

Whereas in December 2013, the G-8 nations met and adopted a political declaration supporting the goal of a cure or disease-modifying therapy for dementia by 2025 as well as collectively and significantly increasing resources committed to dementia research;

Whereas Alzheimer's takes an emotional and physical toll on caregivers that results in a higher incidence of chronic conditions, such as heart disease, cancer, and depression among caregivers;

Whereas the National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease of the Department of Health and Human Services makes recommendations relating to family caregivers of individuals with Alzheimer's to provide care while maintaining personal health and well-being;

Whereas the National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease supports informal caregivers by—

- (1) identifying the support needs of caregivers;
- (2) developing and disseminating modes for intervention;
- (3) providing information that caregivers need, particularly in crisis situations; and
- (4) assisting caregivers in maintaining personal health and well-being;

Whereas a strong and sustained research effort is the best tool to slow the progression and ultimately prevent the onset of Alzheimer's;

Whereas while the cost to the Medicare and Medicaid programs of caring for individuals with Alzheimer's is estimated to be \$160,000,000,000 in 2016, the United States, through the National Institutes of Health, will spend about \$991,000,000 on Alzheimer's research in 2016;

Whereas the Chairman of the Advisory Council on Alzheimer's Research, Care, and Services created by the National Alzheimer's Project Act (42 U.S.C. 11225) has testified before Congress that the United States must devote at least \$2,000,000,000 each year to Alzheimer's research to reach the goal of preventing and effectively treating Alzheimer's by 2025; and

Whereas the public members of the Advisory Council on Alzheimer's Research, Care, and Services unanimously agree with the testimony of the Chairman regarding the amount of money required to reach the goal for 2025; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) is committed to strengthening the quality of care and expanding support for individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (referred to in this resolution as "Alzheimer's") and family caregivers of individuals with Alzheimer's;

(2) declares that achieving the primary goal of the National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease to prevent and effectively treat Alzheimer's by 2025 is an urgent national priority;

(3) recognizes that bold action and considerable increases in funding are necessary to meet that goal;

(4) encourages greater collaboration between the United States and other global governments, particularly the G-7 nations, to advance a global Alzheimer's and dementia research plan;

(5) supports innovative public-private partnership and the pursuit of innovative financing tools, incentives and other mechanisms to accelerate the pursuit of disease-modifying therapies; and

(6) strives to—

(A) double the amount of funding the United States spends on Alzheimer's research in fiscal year 2017; and

(B) develop a plan for fiscal years 2018 through 2021 to meet the target of the Advisory Council on Alzheimer's Research, Care, and Services for the United States to spend

\$2,000,000,000 each year on Alzheimer's research.

SENATE RESOLUTION 50—RE-AFFIRMING A STRONG COMMITMENT TO THE UNITED STATES-AUSTRALIA ALLIANCE RELATIONSHIP

Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. COONS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. BLUNT) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 50

Whereas Australia is a fellow democracy and vital partner of the United States;

Whereas the United States and Australia share core values as well as deep cultural, security, and people-to-people ties;

Whereas Australia has been a treaty ally of the United States since the signing of the Australia-New Zealand-United States (ANZUS) Treaty in 1951;

Whereas an alliance bond is a sacred vow of friendship and trust, and Australia has always been a faithful and reliable partner to the United States;

Whereas United States-Australia defense and intelligence ties and cooperation are exceptionally close, and Australian forces have fought together with the United States military in every significant conflict since World War I and over 100,000 Australian service members have paid the highest price in the course of their service alongside United States allies;

Whereas Australia was one of the first countries to commit troops to United States military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq after September 11, 2001;

Whereas Australia is a close partner of the United States, sharing information essential to the defense and security of the two countries, including through the Five Eyes intelligence community;

Whereas the United States-Australia alliance is an anchor for peace and stability in the Indo-Asia Pacific region and around the world;

Whereas, United States and Australia signed the U.S.-Australia Force Posture Agreement at the annual Australia-United States Ministerial consultations (AUSMIN) in August 2014, paving the way for even closer defense and security cooperation;

Whereas, on October 2015, United States and Australia defense agencies signed a Joint Statement on Defense Cooperation to serve as a guide for future cooperation;

Whereas Australia has welcomed proposals to reposition United States Marines to maintain Marine forces in the western Pacific and improve the United States strategic posture in the Indo-Asia Pacific region;

Whereas Australia has led peacekeeping efforts in the Indo-Asia Pacific, including in Timor-Leste and the Solomon Islands;

Whereas Australia and the United States share strategic interests in the Indo-Asia Pacific region and globally, and have worked together to promote these shared goals and objectives;

Whereas the United States and Australia have been free trade agreement partners since 2005, and the United States has a positive trade balance with Australia;

Whereas robust United States-Australia defense cooperation contributes not only to the mutual defense of the two countries but also to American jobs;

Whereas more than 300,000 United States jobs are supported by United States exports

to Australia and nearly 9,000 Australian companies sell or operate in the United States;

Whereas the United States and Australia work closely in the numerous global and regional fora, including the World Trade Organization and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum;

Whereas Australia shares many of the United States' concerns in the struggle against Islamist militancy in Southeast Asia and beyond, and is part of the global coalition to defeat the "so-called Islamic State (IS)"; and

Whereas the United States and Australia have enjoyed a close relationship over many successive Republican and Democratic administrations: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) reaffirms the strong alliance relationship between Australia and the United States;

(2) supports continued diplomatic, military, and economic cooperation between Australia and the United States; and

(3) reaffirms the importance of a United States-Australia relationship based on mutual respect and befitting a close and longstanding United States alliance partner crucial to the preservation of United States national interests in the Indo-Asia Pacific region and around the world.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, tonight the Senator from Maryland, Mr. CARDIN, and I and a bipartisan group of U.S. Senators, have submitted a resolution reaffirming the strong alliance between the United States and Australia. I wish to speak about that for a few minutes.

I don't know what happened during last week's telephone call between the President of the United States and the Prime Minister of Australia, but I do know this: The people of the United States do not have better friends than the people of Australia.

We are more than friends. As one Australian told me when our family lived there thirty years ago, "Well, we're mates all right. The English may be our ancestors but you Americans are our cousins. First cousins. We started out the same kind of people. Underprivileged, a long way from home, doing the same kind of thing, looking for a new life. Found a hard life. Hoped it would be a better one for our children. Each wave of new ones lifted up the last ones. A pioneering spirit in the countryside here. In America, too."

Even though they live down under on the other side of the world, for a century Australians have stood with us every time we are at war, and we have stood with them. During World War II, when Australian troops were fighting in North Africa and Europe, and the Japanese were bombing Darwin four times a day, the United States came to the rescue. In 1992, Dick Cheney and I, as members of President George H.W. Bush's Cabinet, traveled to Australia to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Battle of the Coral Sea, when the U.S. Navy stopped Japan's advance. Today, no two countries trust one another and cooperate in security arrangements more than Australia and America. We trade, we visit one another, and our

students study in each other's universities.

Thirty years ago, our family lived an American dream and we moved to Australia. We arrived on Australia Day, January 26, 1987, 199 years after the first fleet of English settlers sailed into Sydney Harbor. After 8 years of swiveling in the Governor's chair, on the very day I was sworn out of office, my wife Honey and I and our four children flew to Sydney for Six Months Off in the "Land Down Under." It was my wife's idea: an opportunity for a retreat from the merry-go-round of power and to discover what really was important.

We rented a home in view of the most beautiful harbor in the world, bought an Australian car, and I learned to drive on the wrong side of the road. Our four children walked to Australian schools, and we all sank deeply into the culture of America's favorite cousins. I attended Chester A. Arthur Society meetings, where Australian Parliament members competed to show that they know more about American history than United States Senators do. We spent the night in the South Wales bush. We saw 9-foot crocodiles in the Northwest Territory. We traveled by train to see the Melbourne Zoo and took a horseback trip across the Snowy Mountains. It didn't take long for us to understand what Mark Twain meant when he wrote: "When a stranger from America steps ashore in Sydney . . . the thing that strikes him is that it is an English City with American trimmings."

We made friends then that exist to this day. Last year, four of those friends, the Australian Foreign Minister Bob Carr and the Australian Ambassador to the United States Kim Beazley and their wives, spent the weekend with us at our home outside the Great Smoky Mountains in Tennessee. We cherish those friendships and our country's relationship with Australia. It is always appropriate for the U.S. Senate to reaffirm the importance of that relationship, and I am glad to join Senator CARDIN and a long list of bipartisan U.S. Senators to do that again today.

To offer a more complete understanding of what makes the Australians our favorite cousins, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD chapter 30 from my book "Six Months Off," written after our time in Australia.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

CHAPTER 30—FIRST COUSINS

"When a stranger from America steps ashore in Sydney . . . the thing that strikes him is that it is an English city with American trimmings."—Mark Twain, *Following the Equator*

You would have thought the Sydney taxi driver, who was English, was speaking of his barely grown-up stepchildren.

"They hate the English, the Australians. Why? Because they realize we're superior. Minute they find out you're from England

they've got a chip on their shoulder. It's the convict thing—you know they came from convicts. It's the darndest thing I've ever gotten myself into. I've been here four years and now I've got a superiority complex."

The taxi paused at the entrance to the harbor bridge, but no one was waiting to take the toll. I had read in the morning Herald how toll-takers were striking in support of the postal workers, who had stopped carrying mail while they bargained for a pay increase. We sped on across without paying and the genealogy lesson continued. "Master the little quirks of living here and you know it's not a bad place, but the Aussies still need convincing of the fact. They'll find their own identity one day. Then they won't have to come on so strong. Over the years England ruled a bit too heavily here, but the Aussies are their own people now. They don't have to always prove themselves to anybody, but they do."

The Grand Ballroom of the Sheraton Wentworth Hotel was crowded with guests, black-tied and long-gowned for the Australian-American Bicentennial Dinner. Honey and I found our places and introduced ourselves and found that the other ten who were dining with us at large round table number 27 were all Australian. We sat down and then were immediately invited to rise so that the American ambassador could toast the queen of Australia. The governor-general of Australia responded with a toast to the president of the United States, and we sat again.

"He is the only man in Australia for whom everyone will always stand," explained the lady on my right, as the governor-general began speaking so gently that the raucous table talk in the ballroom quieted.

"It is a happy accident of fate that the Constitution of the United States was being signed in 1787 just as our first fleet was sailing eastward across the Atlantic from Rio to Cape Town on the third leg of its ten-months long voyage. The fleet carried a cargo of convicts who would have been on their way to Georgia had not the American Revolution succeeded and denied the British the opportunity to send their prisoners to America."

The lady on my right, who wore a white dress and dangling gold earrings, whispered, "It's the 'in' thing now, you know, to trace back to see if your ancestors were on the first fleet. A lot of people have always known they were descended from lawbreakers, but very few had been willing to spend money to prove it."

The governor-general was proceeding toward a triumphant conclusion. "The links between our two nations have evolved from earliest times. Out pioneers, like yours, were as unlikely a band as one could conceive. Your gold rush spilled into ours. Our constitution has been built on yours. Our soldiers have died together and we have shared freedoms of speech and of associations and of laws and of humanities and of civil liberties—and now both of us are a melting pot. We read your prose, we speak your poetry and watch your plays and films. We even watch your terrible TV dramas!"

Applause and generous expressions of affection erupted all around, and the governor-general smiled, cautiously retreated, and sat, and Dame Leonie Kramer of the University of Sydney rose and strode to the microphone and spoke bluntly.

"We are profoundly interested in one another, but we are more profoundly ignorant. Americans, for example, are enchanted that this is the land of the crocodiles but they don't seem to have enough sense to stay out of the water when they are here."

Dame Leonie Kramer then sat, and our table plunged into grilled fresh fish and boiled asparagus tips and hot conversation.

The car dealer on my left said, "When I was in America, they thought we had roos

hopping in the streets and crocs in the swimming pools and abos behind the fences." His short-cropped hair and narrow tie and innocent eagerness would have made him a perfect candidate for the role of father in a 1950s American family television series.

His plumpish wife agreed. "Most Americans can't find Australia on the map, and even when they do you always have to prove to them that it's as big as the United States."

Her husband laughed. "One bloke coming to the America's Cup almost went back when he found out Perth is as far from Sydney as L.A. is from New York."

A tanned young blond woman, sitting between the car dealer and me, said, "I was skiing in Denver once, was on the lift, and an American man was in the next seat and he was trying to come on to me, and so he asks me, 'In Australia it's summer, isn't it?,' and I say 'Right.' And then in a minute he says, 'And what month is it in Australia?'"

The Australians especially enjoyed that, which encouraged the blonde, who turned to me and asked, "How do you like Australia?" She asked this in the same worried way Californians used to question visiting New Yorkers.

I said, "It's beautiful and friendly, but what surprises me is how much like America it is. Sometimes I think I'm at a family on another planet."

The blonde said, "It is another planet, orbiting in sight of the big ones but never to be one."

The plumpish wife of the car dealer agreed. "We always seem to be missing something."

I said, "But, for an American, coming to Australia is almost better than going home again. When you try to go home again it's a disappointment. It's only nearly perfect. But when you come to Australia it's such a pleasant surprise how nearly perfect it is."

The car dealer said, "I reckon everyone in America must have heard about your family reunion. Three hundred thousand of 'em coming this year. That's what the telly said."

The lady in the white dress and earrings on my right asked, "Isn't Australia just the flavor-of-the-month in America? Couldn't we just as well be Timbuktu?"

"It's more than that," her thin and red-faced husband said. He was a member of Parliament.

Honey, who was sitting on the right of the member of Parliament, suggested, "Some Americans come here looking for 'The America that Was.'"

The M.P. said, "Some of us hope America is the 'Australia the Might Be.'"

The car dealer leaned across the table and said to them, "And you'll both be disappointed. Australia's the land of bushmen and sheepshearers and croc hunters in about the same way America's the land of Hopalong Cassidy and the cowboys."

His plumpish wife supported him. "Crocodile Dundee's a fairy tale, isn't that right? And America's not really like Miami Vice." She didn't seem entirely sure.

I said, "Sometimes we don't know so much about ourselves. Sometimes we're visitors in our own countries."

Waiters arrived with plates of an Australian dessert called a Pavlova—whipped cream and fresh papaya in meringue shell—and exclamations over its fluffiness only temporarily diminished the conversation.

"Well, we're mates, all right." The car dealer could not tolerate a lull. "The English may be our ancestors, but you Americans are our cousins."

"First cousins," said the thin, red-faced member of Parliament, whom I sensed correctly was preparing to make a statement. "We started out the same kind of people, underprivileged, a long way from home, doing

the same sort of thing, looking for a new life. Found a hard life. Hoped it would be better for the children. Each wave of new ones lifted up the last ones. A pioneering spirit in the countryside here. In America, too."

"I love America!" exclaimed the wife of the Australian bicentennial chairman who was sitting across the table. Her cheerful face had been hidden behind an enormous centerpiece of flowers. "When they sing 'New York, New York' I get excited with the best of 'em. It's our second home. It opens your eyes a bit, doesn't it, to get out of your own country."

"When you do, we look awfully small." The speaker was a dour bald gentleman sitting next to her, who might have been seventy, a plywood manufacturer who was rather obstructed by the centerpiece. For the moment, he held the floor. "Our GNP is about the size of the GNP of Los Angeles."

The blond woman said, "Australia's a village, same names always popping up."

The plywood man said, "Americans have got a head start and size and location and better education, and they have more self-confidence."

This resonated with the blond woman's male guest, whose name I never got in all the din and who now decided to talk to me. "We follow America. You regulate the stock market, so we do it, too. You change school curriculum. We do it, too. Don't think about it. Just do it."

"We'd have been better off to start with pilgrims and a revolution, instead of convicts," said the plywood manufacturer.

"We could have used an Alamo," suggested the car dealer. "We had Gallipoli," said the blonde's friend.

"Wouldn't it have been nice to have something in the center besides a red desert?" sighed the plywood man's wife.

The last of the fluffy Pavlova had been scraped from the plates, and the coffee and mints arrived.

The young blond woman suddenly turned to me and insisted, "I reckon I ought to have a quarter of a vote every time you elect a president. I should. After all, we sit here half our time waiting for American to do something. Our prime minister can't make a deal with Gorbachev. No one's wondering what Australia's trade policy will be. We have to depend on you."

"We already do," said the member of Parliament. "Do what?" asked the blonde.

"Depend on America. For defense. For things we really enjoy. Ask any of our school kids. I've done it. 'Where would you like to go on this planet?' and nine out of ten say, 'Disneyland.' The script for every Australian Tonight show was prepared by an American until recently."

The car dealer was saying to Honey, "We never can have anything like the things that you have in America. There're not enough of us Aussies. Disneyland and interstate highways—things that are ordinary to you—are a wonder to us. Space stations. All the museums in Washington, D.C."

"Another reason we can't is what's happening on Pitt Street," intoned the plywood manufacturer.

"The esplanade work?"

"The lack of it. Did you hear the workers complained about passersby harassing them for leaning on their shovels? And that yesterday the arbitration board awarded them a twenty-seven-cent wage increase because of the harassment!"

The blond woman's date said, "Watch them on MacQuarie Street, at the restoration, the workers smearing suntan oil. It would make a good frame for 'still life.' I watched them from my club window yesterday at lunch."

The car dealer said, "Sunday's Herald said United stewards works twice as much as Qantas stewards."

I said, "You see that on flights to Tokyo. The same Qantas crews going up on Monday and coming back on Thursday. And last month the Bridgestone Tire Company president told me his tire plants work three hundred forty-five days in Japan and America, and the Bridgestone plant in Adelaide works only two hundred ten."

The plywood man looked positively funereal. "We're unusual, all right. We pay double time for afternoon work, for overtime, for vacation. We pay for days off on a butchers' picnic and a bakers' picnic—everybody has a picnic and we pay for that. How are we going to compete with the rest of the world when we're on a picnic?"

Now the men were enjoying long cigars and the ladies were doing their best to survive the haze, and my watch said the dinner had already lasted three hours.

Honey said, "I see a lot of Japanese cars and American fast foods, but I don't hear much proper English. Is it because I'm American and just don't notice it?"

"It's because we've changed," said a lady across the table who up till now had been mostly listening. "We moved here in 1978. We decided Sydney winters were better than English summers, so we sold our house in London. Then, Australians still spoke of 'going home' to England. Now, no one talks about 'going home.' Australianness is coming out all round. We're more American, too, but mainly we're prouder of being Australian."

The wife of the member of Parliament said to Honey, "Read our children's books. I'll send you some for your children. Instead of stories about English hobgoblins, there are more about aborigine spirits and stories full of the sounds of frogs croaking and of the didgeridoo, hostile and growling like the bely of the earth."

Honey said, "The new Sheraton in Yulara was lovely, brown like the desert and built like sails."

The wife of the M.P. said, "Our Australianness came out all right when they tried to kill the brumbies in the Snowy Mountains. Put a stop to that."

Honey said, "We've seen a lot of Australia in David Williamson's plays and Mary Gilmore's poetry and Ken Done's bright splashy painting . . ."

" . . . and Fred Elliot's old marine watercolors even if he was drunk a lot," I added.

The wife of the plywood manufacturer said, "And I believe we're learning that our harsh vast spaces and distance from everyone sometimes can be a wonderful advantage." Those were the first words she had uttered in nearly two hours.

From behind the centerpiece of flowers came the cheerful contribution of the wife of the bicentennial chairman. "Eight hundred ten of our eight hundred thirty shires have bicentennial committees."

The member of Parliament added, "At least now we toast the queen of Australia instead of the empire." His wife, on my right with white dress and earrings, asked me, "Have you tried the wicket grubbs, the moth larvae the abos used to eat? They're all the rage. Large and crispy and in all the best restaurants."

"No," I said, "but I have been to the beaches and I have thought about those convicts who were laughing at the aborigines standing there sandy and naked and greasy. Now, the descendants of some of those first-fleet convicts are on the same beaches, sandy and naked and greasy."

The member of Parliament had arranged himself into speaking position. "Remember. The English left us. We didn't leave them. They joined the Common Market. Gave us five years to adjust our exports."

This roused the car dealer, who said, "It goes back to the last war. Churchill said,

'Let them have Australia. We'll win it back.' Our boys were on the other side, fighting in North Africa and in Europe and the Japanese were bombing Darwin four times a day. The Americans saved us."

His wife, who was finishing off his mints, too, agreed. "Two Christmases ago there were ten thousand American sailors in Perth and some family took every one of 'em home for the holidays."

The lights dimmed and the official bicentennial film began. Trumpets heralded the arrival of the first fleet of "settlers" on Australia's Identity Day, January 26, 1788, and violins moved the story quickly along into the nineteenth century, and then lingered amid the excitement of the gold rush at Ballarat.

I whispered to the wife of the member of Parliament, "It didn't mention that the 'settlers' were convicts."

"No worries," she said. "The first bicentennial logo forgot Tasmania. Had to make a new one. But it's a good thing, our bicentennial. Helps us remember important things."

SENATE RESOLUTION 51—RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEES AND PLEDGING TO OPPOSE EFFORTS TO REDUCE FEDERAL WORKFORCE PAY AND BENEFITS, ELIMINATE CIVIL SERVICE EMPLOYMENT PROTECTIONS, UNDERMINE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING, AND INCREASE THE USE OF NON-FEDERAL CONTRACTORS FOR INHERENTLY GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES

Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. MURRAY, and Ms. CANTWELL) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:

S. RES. 51

Whereas Federal agencies are tasked with the fundamental responsibility of serving to protect, promote, and preserve the rights and interests of the people of the United States;

Whereas the activities of the Federal Government encompass a broad range of activities, including—

- (1) conducting and supporting military operations;
- (2) protecting the homeland, including transportation, communications, financial, and other systems;
- (3) preserving and enhancing public health;
- (4) supporting the least fortunate;
- (5) defending the rights and interests of individuals and consumers;
- (6) enhancing and preserving the environment of the United States; and
- (7) promoting and facilitating commerce;

Whereas, to achieve these objectives, many Federal agencies conduct operations 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, and 365 days per year;

Whereas, according to the Office of Personnel Management, the Federal Government directly employs approximately 2,100,000 individuals to carry out the functions of the Federal Government;

Whereas, in the past 50 years, the population of the United States increased from approximately 198,000,000 individuals to more than 321,400,000 individuals, while the Federal workforce actually decreased from approximately 2,200,000 employees to approximately 2,100,000 employees;