

Italy, Luxemburg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, and the United Kingdom signed the North Atlantic Treaty that formed the basis of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (in this preamble referred to as “NATO”);

Whereas NATO was created to protect countries from a growing Soviet threat, promote international peace and stability, and defend freedom;

Whereas, to date, 28 countries have joined NATO;

Whereas, for more than 67 years, NATO has served as a central pillar of United States national security and a deterrent against adversaries and external threats;

Whereas NATO continues to improve its collective defense measures, enhance its military capabilities to address a full spectrum of complex threats, and partner with non-NATO countries to promote international stability;

Whereas Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty is an integral part of NATO and states that “[t]he Parties agree that an armed attack against one or more of them in Europe or North America shall be considered an attack against them all...”;

Whereas NATO invoked Article 5 for the first time less than 24 hours after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks against the United States;

Whereas, in Afghanistan, NATO allies and partners have served alongside United States forces since 2001, reaching a peak of more than 42,000 ally and partner forces, 6,300 NATO forces continue to serve today alongside the 6,900 United States forces there, and more than 1,100 NATO ally and partner forces have paid the ultimate price in service to the collective defense of NATO;

Whereas NATO took the lead in helping combat the terrorist threat in Afghanistan through the International Security Assistance Force and Operation Resolute Support, contributing to the safety of the United States and the international community;

Whereas all 28 NATO allies and many NATO partners are contributing to the Global Coalition to Counter the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant;

Whereas approximately 18,000 military personnel are currently engaged in NATO missions around the world, conducting operations in Afghanistan, Kosovo, the Mediterranean, and off the Horn of Africa;

Whereas NATO conducts a range of maritime security operations in the Mediterranean and is essential to establishing stability along the borders of Europe and to responding to the ongoing refugee and migrant crisis;

Whereas, for nearly 10 years, NATO has provided airlift support for the mission of the African Union in Somalia, as well as assisted with training the African Standby Force at the request of the African Union;

Whereas, for more than 17 years, NATO has led peace-support operations in Kosovo to maintain safety and security in a volatile region;

Whereas NATO has three standing forces on active duty at all times to defend the Alliance, air policing capability, maritime forces, and an integrated air defense system;

Whereas NATO allies and the international community continue to look to NATO to deter the increasingly revanchist activities of Russia;

Whereas Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Joseph Dunford, testified before the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate on July 19, 2015, that Russia presents the “greatest existential threat” to the United States;

Whereas the malign actions of Russia—its 2008 incursion into Georgia, its illegal annexation of Crimea, its continued military ac-

tion in Ukraine, its targeting of civilians in Syria, its ongoing information war in Europe, its continued violations of the Intermediate Nuclear Forces Agreement, and its cyberattacks aimed at influencing United States elections—have violated international laws and norms;

Whereas Russia continues to use disinformation campaigns and promote state propaganda to discredit democracy and undermine NATO members;

Whereas, since the illegal annexation of Crimea and direct support to the conflict in Eastern Ukraine by Russia in 2014, NATO members have undertaken the biggest reinforcement of the collective defense of NATO since the end of the Cold War, enhancing allied readiness and deterrence measures in response to Russian aggression;

Whereas the efforts of NATO to confront and deter Russian aggression in Eastern Europe have included a three-fold increase in the size of the NATO Response Force (NRF) to 40,000 troops; the creation of a Spearhead Force of 5,000 troops capable of deploying within a few days to respond to any threat against an ally, particularly on the eastern flank of NATO; the forward deployment of up to 4,000 troops to Poland, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania; an increase in the air policing and maritime missions of NATO in Eastern Europe; and a significant increase in NATO training and military exercises in Eastern Europe;

Whereas, following the invasion of Ukraine by Russia in 2014, the United States established Operation Atlantic Resolve and the European Reassurance Initiative to reassure NATO allies that the United States would uphold its global security commitments and work in coordination with European partners to deter Russian aggression;

Whereas, since 2014, Operation Atlantic Resolve and the European Reassurance Initiative have demonstrated the continued commitment of the United States to its NATO allies and partners by engaging in deterrence and security measures against potential Russian aggression in the region;

Whereas the United States is further strengthening its force presence in Europe through the continuous deployment of an armored brigade combat team to Poland on a rotating basis;

Whereas, on January 6, 2017, as a part of Operation Atlantic Resolve, 3,500 United States troops from the 4th Infantry Division in Fort Carson, Colorado, along with more than 2,500 military vehicles, were deployed to Eastern Europe to deter regional aggression;

Whereas continued United States leadership in NATO is critical to ensuring that NATO remains the greatest military alliance in history;

Whereas all NATO members have committed themselves to sharing the security burden of NATO at the 2014 NATO Wales Summit by pledging to meet the defense spending target for NATO members of 2 percent of gross domestic product within 10 years;

Whereas the United States, Greece, Poland, Estonia, and the United Kingdom all have exceeded that defense spending target;

Whereas, since the Wales Summit, Latvia, Lithuania, and many other allies have increased defense spending in an effort to meet that defense spending target;

Whereas NATO remains committed to its open door policy on enlargement, working with countries in the Euro-Atlantic region that aspire to join NATO to help meet the requirements for membership;

Whereas, at the 2016 NATO Warsaw Summit, NATO Heads of State and Government formally invited Montenegro to become the 29th member of NATO;

Whereas General James Jones, United States Marine Corps (retired), former National Security Advisor, testified before the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate in July 2016 that “[o]ur 27 NATO allies offer America forward basing, which allows us to better fight enemies like ISIS and deter adversaries like the new Russia and to meet shared challenges. Twenty-eight countries acting as one is a powerful alliance”;

Whereas Secretary of Defense James Mattis testified before the Committee of Armed Services of the Senate, during his hearing as nominee for Secretary of Defense, that “[w]e must also embrace our international alliances and security partnerships. History is clear: Nations with strong allies thrive and those without them wither”;

Whereas there is a long tradition of strong bipartisan agreement that participation in NATO strengthens the security of the United States;

Whereas NATO is the first peacetime military alliance the United States entered into outside the Western Hemisphere and today remains the largest peacetime military alliance in the world;

Whereas a fractured NATO alliance would harm the interests of the United States and embolden adversaries of the United States; and

Whereas a strong and united Europe is important to United States strategic interests: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) pledges that the United States will continue to maintain strong leadership and strengthen its commitments to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (in this resolution referred to as “NATO”);

(2) strongly encourages NATO members to fulfill their pledge to invest at least 2 percent of gross domestic product on defense spending, invest at least 20 percent of such spending on major equipment (including research and development), and shoulder appropriate responsibility within NATO;

(3) recognizes the historic contribution and sacrifice NATO member countries have made while combating terrorism in Afghanistan through the International Security Assistance Force and Operation Resolute Support; and

(4) honors the men and women who served under NATO and gave their lives to promote peace, security, and international cooperation since 1949.

SENATE RESOLUTION 55—RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY 26, 2017, AS THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DENALI NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE IN THE STATE OF ALASKA

Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. SULLIVAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 55

Whereas Alaska Natives have lived on the land surrounding the Denali area and used the resources of the land for food, shelter, clothing, transportation, handicrafts, and trade for thousands of years;

Whereas Judge James Wickersham, of Fairbanks, Alaska, discovered gold in the Kantishna Hills following his attempted ascent of Denali in 1903, prompting a gold rush with several thousand prospectors and the establishment of successful placer and commercial mining operations that lasted for decades;

Whereas explorer Belmore Browne and hunter-naturalist Charles Sheldon visited

the Denali region, observed the natural splendor of Denali, and, along with Alaska's territorial delegate to Congress, Judge Wickersham, and pioneering biological survey naturalist Edward Nelson, tirelessly advocated for Denali's protection;

Whereas early proponents of national parks, such as the Boone and Crockett Club, the Campfire Club of America, and the American Game Protective and Propagation Association, sponsored early expeditions, including those of Sheldon and Brown, and advocated for the creation of a national park at Denali;

Whereas, in 1910, miners from the Kantishna Hills discovered an approach by which Denali might be climbed, relying on years of observations while following quartz leads and hunting sheep in the foothills of the Denali area;

Whereas Athabaskan Walter Harper joined Archdeacon Hudson Stuck, Harry Karstens, and Robert Tatum to successfully summit the highest peak of Denali in 1913, opening the door for thousands of individuals to test their own endurance and fortitude by attempting to climb the giant massif;

Whereas President Woodrow Wilson signed into law the Act entitled "An Act to establish the Mount McKinley National Park, in the Territory of Alaska", approved February 26, 1917 (39 Stat. 938, chapter 121), for the benefit and enjoyment of the people of the United States and the preservation of the Denali area's scenic beauty, animals, birds, and fish;

Whereas Congress expanded the boundaries of Mount McKinley National Park in 1922, 1932, and 1980 and renamed that national park Denali National Park and Preserve after the traditional Koyukon Athabaskan name for the highest peak in the park, Deenaalee, meaning the High One;

Whereas Denali National Park and Preserve protects and interprets Denali, which is the highest mountain in North America, at 20,310 feet, and the tallest above-water mountain, with a vertical relief of almost 18,000 feet measured from its base;

Whereas Denali National Park and Preserve preserves a wild subarctic landscape with a rich and diverse tapestry of plant life and intact ecosystems where bears, wolves, caribou, moose, and Dall sheep roam as they have for thousands of years;

Whereas Denali National Park and Preserve protects a wide array of fossils that point to an age 70,000,000 years ago, when dinosaurs roamed that northern land;

Whereas Denali National Park and Preserve contains 2 of the oldest-known archaeology sites in North America, the oldest of which dates to just over 13,000 years old;

Whereas glaciers still blanket $\frac{1}{4}$ of Denali National Park and Preserve and continue to shape the landscape by carving mountains, feeding silt-laden rivers, and depositing rock and silt across the valleys;

Whereas Denali National Park and Preserve was designated as an International Biosphere Reserve in 1976 and has become a premier international tourist destination;

Whereas, in 2016, nearly 600,000 visitors set foot in Denali National Park and Preserve, the greatest number of visitors in the history of Denali National Park and Preserve and a record number of visitors for the State of Alaska;

Whereas key tourism partners like the Alaska Railroad, the cruise ship industry, air and bus tour companies, and other outfitters have worked diligently to provide a wide array of ways in which the many visitors to Denali National Park and Preserve may experience Denali, including hiking, dog mushing, rafting, and cycling;

Whereas Denali National Park and Preserve's historic Denali Park Road provides

visitors with unparalleled opportunities to experience and explore millions of acres of an accessible wildlife sanctuary that represents one of the crown jewels of the United States;

Whereas residents of the State of Alaska continue their subsistence way of life by hunting and gathering in the majority of Denali National Park and Preserve;

Whereas Denali National Park and Preserve hosts the only working sled dog kennel in a national park, and winter patrols are conducted inside Denali National Park and Preserve using the age-old tradition of dog mushing; and

Whereas Denali National Park and Preserve, known for its breathtaking scenery and iconic wildlife, protects more than 6,000,000 acres of towering mountains, expansive valleys, glacial rivers of ice, braided streams, and wildland for the benefit of all people of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates and celebrates Denali National Park and Preserve on its centennial anniversary;

(2) encourages all people of the State of Alaska and the United States to visit and experience this national treasure; and

(3) designates February 26, 2017, as "Denali National Park and Preserve Day".

SENATE RESOLUTION 56—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD REMAIN A GLOBAL LEADER IN WELCOMING AND PROVIDING REFUGE TO REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS AND THAT NO PERSON SHOULD BE BANNED FROM ENTERING THE UNITED STATES BECAUSE OF THEIR NATIONALITY, RACE, ETHNICITY, RELIGION, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY, OR GENDER

Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. REED, Mr. CARPER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. COONS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. UDALL, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BENNET, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. HEINRICH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. SCHUMER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 56

Whereas the United States is a country founded on the principles of religious and political freedom;

Whereas hateful rhetoric against refugees and asylum seekers betrays the principles on which the United States was founded;

Whereas for centuries, people from around the world have sought refuge in the United States in pursuit of freedom and protection for themselves and their families;

Whereas people often seek refuge and asylum in the United States to flee war, armed conflict, violence, and religious, ethnic, and political persecution;

Whereas refugees and asylum seekers have been welcomed by towns, cities, and States across the United States;

Whereas refugees and asylum seekers have made their new communities stronger and

more vibrant and have positively contributed to the betterment of the United States;

Whereas the United States has a moral obligation to ensure that people fleeing violence and persecution are protected;

Whereas the United States Senate should continue its legacy of bipartisan leadership on refugees and asylum seekers;

Whereas a ban or halt on resettlement may result in prolonged and indefinite family separation;

Whereas executive actions targeting refugees and asylum seekers could place these most vulnerable populations at serious risk of death or injury; and

Whereas refugees are the most thoroughly screened and vetted entrants to the United States, undergoing multiple security checks by the Department of Defense, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of State, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the National Counterterrorism Center: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) it is the sense of the Senate that—

(A) the United States should remain a global leader in welcoming and providing refuge to refugees and asylum seekers; and

(B) no person should be banned from entering the United States because of their nationality, race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender;

(2) the Executive Order titled "Protecting the Nation From Foreign Terrorist Entry Into the United States" issued by the President on January 27, 2017, undermines the national interest of the United States; and

(3) the Senate directs the Secretary of the Senate to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the President, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Attorney General, the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Director of National Intelligence.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has reported that more than 65 million people have been forcibly displaced around the globe by the end of 2015. In the face of such staggering human suffering, we must not shutter our doors and abandon our foundational principle of religious freedom. Yet that is exactly what our new President would have us do with the Executive order he signed 2 weeks ago. This is not something I support, and for good reasons.

Our freedom of religion was enshrined in the Constitution 225 years ago. Since forging this promise, we have been a confident Nation welcoming those of all faiths. The Executive order issued by the new Republican President threatens these founding ideals and the very freedoms we enjoy as Americans. It singles out Muslim refugees and those fleeing violence in Syria, and it suspends the refugee program as a whole. This is not the America I know. It is contrary to our values and contrary to the example America needs to set for the world.

The ongoing conflict in Syria makes clear the enormity of the humanitarian crisis we face. The terror inflicted by both Bashar Al-Assad's regime and ISIS has forced more than half of Syria's 23 million people from their homes and claimed the lives of hundreds of thousands of civilians. Currently, there are more than 4.8 million registered