

Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2101, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the crew of the USS Indianapolis, in recognition of their perseverance, bravery, and service to the United States.

S. 2105

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) were added as cosponsors of S. 2105, a bill to modify the presumption of service connection for veterans who were exposed to herbicide agents while serving in the Armed Forces in Thailand during the Vietnam era, and for other purposes.

S. 2597

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2597, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the program of payments to children's hospitals that operate graduate medical education programs, and for other purposes.

S. 2784

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2784, a bill to reauthorize the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act.

S. 2823

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2823, a bill to modernize copyright law, and for other purposes.

S. 2881

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2881, a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to seek to enter into an agreement with the city of Vallejo, California, for the transfer of Mare Island Naval Cemetery in Vallejo, California, and for other purposes.

S. 2945

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2945, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to carry out a housing choice voucher mobility demonstration to encourage families receiving the voucher assistance to move to lower-poverty areas and expand access to opportunity areas.

S. 2957

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2957, a bill to amend the Horse Protection Act to designate additional unlawful acts under the Act, strengthen penalties for violations of the Act, improve Department of Agriculture enforcement of the Act, and for other purposes.

S. 3014

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the name of the Senator from Montana

(Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3014, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to support rural residency training funding that is equitable for all States, and for other purposes.

S. 3051

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mrs. ERNST) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 3051, a bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to establish a working group to study regulatory and legislative improvements for the livestock, insect, and agricultural commodities transport industries, and for other purposes.

S. 3066

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3066, a bill to amend the General Education Provisions Act to allow the release of education records to facilitate the award of a recognized postsecondary credential.

S. 3090

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3090, a bill to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to clarify that a State may not use an individual's failure to vote as the basis for initiating the procedures provided under such Act for the removal of the individual from the official list of registered voters in the State on the grounds that the individual has changed residence, and for other purposes.

S. 3148

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mrs. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3148, a bill to prohibit certain business concerns from receiving assistance from the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 3172

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. 3172, a bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to establish, fund, and provide for the use of amounts in a National Park Service Legacy Restoration Fund to address the maintenance backlog of the National Park Service, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 556

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 556, a resolution reaffirming the commitment of the United States to hold the Ortega regime accountable for acts of violence

and human rights abuses perpetrated against the Nicaraguan people.

S. RES. 557

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 557, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the strategic importance of NATO to the collective security of the transatlantic region and urging its member states to work together at the upcoming summit to strengthen the alliance.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 3187. A bill to authorize veterans service organizations to solicit donations at post offices before and after Federal holidays; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 3187

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Restoring Access, Improving Service to Enable Veterans Engaging To Fundraise Act of 2018" or the "RAISE VET FUND Act".

SEC. 2. SOLICITATION BY VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS AT POST OFFICES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 404 of title 39, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(f) SOLICITATION BY VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS AT POST OFFICES.—

"(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

"(A) the term 'business day' means a day on which a post office is open;

"(B) the term 'Federal holiday' means—

"(i) a legal public holiday under section 6103(a) of title 5; and

"(ii) Flag Day, as designated under section 110 of title 36;

"(C) the term 'holiday period' means the period beginning 2 business days before, and ending 2 business days after, a Federal holiday; and

"(D) the term 'veterans service organization' means an organization recognized by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for the representation of veterans under section 5902 of title 38.

"(2) AUTHORIZATION.—The Postal Service shall permit a veterans service organization to solicit donations by distributing items that are symbols for veterans at a post office on any business day during a holiday period."

(b) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the United States Postal Service shall promulgate regulations governing the use of post offices by veterans service organizations, including with respect to scheduling, under subsection (f) of section 404 of title 39, United States Code, as added by subsection (a).

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subsection (f) of section 404 of title 39, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall take effect on

the date that is 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

By Mr. JONES (for himself, Mrs. McCASKILL, and Ms. HARRIS):

S. 3191. A bill to provide for the expeditious disclosure of records related to civil rights cold cases, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mr. JONES. Mr. President, I rise to speak on a matter of both personal and national importance.

As many folks know by now, a defining moment in my career as a prosecutor was bringing to justice two former Ku Klux Klansmen for the bombing of Birmingham's 16th Street Baptist Church in 1963. That act of domestic terrorism, and that is exactly what it was, killed four innocent, beautiful little girls. As one of their mothers, Miss Alpha Robertson, described, "It sounded like the whole world was shaking."

There is no doubt it did. The whole world shook as people asked: How could this happen in America, the land of the free and the home of the brave? Despite the feeling that the whole world shook—and indeed the horrific crime did add momentum to the civil rights movement—the criminals responsible for the murder of those four little girls were not brought to justice for decades.

The first came in 1977, 14 years after the fact, by my friend and former Alabama attorney general, Bill Baxley. It would be 24 and 25 years later, in 2001 and 2002, that my team of Robert Posey, Jeff Wallace, Don Cochran, Bill Fleming, Ben Herren, and I completed that journey. The bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church was but one of many civil rights-era crimes that have gone unsolved.

Solving and successfully prosecuting an almost 40-year-old case was no easy task, and the effort involved a team of both Federal and State law enforcement. Media coverage also contributed to some key breaks in that case. In fact, it was through the dedicated efforts of my friend Jerry Mitchell, an award-winning journalist at the Jackson, MS, Clarion Ledger, that these unsolved civil rights cases even got a second look. It was when the State of Mississippi opened closed files of a Jim Crow-era State commission that Jerry discovered it might be possible to reopen several unsolved cases, including the cases of Medgar Evers and Vernon Dahmer. When those cases resulted in convictions, law enforcement officers and communities around the South began to reexamine so many of the unsolved crimes, including the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church.

Today there are more than 100 unsolved civil rights criminal cases out there. Many of them are 50 years old or older. Some were investigated a little, some were investigated a lot, but because these were State not Federal crimes most were never really investigated at all.

While it is certainly never too late for justice, years of delays can create serious and sometimes insurmountable obstacles: Memories fade or are lost to death, evidence disappears. Potential defendants also die, taking the details of their crimes to their graves.

Justice can take many forms. It doesn't always have to be a criminal conviction. One measure of justice—not a full measure but a measure nonetheless—can be achieved through a public examination of the facts and determination of the truth about what happened and why, but because these were criminal cases, the records and files relating to these unsolved cases are often classified or shielded from public view, and sometimes they are literally scattered among various agencies and hard to find.

Yet the victims of these crimes and their families have no less right to justice than they did at the time the crimes were committed, and the American people have a right to know this part of our Nation's history. As has often been said, if we do not learn from the mistakes of the past, we are doomed to repeat them. In today's climate, I believe we need to be more than ever vigilant and knowledgeable about the mistakes of the crimes of the civil rights era.

Eleven years ago, nearly to the day, I testified as a lawyer before the House Judiciary Committee in support of the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Act. That act created the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Cold Case Division to focus exclusively on solving these unsolved civil rights cases. Since the bill's passage, the Civil Rights Division has reexamined a number of these cases. I certainly applaud their efforts in doing so, but often, as was my experience, these cases end up being solved with the help of journalists, historians, private investigators, and local law enforcement, but that requires having access to the files. It is not an easy task getting access to these kinds of files. However, by ensuring public access to the files and records relating to these cases, we can expand the universe of people who can help these victims receive the justice they have long since been denied. If we are going to find the truth, it has to start with transparency.

That is why today I am introducing the Civil Rights Cold Case Records Collection Act of 2018, which will require the assembly, collection, and public disclosure of government cold case records about unsolved civil rights cases.

This legislation would not have been possible without the dedicated efforts of students at Hightstown High School in Hightstown, NJ, and their teacher Stuart Wexler, who have joined me in the Gallery today.

It was a couple of years ago, long before becoming a U.S. Senator was really on my radar, that I received a call from Mr. Wexler explaining that he and his students had been stymied in ef-

forts to obtain documents through the Freedom of Information Act about some of these cases. They wanted my support and others for legislation they were drafting to open these files to the public. Since I had already made that suggestion to folks at the Justice Department and others, I enthusiastically endorsed their project. Who would have imagined that 2 or 3 years ago we would be here today?

I thank them for reminding me of our conversations and our shared commitment and for working with me and my staff to make the introduction of this legislation possible today. It means a lot that these young people from New Jersey, who were not even born when these crimes were committed, care so much about this issue.

I also thank a few other folks. I thank John Hamilton and Jay Bosanko at the National Archives for working with the staff, and Professor Hank Klibanoff, who is also with us in the Gallery today, a former journalist and Pulitzer Prize winner for the book "The Race Beat" that examined the role of the journalist during the civil rights movement.

I thank them for their help in drafting this legislation and others who dedicated their lives to working on these cold cases—people like Andrew Sheldon in Atlanta and Alvin Sykes, who worked so hard on the Emmett Till bill and the Emmett Till case; Margaret Burnham, a law professor from Northeast Eastern University Law School; and Paula Johnson from Syracuse University Law School have all done remarkable work in trying to reexamine these cases.

While prosecuting the church bombing cases, I learned how deeply important this work is to anyone who lost a loved one just because someone else hated the color of their skin. It is also important to the communities where these crimes occurred.

It is impossible to express the emotion and satisfaction our team felt at the conclusion of those trials and the guilty verdicts we obtained. It was a privilege to work on cases that meant so much to so many. We have come a long way since 1963, but justice delayed does not have to mean justice denied.

When I testified at the House Judiciary Committee 11 years ago, I noted that we could never prosecute all of these cases but that as a country of compassion, we should find other ways to heal these old wounds. Reconciliation can be the most potent medicine for healing. After all this time, we might not solve every one of these cold cases, but my hope is, our efforts today will, at the very least, help us find some long overdue healing and understanding of the truth.

Each civil rights crime, each victim of that era deserves as much attention and effort as Carol Robertson, Denise McNair, Addie Mae Collins, and Cynthia Morris Wesley, the young girls who lost their lives that Sunday morning in 1963.

Thank you.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 570—EMPHASIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF MEETING NATO SPENDING COMMITMENTS

Mr. PERDUE (for himself, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. COTTON, Mr. INHOFE, and Mr. LEE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 570

Whereas, for over six decades, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has been a successful intergovernmental political and military alliance;

Whereas NATO's collective defense serves as a deterrent against aggression from adversaries and external security threats;

Whereas NATO strengthens the security of the United States by utilizing an integrated military coalition;

Whereas Article 3 of the North Atlantic Treaty states that "in order more effectively to achieve the objectives of this Treaty, the Parties, separately and jointly, by means of continuous and effective self-help and mutual aid, will maintain and develop their individual and collective capacity to resist armed attack";

Whereas, since the formation of NATO, the United States has negotiated with NATO allies over fair and equitable burden sharing;

Whereas, in 1953, President Dwight Eisenhower invited European NATO allies to increase their contribution in defense spending, pointing out that the "American well had run dry";

Whereas, at a 1963 National Security Council meeting, President John F. Kennedy stated that "we cannot continue to pay for the military protection of Europe while the NATO states are not paying their fair share and living off the fat of the land";

Whereas President Richard Nixon's Second Annual Report to the Congress on United States Foreign Policy stated, "The emphasis is no longer on their sharing the cost of America's military commitment to Europe—although financial arrangements may play a part—but on their providing the national forces needed in conjunction with ours in support of an effective common strategy";

Whereas the first NATO defense-spending target was issued in the 1977 NATO Ministerial Guidance, where NATO allies agreed to increase defense spending by 3 percent annually to address the substantially larger defense resource allocations of the Soviet Union;

Whereas, during the 1980s, the United States drastically increased its defense spending to combat threats posed by the Soviet Union, causing its share of total NATO defense spending to rise dramatically, while at the same time, NATO allies failed to meet the 1977 spending target;

Whereas the National Defense Authorization Act, 1985 (Public Law 98-525) included a sense of Congress that the President should "call on the pertinent members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to meet or exceed their pledges for an annual increase in defense spending";

Whereas, in the 1988 NATO Summit Declaration, NATO allies reaffirmed their "willingness to share fairly the risks, burdens and responsibilities as well as the benefits of our common efforts";

Whereas, in 1990, as the Soviet Union was trending towards collapse, NATO defense

ministers agreed to drop the 3-percent annual increase policy, as allies looked to "reap the benefits of the greatly improved climate in East-West relations";

Whereas, while defense spending among all NATO allies decreased throughout the 1990s, conflicts in Bosnia, and later in Kosovo, clearly illustrated that European NATO allies severely lacked key military capabilities, causing British Prime Minister Tony Blair to state, "If Europe wants the United States to maintain its commitment to Europe, Europe must share more of the burden of defending the West's security interests";

Whereas, at the 2002 NATO Prague Summit, NATO allies entered into a nonbinding agreement to raise defense spending to 2 percent of their gross domestic product (GDP) in order to meet the goals set out in the Prague Capabilities Commitment;

Whereas, before the 2006 NATO Riga Summit, United States Ambassador to NATO Victoria Nuland called the 2-percent metric the "unofficial floor" on defense spending in NATO;

Whereas, at the 2006 NATO Riga Summit, NATO allies declared that "we encourage nations whose defense spending is declining to halt that decline and to aim to increase defense spending in real terms";

Whereas, at the 2008 NATO Bucharest Summit, NATO allies reaffirmed their defense-spending goal;

Whereas, in 2011, Secretary of Defense Robert Gates said, "The blunt reality is that there will be dwindling appetite and patience in the U.S. Congress—and in the American body politic writ large—to expend increasingly precious funds on behalf of nations that are apparently unwilling to devote the necessary resources or make the necessary changes to be serious and capable partners in their own defense";

Whereas, in 2014 at the NATO Wales Summit, NATO members officially declared to increase their defense spending to 2 percent of their gross domestic product by 2024;

Whereas the Wales Summit Declaration stated that "[a]llies currently meeting the NATO guideline to spend a minimum of 2% of their Gross Domestic Product (GDP) on defense will aim to continue to do so" and continued, "Allies whose current proportion of GDP spent on defense is below this level will: halt any decline in defense expenditure; aim to increase defense expenditure in real terms as GDP grows; aim to move towards the 2% guideline within a decade with a view to meeting their NATO Capability Targets and filling NATO's capability shortfalls";

Whereas, for the first time since 1990, there have been three consecutive years of increases in NATO defense spending;

Whereas, since the end of 2014, defense expenditures by NATO Europe and Canada have risen by \$28,000,000,000, representing a 10-percent increase;

Whereas, in 2014, only three NATO allies met the 2-percent spending target, while NATO expects eight allies to meet the target in 2018, and 15 allies to reach the target by 2024;

Whereas, while the 2-percent defense-spending target is an important measure of allies' commitment to NATO, it is imperative that defense expenditures are both interoperable with, and strengthen, NATO's critical military capabilities;

Whereas Russia fundamentally challenges the peaceful world order that NATO has sought to foster and aspires to extend as it continues its illegal occupation of territory in Ukraine, Moldova, and Georgia; and

Whereas strengthening NATO's capabilities is critical to the future of the alliance to deter an increasingly aggressive Russia to NATO's east, the threat posed by ISIS, and instability to NATO's south, as well as

emerging security challenges, including terrorism and cybersecurity: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) reaffirms the commitment of the United States to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) as the foundation of transatlantic security and defense;

(2) encourages all member countries of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to fulfill their commitments to levels and composition of defense expenditures as agreed upon at the NATO 2014 Wales Summit;

(3) calls on NATO allies to finance, equip, and train their armed forces to achieve interoperability and fulfill their national and regional security interests; and

(4) recognizes NATO allies who meet their defense spending commitments or are otherwise providing adequately for their national and regional security interests.

SENATE RESOLUTION 571—CONDEMNING THE ONGOING ILLEGAL OCCUPATION OF CRIMEA BY THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. COONS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. BROWN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 571

Whereas, in February 2014, unidentified Russian armed forces entered Ukrainian territory and took control of key military and government infrastructure in the Crimean peninsula of Ukraine;

Whereas, in March 2014, the parliament of the Russian Federation gave rubber-stamp approval to President Vladimir Putin's request to use military force against Ukrainian territory ostensibly because of the "threat of violence from ultranationalists";

Whereas, on March 27, 2014, the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 68/262 calling on states and international organizations not to recognize any change in Crimea's status and affirmed the commitment of the United Nations to recognize Crimea as part of Ukraine;

Whereas the Russian Federation's illegal invasion and annexation of Crimea has been widely seen as an effort to stifle the spread of pro-democracy developments across Ukraine in 2014 in the wake of the Euromaidan protests;

Whereas the Russian Federation is a signatory to the 1994 Budapest Memorandum and thus committed to respect the independence, sovereignty, and borders of Ukraine and to refrain from threats, coercive economic actions, or the use of force against Ukraine's territorial integrity and political independence;

Whereas the Russian Federation committed in the 1975 Final Act of the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki Final Act) to respect the sovereign equality and territorial integrity of other participating States;

Whereas the Russian Federation's obligations under the Charter of the United Nations prohibit the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity and political independence of other states;

Whereas the Russian Federation's ongoing illegal occupation of Crimea in Ukraine have been widely condemned by the international community as illegal acts;

Whereas the United States and European Union have imposed sanctions on individuals