with Europe and which President Poroshenko described as Ukraine's "most important day" since it secured its independence in 1991;

Whereas, on February 28, 2014, Russian forces in unmarked uniforms occupied strategic civil and military infrastructure in Crimea and provided support to pro-Russian militias and activists as part of a coordinated strategy to seize control of Crimea and create the illusion of an organic, local rebellion against oppressive Ukrainian authorities;

Whereas, on March 18, 2014, following a fraudulent public referendum that was boycotted by most Crimean Tatars and Ukrainians and conducted under the shadow of Russian military forces, President Putin signed a treaty annexing Ukraine's Crimea region, which was immediately met with condemnation by the United States and the international community;

Whereas, on July 17, 2014, Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 was shot down near the village of Grabove over rebel-held territory, killing the nearly 300 people onboard, an attack for which the Dutch Safety Board concluded that the Russian-backed separatists were responsible;

Whereas the Government of Ukraine and Russian-backed rebels agreed to a now-failed cease-fire ("Minsk I") on September 5, 2014, which called for the withdrawal of "illegal armed groups as well as militants and mercenaries from the territory of Ukraine";

Whereas a Memorandum was signed by parties to Minsk I on September 19, 2014, outlining their understanding of and obligations to the agreement;

Whereas the fragile cease-fire established by the Minsk I agreement deteriorated following heavy fighting in the Donetsk region, which included operations by Russian-led separatists and regular Russian forces;

Whereas the Minsk II Agreement signed on February 12, 2015, by the Russian Federation, Ukraine, Germany, and France, included the withdrawal of all foreign armed groups, weapons, and mercenaries;

Whereas, on February 25, 2015, General Philip Breedlove, NATO Supreme Allied Commander, said that the state of affairs in Ukraine is "getting worse every day" and the Russian Federation has no intention of retreating from Ukraine until its "objectives are accomplished";

Whereas Russian-backed separatists continue to shell parts of Ukraine and separatists have executed Ukrainian servicemembers, both in direct violation of the negotiated cease-fire;

Whereas aggression by Russian-led separatist forces in Avdiivka in early February 2017 sparked the worst fighting since 2015 and resulted in significant damage to civilian infrastructure and the displacement of thousands of civilians;

Whereas, despite President Poroshenko's statement that Crimea is still Ukraine, and in the face of Resolution 68/262 adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on March 27, 2014, which reiterated the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine and stated that the referendum held on March 16, 2014, had "no validity [and] cannot form the basis for any alteration of the status of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea or of the city of Sevastopol," the Government of the Russian Federation continues to refer to Crimea as a "region of the Russian Federation," declaring that "of course the subject of our region is not up for discussion";

Whereas the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 71/205, which condemned the "abuses, measures and practices of discrimination against the residents of the temporarily occupied Crimea, including Crimean Tatars, as well as Ukrainians and persons belonging to other ethnic and religious groups, by the Russian occupation authorities";

Whereas, during a hearing held by the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate on March 10, 2015, former United States Ambassador to Ukraine John E. Herbst cautioned that President Putin is attempting to "overturn the post-Cold War order established in Europe and Eurasia";

Whereas the Government of the Russian Federation has previously cut off natural gas to Ukraine as a bargaining chip;

Whereas the Government of the Russian Federation has gone to great lengths to hide evidence of its military support, including deploying mobile crematoriums to dispose of the bodies of servicemembers and classifying the deaths of its servicemembers during peacetime a state secret;

Whereas the Government of the Russian Federation is directly arming, training, supplying, and commanding separatist forces in eastern Ukraine, and Russian military personnel maintain a regular presence inside the territory of Ukraine;

Whereas Russia vetoed United Nations Security Council Resolution 2015/562, which would have established an international tribunal to prosecute those responsible for the downing of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17;

Whereas OSCE vehicles have been attacked in an attempt to intimidate Special Monitoring Mission (SSM) personnel, with the deputy head of mission Alexander Hug noting the attacks seemed to be "aimed at stopping the OSCE from reporting what is going on [in Donetsk]";

Whereas Ukraine's National Security Council outlined a new military doctrine in September 2015 that declared Ukraine's intention to achieve the criteria for joining NATO;

Whereas Ukrainian leaders, including President Petro Poroshenko, have stated the Government of Ukraine's desire to pursue closer cooperation with NATO with the goal of potentially joining NATO in the future, with Rada Speaker Andriy Parubiy stating in June 2016 that he is "convinced that for Ukraine, at the time of Russian aggression, NATO membership is the strategic direction of our development";

Whereas the United Nations has reported that, since the beginning of the conflict, almost 10,000 people have been killed, including more than 2,000 civilians;

Whereas the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) reports that nearly 600,000 children living in eastern Ukraine have been deeply affected by the conflict and that 1,000,000 children in Ukraine are in "urgent need" of humanitarian assistance, and the European Union reports that a total of 3,800,000 people are in need of humanitarian assistance;

Whereas the United Nations Working Group on Mercenaries in March 2016 raised "deep concern" about the conflict in Ukraine and called on Ukraine to "ensure accountability for human rights violations committed by foreign armed actors";

Whereas the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights reports several instances of pro-unity supporters and Crimean Tatar activists being abducted or "found dead in circumstances resembling a summary execution" alleged to be committed by "the de facto authorities of Crimea, or with their authorization, support or acquiescence";

Whereas journalists have come under attack or arrest for speaking out against Russian aggression, such as Pavel G. Sheremet, who was killed by a car bomb in July 2016, and Mykola Semena, a reporter for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty arrested in Crimea and currently on trial for writing that Crimea was part of Ukraine;

Whereas NATO pledged, during the July 2016 NATO summit in Warsaw, to provide additional training and technical support to the Ukrainian military and re-endorsed a Comprehensive Assistance Package that will ensure the Government of Ukraine receives further advisory support, enhanced defense capabilities, and military training;

Whereas the United States Government has committed over \$600,000,000 in security assistance to Ukraine since 2014;

Whereas Congress has authorized the provision of defensive lethal assistance to Ukraine in the Ukraine Freedom Support Act (Public Law 113-272), the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 (Public Law 114-92), and the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-328);

Whereas, in 2014, President Barack Obama issued Executive Orders 13660, 13661, 13662, and 13685, which imposed sanctions blocking property of certain persons and prohibiting transactions with respect to the Crimea Region of Ukraine as a result of Russia's illegal annexation and military aggression in Ukraine;

Whereas NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg stated on November 21, 2016, that NATO "will never recognize the illegal annexation of Crimea, and [NATO] continue[s] supporting the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine";

Whereas, on February 3, 2017, United States Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley stated, "Crimea is a part of Ukraine. Our Crimea-related sanctions will remain in place until Russia returns control over the peninsula to Ukraine.";

Whereas, on February 16, 2017, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson stated, "As we search for new common ground we expect Russia to honor its commitment to the Minsk agreements and work to de-escalate violence in Ukraine.";

Whereas, on March 13, 2017, the European Union extended sanctions against Russian individuals and entities imposed because of the annexation of Crimea by the Russian Federation;

Whereas United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres on February 21, 2017, stated that the United Nations "remains committed to supporting the peaceful resolution of the conflict in a manner that fully upholds the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and independence of Ukraine";

Whereas President Putin has made alarming claims about his views on Russian territoriality, stating that Russia's border "doesn't end anywhere," and has since announced that he "[does not] regret anything" about annexing Crimea; and

Whereas Ukraine celebrated its 25th year of independence on August 24, 2016: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the Government of the Russian Federation's illegal, unprovoked military occupation of the Crimea region of Ukraine and continued aggression in eastern Ukraine, and reiterates that it is the policy of the United States not to recognize the de jure or de facto sovereignty of the Russian Federation over Crimea or any other seized area in Ukraine, its airspace, or its territorial waters;

(2) supports the vigorous enforcement of sanctions and opposes the lifting of sanctions as long as Russia continues its military aggression in Ukraine in violation of the Minsk II Agreement;

(3) calls on the Government of the Russian Federation to immediately end its support for the separatists in eastern Ukraine, allow Ukraine to regain control of its internationally recognized borders, and withdraw its military presence in eastern Ukraine, including Crimea;

(4) declares that the United States Government must never recognize the illegal annexation of Crimea by the Russian Federation;

(5) urges the President of the United States, in coordination with United States allies, to stand by Ukraine, condemn continued Russian aggression, and use all possible tools to combat Russian belligerence, including increased economic sanctions, defensive

lethal assistance, and democracy and humanitarian assistance, as authorized by the Ukraine Freedom Support Act, the Fiscal Year 2016 National Defense Authorization Act, and the Fiscal Year 2017 National Defense Authorization Act;

(6) urges the President of the United States to continue United States support for the Ukrainian economy and civil society, including continued support by international financial institutions, such as the International Monetary Fund;

(7) condemns efforts by the Government of the Russian Federation to intimidate and coerce nations in Eastern Europe from strengthening their ties with NATO and the European Union;

(8) supports efforts by the United States Government and United States allies to strengthen the energy sector in Ukraine in order to reduce Ukraine's dependence on natural gas imported from the Russian Federation;

(9) acknowledges the Government of Ukraine for its commitment to reform and encourages it to continue implementation of key reforms, including judicial reform, greater parliamentary oversight, further implementation of anti-corruption initiatives, including prosecutions and convictions of major figures involved in corruption schemes, budget and procurement transparency and accountability across government, civilian control of the military, and improved end-use monitoring and sustainment plans for United States security assistance items;

(10) urges the President of the United States not to agree to any final settlement of the conflict in Ukraine without the consent of the Government of Ukraine;

(11) pledges continued support for all democratic allies and partners of the United States facing increased Russian aggression;

(12) reaffirms the commitment of the United States to the Budapest Memorandum on security assurances;

(13) reiterates the obligation of all nations under the United Nations Charter to respect the territorial integrity and sovereignty of other nations;

(14) encourages United States allies in Europe to continue their coordinated efforts to counter Russian aggression in the region, including economic sanctions, increased defense spending, and greater action against Russian disinformation and propaganda in order to make clear that Russian efforts will not go unchecked;

(15) calls on the Government of the Russian Federation to provide greater access to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe's (OSCE) Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) in order to ensure credible international monitoring of compliance with the Minsk agreement; and

(16) calls on the Government of the Russian Federation to engage seriously in dialogue with the Government of Ukraine—in coordination with key international partners—in order to come to an agreement that respects Ukraine's sovereignty, ensures regional stability, and puts both nations on the path towards a permanent ceasefire.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 193. Mr. McCONNELL proposed an amendment to Treaty Doc. 114-12, Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro.

SA 194. Mr. McCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 193 proposed by Mr. McCONNELL to Treaty Doc. 114-12, *supra*.

SA 195. Mr. McCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him

to Treaty Doc. 114-12, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 196. Mr. McCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 195 submitted by Mr. McCONNELL to Treaty Doc. 114-12, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 197. Mr. McCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the resolution of ratification for Treaty Doc. 114-12, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 198. Mr. McCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 197 submitted by Mr. McCONNELL to the resolution of ratification for Treaty Doc. 114-12, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 199. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to Treaty Doc. 114-12, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 200. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to Treaty Doc. 114-12, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 201. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to Treaty Doc. 114-12, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 202. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the resolution of ratification for Treaty Doc. 114-12, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 203. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the resolution of ratification for Treaty Doc. 114-12, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 193. Mr. McCONNELL proposed an amendment to Treaty Doc. 114-12, Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro; as follows:

At the end add the following:

"This Treaty shall be effective 1 day after ratification."

SA 194. Mr. McCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 193 proposed by Mr. McCONNELL to Treaty Doc. 114-12, Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro; as follows:

Strike "1 day" and insert "2 days".

SA 195. Mr. McCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to Treaty Doc. 114-12, Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end add the following:

"This Treaty shall be effective 3 days after ratification."

SA 196. Mr. McCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 195 submitted by Mr. McCONNELL to Treaty Doc. 114-12, Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike "3 days" and insert "4 days".

SA 197. Mr. McCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the resolution of ratification for Treaty Doc. 114-12, Protocol to the

North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end add the following:

"This resolution shall be effective 5 days after ratification."

SA 198. Mr. McCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 197 submitted by Mr. McCONNELL to the resolution of ratification for Treaty Doc. 114-12, Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike "5" and insert "6".

SA 199. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to Treaty Doc. 114-12, Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of Article I of the Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro, add the following: "The Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro shall not obligate the United States Armed Forces to hostilities in accordance with Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 unless the United States Congress passes a declaration of war pursuant to article I, section 8, clause 11 of the United States Constitution."

SA 200. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to Treaty Doc. 114-12, Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of Article I of the Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro, add the following: "The Protocol is dependent on Montenegro meeting its commitment that defense expenditure is two percent of Montenegro's gross domestic product."

SA 201. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to Treaty Doc. 114-12, Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of Article I of the Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro, add the following: "The Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro is dependent on each member of NATO and Montenegro meeting its commitment that defense expenditure is two percent of its gross domestic product."

SA 202. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the resolution of ratification for Treaty Doc. 114-12, Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Montenegro; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of paragraph (1) of section 3, add the following:

(C) The inclusion of Montenegro in NATO will contribute materially to the territorial defense of the United States.