

SENATE RESOLUTION 236—RE-AFFIRMING THE STRONG PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN TUNISIA AND THE UNITED STATES AND SUPPORTING THE PEOPLE OF TUNISIA IN THEIR CONTINUED PURSUIT OF DEMOCRATIC REFORMS

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. ROMNEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 236

Whereas relations between the United States and Tunisia began in 1795, and the 2 countries have partnered in trade and security since the signing of the Treaty of Peace and Friendship, signed at Tunis, August 28, 1797;

Whereas the United States was the first major power to recognize a sovereign Tunisia, following its independence from France in 1956;

Whereas the people of the United States and of Tunisia share core values, such as respect for human rights, democracy, and the rule of law;

Whereas, on January 14, 2011, the peaceful mass protests of the Jasmine Revolution successfully brought to an end the authoritarian rule of President Ben Ali;

Whereas, in the aftermath of Ben Ali's resignation, Tunisians—

(1) initiated a peaceful, consensus-based, and inclusive transition to democracy;

(2) held the first competitive, multi-party democratic elections of the 2011 Arab Spring;

(3) adopted a new constitution in 2014; and

(4) held new elections under that constitution later that year;

Whereas, on December 31, 2014, after winning a free and fair presidential election, Beji Caid Essebsi was inaugurated as the first freely elected President of Tunisia;

Whereas, on October 9, 2015, the Norwegian Nobel Committee awarded the Tunisian National Dialogue Quartet, a coalition of 4 civil society organizations, the 2015 Nobel Peace Prize for the coalition's work—

(1) building on the promise of the 2011 Jasmine Revolution; and

(2) ensuring that the transition of Tunisia into a democracy did not descend into violence or renewed authoritarianism;

Whereas Tunisia has been the only North African country to achieve a "Free" rating by the Freedom House's annual Freedom in the World report, and has maintained a "Free" rating since 2015;

Whereas the political evolution of Tunisia stands as an inspiration for citizens of other states aspiring to establish the institutions of democracy after a history of autocratic rule;

Whereas Tunisia suffered significant terrorist attacks in 2015 and 2016;

Whereas, on October 29, 2018, a terrorist attack on Avenue Habib Bourguiba in Tunis wounded 20 people and was perpetrated by an unemployed university graduate who had been unemployed for 3 years and had no known ties to terrorist groups;

Whereas, in the aftermath of these attacks, citizens and leaders of Tunisia have reaffirmed their commitment to dialogue, pluralism, and democracy;

Whereas a significant number of Tunisian fighters for extremist groups, including the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) reportedly returned to Tunisia, many clandestinely, between 2011 and 2018;

Whereas Tunisia continues to face serious threats to its security from violent extremist groups operating within the country as well as in neighboring countries;

Whereas, in July 2015, President Obama designated Tunisia as a major non-NATO ally;

Whereas Tunisia has committed approximately 15 percent of its budget to defense and interior ministries for counterterrorism in recent years, at the expense of economic and social development;

Whereas Tunisia faces economic challenges, including high inflation and high unemployment, especially among young Tunisians;

Whereas the United States Government is committed to continuing a strong economic partnership with Tunisia as its government undertakes reforms to transform its economy to meet the aspirations of all of the citizens of Tunisia;

Whereas it is in the interest of the United States, and consistent with the values of the United States, to support the aspirations of the people of Tunisia in developing a pluralist democracy and transparent, effective institutions;

Whereas, in accordance with the United States-Tunisia strategic partnership, both countries are dedicated to working together to promote—

(1) economic development and business opportunities in Tunisia;

(2) education for the advancement of long-term development in Tunisia; and

(3) increased security cooperation to address common threats in Tunisia and across the region; and

Whereas the United States Government should provide a level of funding to strongly assist and reinforce Tunisia's promising transition into a democratic, stable, and prosperous nation:

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the people of Tunisia for their commitment to democracy, the rule of law, and free and fair elections;

(2) commends the political leaders of Tunisia for their willingness to compromise and work together in the national interest;

(3) condemns all acts of terrorism, and extends condolences to the families of victims of terrorism and to the people and Government of Tunisia;

(4) commends the people and Government of Tunisia for their resilience in the face of terrorist attacks and their enduring commitment to a free, democratic, and peaceful Republic of Tunisia;

(5) encourages President Essebsi, Head of Government Chahed, and the Parliament of Tunisia to work together to accelerate economic reforms and anti-corruption measures;

(6) looks forward to new free and fair parliamentary and presidential elections scheduled for the last several months of 2019;

(7) calls on the Government of Tunisia—

(A) to fully implement the Tunisian Constitution of 2014, including the protection of civil liberties and the establishment of new institutions, such as the Constitutional Court;

(B) to continue its commitment to democratic accountability and transitional justice, including with regard to corruption;

(C) to continue decentralizing political power to local governments, which is a key step toward more accountable governance and a means to address long-standing issues of dramatic regional disparity in health care, education, poverty, and infrastructure; and

(D) to further develop its plan to identify, prosecute, deradicalize, or reintegrate into society Tunisian fighters returned from abroad;

(8) calls on the neighbors and partners of Tunisia to work cooperatively with the Government of Tunisia to counter terrorist threats, secure borders, and support the democratic transition of Tunisia;

(9) reaffirms the national interest of the United States in continued democracy in Tunisia, including—

(A) respect for the rule of law;

(B) independent media;

(C) a vibrant civil society; and

(D) universal rights and freedoms, including equal rights for all citizens and freedom of speech;

(10) affirms the national interest of the United States in Tunisia's economic prosperity and development, including through increased foreign direct investment, tourism, entrepreneurship, technical cooperation, and strengthened trade ties;

(11) reaffirms the commitment of the United States Government to Tunisia, including a commitment to provide appropriate levels of assistance, in support of the ongoing transition of Tunisia to an inclusive, prosperous, and secure democracy;

(12) recognizes important partnerships, including—

(A) the U.S.-Tunisia Strategic Dialogue;

(B) the U.S.-Tunisia Joint Military Commission;

(C) the U.S.-Tunisia Joint Economic Commission;

(D) the Tunisian American Enterprise Fund; and

(E) international educational exchange programs, including the Fulbright Program and the Thomas Jefferson Scholars Program;

(13) urges increased United States engagement and cooperation with the people and Government of Tunisia, including—

(A) Tunisia's democratic institutions;

(B) civil society;

(C) schools and universities;

(D) independent media; and

(E) the private sector; and

(14) reaffirms the historic and continuing friendship between the people of the United States and the people of Tunisia.

SENATE RESOLUTION 237—SUPPORTING THE MISSION AND GOALS OF NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK IN 2019, WHICH INCLUDE INCREASING PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE RIGHTS, NEEDS, AND CONCERNS OF, AND SERVICES AVAILABLE TO ASSIST, VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS OF CRIME IN THE UNITED STATES

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. CRAPO) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 237

Whereas, in 2017, according to a survey by the Bureau of Justice Statistics—

(1) an estimated 5,600,000 violent victimizations were committed against residents of the United States who were 12 years of age or older; and

(2) households in the United States experienced an estimated 13,340,000 property victimizations;

Whereas, in 2017, only 45 percent of violent crimes and 36 percent of property victimizations were reported to police;

Whereas, as of 2015, the most conservative estimate for the economic losses sustained by victims of property crimes and victims of violent crime was approximately \$11,200,000,000 per year;

Whereas the economic cost alone does not fully describe the emotional, physical, and psychological impact endured by a victim of crime;

Whereas crime can touch the life of any individual, regardless of the age, race, national origin, religion, or gender of the individual;

Whereas a just society acknowledges the impact of crime on individuals, families, schools, and communities by—

(1) protecting the rights of crime victims and survivors; and

(2) ensuring that resources and services are available to help rebuild the lives of the victims and survivors, including victims' compensation to reimburse victims for out-of-pocket expenses due to crime;

Whereas, despite impressive accomplishments in increasing the rights of, and services available to, crime victims and survivors and the families of the victims and survivors, many challenges remain to ensure that all crime victims and survivors and the families of the victims and survivors are—

(1) treated with dignity, fairness, and respect;

(2) offered support and services, regardless of whether the victims and survivors report crimes committed against them; and

(3) recognized as key participants within the criminal, juvenile, Federal, and Tribal justice systems in the United States when the victims and survivors report crimes;

Whereas crime victims and survivors in the United States and the families of the victims and survivors need and deserve support and assistance to help cope with the often devastating consequences of crime;

Whereas, since Congress passed the first resolution designating Crime Victims Week in 1985, communities across the United States have joined Congress and the Department of Justice in commemorating National Crime Victims' Rights Week to celebrate a shared vision of a comprehensive and collaborative response that identifies and addresses the many needs of crime victims and survivors and the families of the victims and survivors;

Whereas Congress and the President agree on the need for a renewed commitment to serve all victims and survivors of crime in the 21st century;

Whereas, in 2019, National Crime Victims' Rights Week was celebrated from April 7 through April 13, and the theme, "Honoring our Past. Creating Hope for the Future.", celebrates the progress made by those before us as we look to a future of crime victim services that is even more inclusive, accessible, and trauma-informed;

Whereas engaging communities in victim assistance is essential in promoting public safety;

Whereas the United States must empower crime victims and survivors by—

(1) protecting the legal rights of the victims and survivors; and

(2) providing the victims and survivors with services to help them in the aftermath of crime; and

Whereas the people of the United States recognize and appreciate the continued importance of—

(1) promoting the rights of, and services for, crime victims and survivors; and

(2) honoring crime victims and survivors and individuals who provide services for the victims and survivors: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the mission and goals of National Crime Victims' Rights Week, which include increasing individual and public awareness of—

(A) the impact of crime on victims and survivors and the families of the victims and survivors; and

(B) the challenges to achieving justice for victims and survivors of crime and the families of the victims and survivors and the many solutions available to meet those challenges; and

(2) recognizes that crime victims and survivors and the families of the victims and survivors should be treated with dignity, fairness, and respect.

SENATE RESOLUTION 238—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF JUNE 3 THROUGH JUNE 9, 2019, AS "HEMP HISTORY WEEK"

Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. PAUL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 238

Whereas Hemp History Week will be held from June 3 through June 9, 2019;

Whereas the goals of Hemp History Week are to commemorate the historical relevance of industrial hemp in the United States and to promote the full growth potential of the industrial hemp industry;

Whereas industrial hemp is an agricultural commodity that has been used for centuries to produce many innovative industrial and consumer products, including soap, fabric, textiles, construction materials, clothing, paper, cosmetics, food, and beverages;

Whereas the global market for hemp is estimated to consist of more than 25,000 products;

Whereas the value of hemp imported into the United States for use in the production of other retail products is estimated at approximately \$76,000,000 annually;

Whereas the United States hemp industry estimates that the annual market value of hemp retail sales in the United States is more than \$1,000,000,000;

Whereas, despite the legitimate uses of hemp, agricultural producers of the United States were for decades prohibited under law from growing hemp;

Whereas, in December 2018, Congress established a legal framework for agricultural producers to cultivate, grow, and sell hemp in the United States;

Whereas the United States is the largest consumer of hemp products in the world; and Whereas industrial hemp holds great potential to bolster the agricultural economy of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of June 3 through June 9, 2019, as "Hemp History Week";

(2) recognizes the historical relevance of industrial hemp; and

(3) recognizes the growing economic potential of industrial hemp.

SENATE RESOLUTION 239—DESIGNATING JUNE 2019 AS "GREAT OUTDOORS MONTH"

Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mr. PETERS, Mr. GARDNER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. RISCH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. CRAMER, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. KING, and Ms. ERNST) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 239

Whereas hundreds of millions of people in the United States participate in outdoor recreation annually;

Whereas Congress enacted the Outdoor Recreation Jobs and Economic Impact Act of 2016 (Public Law 114-249; 130 Stat. 999) to assess and analyze the outdoor recreation economy of the United States and the effects attributable to the outdoor recreation economy on the overall economy of the United States;

Whereas the Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account released in September 2018 by the Bureau of Economic Analysis of the United States Department of Commerce shows that outdoor recreation contributed more than \$412,000,000,000 of current-dollar gross domestic product to the economy of the United

States in 2016, comprising approximately 2.2 percent of the current-dollar gross domestic product;

Whereas the Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account shows that the outdoor recreation sector experienced faster growth in real gross output, compensation, and employment than the overall economy in 2016, while also providing 4,546,000 jobs across the country;

Whereas the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2019 (Public Law 116-6) encouraged the Department of Commerce to continue its work with the Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account;

Whereas regular outdoor recreation is associated with positive health outcomes and better quality of life;

Whereas outdoor recreation is part of the national heritage of the United States; and

Whereas June 2019 is an appropriate month to designate as "Great Outdoors Month" to provide an opportunity to celebrate the importance of the great outdoors: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates June 2019 as "Great Outdoors Month"; and

(2) encourages all people in the United States to recreate in the great outdoors in June 2019 and year-round.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 19—CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE APOLLO 11 MOON LANDING

Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. BROWN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. CON. RES. 19

Whereas, on May 25, 1961, President John F. Kennedy, Jr., before a joint session of Congress, declared, "Now it is time to take longer strides—time for a great new American enterprise—time for this Nation to take a clearly leading role in space achievement, which in many ways may hold the key to our future on Earth", setting the goal of sending astronauts to the Moon and returning them safely to the Earth;

Whereas the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (in this preamble referred to as "NASA") mobilized and established the Apollo space program to meet the goal set by President Kennedy;

Whereas the Apollo space program built on the achievements of the prior space programs of NASA, including the Mercury and Gemini missions;

Whereas the successful Moon landing honored the tragic sacrifice of every astronaut whose life had previously been lost in the service of United States spaceflight research, including—

(1) Roger B. Chaffee, Virgil I. "Gus" Grissom, and Edward H. White II, the astronauts whose lives were lost during pre-flight tests for Apollo 1; and

(2) Theodore C. Freeman, Charles A. Bassett II, Elliot See, Jr., Robert H. Lawrence, Jr., Michael J. Adams, and Clifton C. Williams, Jr.;

Whereas the crew of the Apollo 11 mission consisted of—

(1) Neil Armstrong, Mission Commander;

(2) Edwin E. "Buzz" Aldrin, Lunar Module Pilot; and

(3) Michael Collins, Command Module Pilot;

Whereas James A. Lovell, Jr., Fred W. Haise, Jr., and William A. Anders stood ready to support or stand in for the Apollo 11 crew;