

Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. REED, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. COONS, Ms. WARREN, Mr. KAINE, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. UDALL, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BROWN, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 552

Whereas World Refugee Day acknowledges the courage, strength, and determination of women, men, and children forced to flee their homes because of persecution or conflict;

Whereas, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees—

(1) a refugee is an individual who faces persecution or has a well-founded fear of persecution because of race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group;

(2) more than 68,500,000 people are displaced worldwide, which is the worst displacement crisis in global history, including 25,400,000 refugees, more than 40,000,000 internally displaced people, 3,100,000 asylum seekers, and 10,000,000 stateless people;

(3) children comprise 52 percent of the global refugee population, many of whom lack access to education;

(4) on average, 44,400 people per day are displaced from their homes;

(5) 16,200,000 individuals were newly displaced due to conflict or persecution in 2017, including 11,800,000 internally displaced persons and 4,400,000 refugees and asylum seekers;

(6) more than 68 percent of all refugees worldwide come from the following 5 countries:

- (A) Syria, with 6,300,000 refugees;
- (B) Afghanistan, with 2,600,000 refugees;
- (C) South Sudan, with 2,400,000 refugees;
- (D) Myanmar, with 1,200,000 refugees; and
- (E) Somalia, with 986,400 refugees;

(7) 37 countries resettled 102,800 refugees, less than 1 percent of people in need of resettlement, in 2017;

(8) more than ½ of the Syrian population was displaced, either across borders or within the country, in 2016; and

(9) the need for third country resettlement continues to grow, with over 1,200,000 refugees requiring resettlement in 2017;

Whereas, during 2017, the United States welcomed a total of 33,400 refugees, well below the United States Government goal of 45,000 refugee admissions, and a 65 percent drop compared with the 96,900 refugees welcomed in 2016;

Whereas, at this pace, the United States may only admit approximately 20,000 refugees this year;

Whereas refugees are the most vetted travelers to enter the United States and are subject to extensive screening checks, including in-person interviews, biometric data checks, and multiple interagency checks;

Whereas refugees contribute to local economies in the United States, pay an average of \$21,000 more in taxes than they receive in benefits, revitalize cities and towns by offsetting population decline, and boost economic growth throughout the United States by opening businesses, paying taxes, and buying homes;

Whereas several industries rely heavily on refugee workers to support economic stability, and low rates of refugee arrival has impacted economic growth, especially in towns that rely on refugee populations to revitalize their industries;

Whereas the ongoing crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo is projected to produce nearly 1,000,000 refugees in neighboring countries in 2018;

Whereas the escalating crisis in Venezuela has forced 1,500,000 refugees to seek safety in neighboring countries and beyond since 2014;

Whereas refugee children are 5 times more likely not to be in school than non-refugee children;

Whereas refugee women and children are often at greater risk of violence, human trafficking, exploitation, and gender-based violence; and

Whereas the United States resettlement program is a life-saving solution critical to global humanitarian efforts, which strengthens global security, advances United States foreign policy goals, and alleviates the burden placed on front-line host countries: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) underscores the importance of the United States Refugee Resettlement Program as a critical tool for the United States global leadership, including leveraging foreign policy, strengthening national and regional security, and encouraging international support of refugees;

(2) reaffirms the bipartisan commitment of the United States to promote the safety, health, and well-being of refugees, including the education of refugee children and displaced persons who flee war, persecution, or torture in search of freedom and safety;

(3) recognizes individuals who have risked their lives working individually and for non-governmental organizations and international agencies, such as United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, to provide life-saving assistance and protection for people displaced by conflict around the world; and

(4) calls upon the United States Government—

(A) to uphold its international leadership role responding to the global refugee crisis with humanitarian assistance and protection for the most vulnerable;

(B) to continue to provide adequate funding for refugee resettlement in the United States and protection for refugees overseas;

(C) to work in partnership with the international community to find solutions to existing conflicts and to prevent new conflicts;

(D) to alleviate the burden on frontline refugee host countries that absorb the majority of the refugees of the world through humanitarian and development support; and

(E) to reaffirm the long-standing tradition of resettling refugees in the United States regardless of nationality or religion.

SENATE RESOLUTION 553—DESIGNATING JUNE 20, 2018, AS “AMERICAN EAGLE DAY” AND CELEBRATING THE RECOVERY AND RESTORATION OF THE BALD EAGLE, THE NATIONAL SYMBOL OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CORKER, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MANCHIN, and Mr. UDALL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 553

Whereas the bald eagle was chosen as the central image of the Great Seal of the United States on June 20, 1782, by the Founding Fathers at the Congress of the Confederation;

Whereas the bald eagle is widely known as the living national symbol of the United States and for many generations has represented values, such as—

- (1) freedom;
- (2) democracy;
- (3) courage;

- (4) strength;
- (5) spirit;
- (6) independence;
- (7) justice; and
- (8) excellence;

Whereas the bald eagle is unique to North America and cannot be found naturally in any other part of the world, which was one of the primary reasons the Founding Fathers selected the bald eagle to symbolize the Government of the United States;

Whereas the bald eagle is the central image used in the official logos of many branches and departments of the Federal Government, including—

- (1) the Executive Office of the President;
- (2) Congress;
- (3) the Supreme Court of the United States;
- (4) the Department of Defense;
- (5) the Department of the Treasury;
- (6) the Department of Justice;
- (7) the Department of State;
- (8) the Department of Commerce;
- (9) the Department of Homeland Security;
- (10) the Department of Veterans Affairs;
- (11) the Department of Labor;
- (12) the Department of Health and Human Services;
- (13) the Department of Energy;
- (14) the Department of Housing and Urban Development;
- (15) the Central Intelligence Agency; and
- (16) the United States Postal Service;

Whereas the bald eagle is an inspiring symbol of the spirit of freedom and the sovereignty of the United States;

Whereas the image and symbolism of the bald eagle has—

- (1) played a significant role in art, music, literature, architecture, commerce, education, and culture in the United States; and
- (2) appeared on United States stamps, currency, and coinage;

Whereas the bald eagle was endangered and facing possible extinction in the lower 48 States but has made a gradual and encouraging comeback to the land, waterways, and skies of the United States;

Whereas the dramatic recovery of the national bird of the United States is an endangered species success story and an inspirational example to other environmental, natural resource, and wildlife conservation efforts worldwide;

Whereas, in 1940, noting that the bald eagle was threatened with extinction, Congress passed the Act of June 8, 1940 (commonly known as the “Bald Eagle Protection Act”) (16 U.S.C. 668 et seq.), which prohibited killing, selling, or possessing the species, and a 1962 amendment expanded protection to the golden eagle;

Whereas, by 1963, there were only an estimated 417 nesting pairs of bald eagles remaining in the lower 48 States, with loss of habitat, poaching, and the use of pesticides and other environmental contaminants contributing to the near demise of the national bird of the United States;

Whereas, in 1967, the bald eagle was officially declared an endangered species under Public Law 89-669 (80 Stat. 926) (commonly known as the “Endangered Species Preservation Act of 1966”) in areas in the United States south of the 40th parallel due to the dramatic decline in the population of the bald eagle in the lower 48 States;

Whereas the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) was enacted in 1973, and in 1978, the bald eagle was listed as an endangered species throughout the lower 48 States, except in the States of Michigan, Minnesota, Oregon, Washington, and Wisconsin, in which the bald eagle was listed as a threatened species;

Whereas, in July 1995, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service announced that in

the lower 48 States, the bald eagle had recovered sufficiently to change the status of the species from endangered to threatened;

Whereas, by 2007, bald eagles residing in the lower 48 States had rebounded to approximately 11,000 pairs;

Whereas, on June 28, 2007, the Secretary the Interior and the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service removed the bald eagle from protection under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), but the bald eagle continues to be protected under the Act of June 8, 1940 (commonly known as the “Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act”) (16 U.S.C. 668 et seq.), the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703 et seq.), section 42 of title 18, United States Code (commonly known as the “Lacey Act”), and the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 (16 U.S.C. 3371 et seq.);

Whereas Challenger, the trained, educational bald eagle of the American Eagle Foundation in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, was invited by the Secretary of the Interior to perform a free-flight demonstration during the official bald eagle delisting ceremony held at the Jefferson Memorial in Washington, District of Columbia;

Whereas experts and population growth charts estimate that the bald eagle population could reach 15,000 pairs, even though a physical count has not been conducted by State and Federal wildlife agencies since 2007;

Whereas caring and concerned agencies, corporations, organizations, and people of the United States representing Federal and State governments and the private sector passionately and resourcefully banded together, determined to save and protect the national bird of the United States;

Whereas the recovery of the bald eagle population in the United States was largely accomplished through—

(1) the dedicated and vigilant efforts of Federal and State wildlife agencies and nonprofit organizations, such as the American Eagle Foundation;

(2) public education;

(3) captive breeding and release programs;

(4) hacking and release programs; and

(5) the translocation of bald eagles from places in the United States with dense bald eagle populations to suitable locations in the lower 48 States that had suffered a decrease in bald eagle populations;

Whereas various nonprofit organizations, such as the Southeastern Raptor Center at Auburn University in the State of Alabama, contribute to the continuing recovery of the bald eagle through rehabilitation and educational efforts;

Whereas the bald eagle might have been lost permanently if not for dedicated conservation efforts and strict protection laws such as—

(1) the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.);

(2) the Act of June 8, 1940 (commonly known as the “Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act”) (16 U.S.C. 668 et seq.);

(3) the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703 et seq.);

(4) section 42 of title 18, United States Code (commonly known as the “Lacey Act”); and

(5) the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 (16 U.S.C. 3371 et seq.); and

Whereas the sustained recovery of the bald eagle population will require the continuation of recovery, management, education, and public awareness programs to ensure that the population numbers and habitat of the bald eagle remain healthy and secure for generations to come: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates June 20, 2018, as “American Eagle Day”;

(2) applauds the issuance of bald eagle commemorative coins by the Secretary of

the Treasury to generate critical funds for the protection of the bald eagle; and

(3) encourages—

(A) educational entities, organizations, businesses, conservation groups, and government agencies with a shared interest in conserving endangered species to collaborate and develop educational tools for use in the public schools of the United States; and

(B) the people of the United States to observe American Eagle Day with appropriate ceremonies and other activities.

# SENATE RESOLUTION 554—DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF JUNE 2018 AS “NATIONAL POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS AWARENESS MONTH” AND JUNE 27, 2018, AS “NATIONAL POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS AWARENESS DAY”

Ms. HEITKAMP (for herself, Mr. HELLER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. TESTER, Mr. ROUNDS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. DAINES, Mr. JONES, Mr. ROBERTS, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HOVEN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. COONS, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CASEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. NELSON, Mr. BENNET, Ms. WARREN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. SMITH, Mr. KING, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. REED) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 554

Whereas the brave men and women of the Armed Forces of the United States (in this preamble referred to as the “Armed Forces”), who proudly serve the United States, risk their lives to protect the freedom of the people of the United States and deserve the investment of every possible resource to ensure their lasting physical, mental, and emotional well-being;

Whereas more than 3,000,000 members of the Armed Forces have deployed overseas since the events of September 11, 2001, and have served in places such as Afghanistan and Iraq;

Whereas the current generation of military men and women has sustained a historically high rate of operational deployments, with many members of the Armed Forces serving overseas multiple times, placing those members at high risk of experiencing combat stress;

Whereas, when left untreated, exposure to traumatic combat stress can lead to post-traumatic stress, sometimes referred to as post-traumatic stress disorder (in this preamble referred to as “PTSD”) or post-traumatic stress injury;

Whereas men and women of the Armed Forces and veterans who served before September 11, 2001, remain at risk for post-traumatic stress;

Whereas the Secretary of Veterans Affairs reports that—

(1) about 11 to 20 percent of veterans who served in Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom have PTSD in a given year;

(2) about 12 percent of Gulf War veterans have PTSD in a given year; and

(3) about 30 percent of Vietnam veterans have had PTSD in their lifetimes;

Whereas many combat stress injuries remain unreported, undiagnosed, and untreated due to a lack of awareness about post-traumatic stress and the persistent

stigma associated with mental health conditions;

Whereas exposure to military trauma can lead to post-traumatic stress;

Whereas post-traumatic stress significantly increases the risk of anxiety, depression, suicide, homelessness, and drug- and alcohol-related disorders and deaths, especially if left untreated;

Whereas public perceptions of post-traumatic stress or other mental health disorders create unique challenges for veterans seeking employment;

Whereas the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and Veteran Service Organizations, as well as the larger medical community, both private and public, have made significant advances in the identification, prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of post-traumatic stress and the symptoms of post-traumatic stress, but many challenges remain;

Whereas increased understanding of post-traumatic stress can help eliminate the stigma attached to this mental health issue;

Whereas additional efforts are needed to find further ways to eliminate the stigma associated with post-traumatic stress, including—

(1) an examination of how post-traumatic stress is discussed in the United States; and

(2) a recognition that post-traumatic stress is a common injury that is treatable and repairable;

Whereas post-traumatic stress can result from any number of stressors other than combat, including rape, sexual assault, battery, torture, confinement, child abuse, car accidents, train wrecks, plane crashes, bombings, or natural disasters, and affects approximately 8,000,000 adults in the United States annually;

Whereas the diagnosis now known as PTSD was first defined by the American Psychiatric Association in 1980 to commonly and more accurately understand and treat veterans who had endured severe traumatic combat stress;

Whereas combat stress had previously been viewed as a mental illness, and the word “disorder” carries a stigma that perpetuates this misconception; and

Whereas the designation of a National Post-Traumatic Stress Awareness Month and a National Post-Traumatic Stress Awareness Day will raise public awareness about issues related to post-traumatic stress, reduce the associated stigma, and help ensure that those individuals suffering from the invisible wounds of war receive proper treatment: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates June 2018 as “National Post-Traumatic Stress Awareness Month” and June 27, 2018, as “National Post-Traumatic Stress Awareness Day”;

(2) supports the efforts of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Defense, as well as the entire medical community, to educate members of the Armed Forces of the United States, veterans, the families of members of the Armed Forces of the United States and veterans, and the public about the causes, symptoms, and treatment of post-traumatic stress;

(3) supports efforts by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Defense to foster cultural change around the issue of post-traumatic stress, understanding that personal interactions can save lives and advance treatment;

(4) welcomes the efforts of the National Center for PTSD of the Department of Veterans Affairs and local Vet Centers (as defined in section 1712A(h) of title 38, United