

provided with safe, loving, and permanent placements;

Whereas, in 2018, Congress passed the Family First Prevention Services Act (Public Law 115-123; 132 Stat. 232), which provided new investments in prevention and family reunification services to help more families stay together and ensure that more children are in safe, loving, and permanent homes;

Whereas Federal legislation over the past 3 decades, including the Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1980 (Public Law 96-272; 94 Stat. 500), the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 (Public Law 105-89; 111 Stat. 2115), the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-351; 122 Stat. 3949), the Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act (Public Law 112-34; 125 Stat. 369), and the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act (Public Law 113-183; 128 Stat. 1919), provided new investments and services to improve the outcomes of children in the foster care system;

Whereas May 2020 is an appropriate month to designate as National Foster Care Month to provide an opportunity to acknowledge the accomplishments of the child welfare workforce, foster parents, the advocacy community, and mentors for their dedication and accomplishments and the positive impact they have on the lives of children; and

Whereas much remains to be done to ensure that all children have a safe, loving, nurturing, and permanent family, regardless of age or special needs: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of National Foster Care Month;

(2) recognizes National Foster Care Month as an opportunity to raise awareness about the challenges that children face in the foster care system;

(3) encourages Congress to implement policies to improve the lives of children in the foster care system;

(4) acknowledges the unique needs of children in the foster care system;

(5) recognizes foster youth throughout the United States for their ongoing tenacity, courage, and resilience while facing life challenges;

(6) acknowledges the exceptional alumni of the foster care system who serve as advocates and role models for youth who remain in foster care;

(7) honors the commitment and dedication of the individuals who work tirelessly to provide assistance and services to children in the foster care system;

(8) supports the designation of May 31, 2020, as National Foster Parent Appreciation Day;

(9) recognizes National Foster Parent Appreciation Day as an opportunity—

(A) to recognize the efforts of foster parents to provide safe and loving care for children in need; and

(B) to raise awareness about the increasing need for foster parents to serve in their communities; and

(10) reaffirms the need to continue working to improve the outcomes of all children in the foster care system through parts B and E of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) and other programs designed to—

(A) support vulnerable families;

(B) invest in prevention and reunification services;

(C) promote adoption in cases where reunification is not in the best interests of the child;

(D) adequately serve children brought into the foster care system; and

(E) facilitate the successful transition into adulthood for children that “age out” of the foster care system.

## SENATE RESOLUTION 599—HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JUDGE LEE ROY WEST

Mr. LANKFORD (for himself and Mr. INHOFE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 599

Whereas Judge Lee Roy West was born in Clayton, Oklahoma, on November 26, 1929, and died on April 24, 2020, in Muskogee, Oklahoma;

Whereas Judge Lee Roy West was the youngest of 4 children in a family he called “too poor to paint and too proud to white-wash”;

Whereas Judge Lee Roy West graduated from Antlers High School in 1948 and hitchhiked to Norman, Oklahoma, to attend the University of Oklahoma;

Whereas Judge Lee Roy West received a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Oklahoma in 1952;

Whereas Judge Lee Roy West graduated from Harvard Law School with a juris doctor in 1956 and later earned a master of laws from Harvard Law School in 1963;

Whereas Judge Lee Roy West served the United States with the 3rd Marine Division in Japan and the 1st Marine Division in Korea;

Whereas Judge Lee Roy West practiced law—

(1) in Ada, Oklahoma, from 1956 to 1961 and from 1963 to 1965; and

(2) in Tulsa, Oklahoma, from 1978 to 1979;

Whereas Judge Lee Roy West taught law at the University of Oklahoma College of Law from 1961 to 1962 and was a Ford Foundation fellow at Harvard Law School from 1962 to 1963;

Whereas Governor Henry Bellmon appointed Judge Lee Roy West to serve as a State court judge for the 22nd Judicial District of Oklahoma, where he served from 1965 to 1973;

Whereas, in 1973, President Richard Nixon appointed Judge Lee Roy West to the Civil Aeronautics Board in Washington, D.C.;

Whereas, on September 28, 1979, President Jimmy Carter nominated Judge Lee Roy West to serve on the United States District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma;

Whereas the Senate confirmed the nomination of Judge Lee Roy West on October 31, 1979;

Whereas Judge Lee Roy West served as chief justice of the United States District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma from 1993 to 1994;

Whereas Judge Lee Roy West served on the Federal bench in Oklahoma City for nearly 40 years; and

Whereas Judge Lee Roy West was inducted into—

(1) the Field Trial Hall of Fame in Grand Junction, Tennessee in 2004; and

(2) the Oklahoma Hall of Fame in 2012: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate honors—

(1) the life and legacy of Judge Lee Roy West; and

(2) the commitment of Judge Lee Roy West to his family, the law, Oklahoma, and the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 600—RECOGNIZING WIDENING THREATS TO FREEDOM OF THE PRESS AND EXPRESSION AROUND THE WORLD, REAFFIRMING THE CENTRALITY OF A FREE AND INDEPENDENT PRESS TO THE HEALTH OF FREE SOCIETIES AND DEMOCRACIES, AND REAFFIRMING FREEDOM OF THE PRESS AS A PRIORITY OF THE UNITED STATES IN PROMOTING DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND GOOD GOVERNANCE IN COMMEMORATION OF WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY ON MAY 3, 2020

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. KAINE, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. CASEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 600

Whereas Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted in Paris December 10, 1948, states, “Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.”;

Whereas, in 1993, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed May 3rd of each year as “World Press Freedom Day”—

(1) to celebrate the fundamental principles of freedom of the press;

(2) to evaluate freedom of the press around the world;

(3) to defend the media against attacks on its independence; and

(4) to pay tribute to journalists who have lost their lives while working in their profession;

Whereas, on December 18, 2013, the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 68/163, regarding the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity for crimes against journalists, which unequivocally condemns all attacks on, and violence against, journalists and media workers, including torture, extrajudicial killing, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention, and intimidation and harassment in conflict and nonconflict situations;

Whereas Thomas Jefferson, who recognized the importance of the press in a constitutional republic, wisely declared, “were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter.”;

Whereas the First Amendment to the United States Constitution and various State constitutions protect freedom of the press in the United States;

Whereas the Daniel Pearl Freedom of the Press Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-166; 22 U.S.C. 2151 note), which was passed by unanimous consent in the Senate and signed into law by President Barack Obama in 2010, expanded the examination of the freedom of the press around the world in the annual *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices* of the Department of State;

Whereas a vigilant commitment to freedom of the press is especially necessary in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic—

(1) as governments around the world are using emergency laws to restrict access to information, impose press restrictions, and suppress free speech; and

(2) as journalists around the world are being censored and imprisoned for their reporting on the virus;

Whereas in China, Chen Qiushi was disappeared after reporting on the Government of the People's Republic of China's COVID-19 response in February 2020, Xu Zhiyong was reportedly detained in February 2020 during a COVID-19 prevention check after criticizing Chinese authorities, and reporters from The New York Times, Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post, Voice of America, and Time were expelled in March 2020;

Whereas authorities in numerous countries, including Russia, Iran, Cuba, Burma (Myanmar), and Venezuela have—

- (1) restricted journalist movement;
- (2) hindered access to information;
- (3) removed content; and
- (4) threatened, harassed, attacked, and arrested journalists for their reporting on the COVID-19 pandemic;

Whereas, even prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, freedom of the press remained under considerable pressure throughout the world;

Whereas Reporters Without Borders found that, as of April 20, 2020, at least 229 journalists, 116 citizen journalists, and 14 media assistants were imprisoned worldwide;

Whereas according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, at least 25 journalists were killed around the world for their work in 2019;

Whereas Freedom House's publication "Freedom in the World 2020" noted that global freedom of expression has declined every year for the past 14 years;

Whereas, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, the world's most censored countries include Eritrea, North Korea, Turkmenistan, Saudi Arabia, China, Vietnam, Iran, Equatorial Guinea, Belarus, and Cuba;

Whereas the Government of the Philippines has waged a campaign of judicial harassment against a variety of independent press outlets, including the news website *Rappler* and its editor, Maria Ressa, who has been arrested twice;

Whereas in Russia, Crimean Tatar freelance journalist Nariman Memedeminov was sentenced to 30 months in prison for reporting on human rights violations by Russian authorities in Crimea;

Whereas in Cuba, the Committee to Protect Journalists and Amnesty International have written to the Cuban authorities to request the immediate release of journalist Roberto Quiñones, who has been imprisoned since September 2019;

Whereas in Venezuela, freelance journalist Darvinson Rojas has been detained since March 21, 2020, for reporting on presumed COVID-19 cases that were unacknowledged by the Government of Venezuela;

Whereas in Mexico, *Quinto Poder de Veracruz* founder María Elena Ferral, *El Graffico* reporter Jorge Celestino Ruiz Vázquez, and journalists Nevith Condes Jaramilla, Rogelio Barragán Pérez, and Norma Sarabia were all murdered between June 2019 and March 2020;

Whereas in Niger, independent journalist Kaka Touda Mamane Goni was arrested on March 5, 2020, and faces up to 3 years in prison for publishing news reports on social media about potential COVID-19 cases;

Whereas in Burundi, Iwacu journalists Christine Kamikazi, Agnès Ndirubusa, Egide Harerimana, and Tèrence Mpozenzi were convicted on charges of attempting to undermine state security and sentenced to 2½ years in prison;

Whereas in Tanzania, journalist Azory Gwanda has been missing since November 2017;

Whereas Turkey remains 1 of the top jailers of independent journalists around the world,

and the Government of Turkey closed down more than 100 news outlets during 2019;

Whereas in Egypt, prominent blogger and activist Alaa Abdelfattah was rearrested in September 2019, human rights activist and journalist Esraa Abdel Fattah was rearrested in October 2019, and *Guardian* reporter Ruth Michaelson's press credentials were withdrawn for questioning official COVID-19 figures on March 16, 2020;

Whereas American journalist Austin Tice has been detained in Syria since August 14, 2012;

Whereas female journalists and writers in Saudi Arabia face harsh personal consequences for their work, and Zana Al-Shari of the daily *Al-Riyadh*, Maha al-Rafidi al-Qahtani of the daily *Al-Watan*, and recipients of the 2019 PEN/Barbey Freedom to Write Award Nouf Abdulaziz, Loujain Al-Hathloul, and Eman Al-Nafjan remain missing, imprisoned, or on trial due to their writing and outspoken women's rights advocacy;

Whereas the Senate has concluded that Washington Post journalist and United States resident Jamal Khashoggi was murdered by a team of Saudi operatives at the behest of Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman;

Whereas, under the auspices of the United States Agency for Global Media, the United States Government provides financial assistance to several editorially independent media outlets, including Voice of America, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, Radio Free Asia, Radio, the Office of Cuba Broadcasting, and the Middle East Broadcast Networks—

(1) which report and broadcast news, information, and analysis in critical regions around the world; and

(2) whose journalists regularly face harassment, fines, and imprisonment for their work; and

Whereas freedom of the press is a key element of public transparency, civil society participation, socioeconomic development, and democratic governance: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) declares that a free press—

(A) is a central component of free societies, democratic governance, and contributes to an informed civil society, and government accountability;

(B) helps expose corruption, and enhances public accountability and transparency of governments at all levels; and

(C) disseminates information essential to improving public health and safety;

(2) condemns threats to freedom of the press and free expression around the world; and

(3) in remembrance of journalists who have lost their lives carrying out their vital work—

(A) calls on governments abroad to implement United Nations General Assembly Resolution 68/163 (2013) by thoroughly investigating and seeking to resolve outstanding cases of violence against journalists, including murders and kidnappings, while ensuring the protection of witnesses;

(B) condemns all actions around the world that suppress freedom of the press;

(C) calls for the unconditional and immediate release of all imprisoned journalists;

(D) reaffirms the centrality of freedom of the press to efforts of the United States Government to support democracy, mitigate conflict, and promote good governance domestically and around the world; and

(E) calls upon the President and the Secretary of State—

(i) to preserve and build upon the leadership of the United States on issues relating to freedom of the press, on the basis of the protections afforded the American people

under the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States;

(ii) to improve the rapid identification, publication, and response by the United States Government to threats against freedom of the press around the world;

(iii) to urge foreign governments to protect the free flow of information and to transparently investigate and bring to justice the perpetrators of attacks against journalists; and

(iv) to promote the respect and protection of freedom of the press around the world.

## AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I have 3 requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

### COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 21, 2020, at 10:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

### COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 21, 2020, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing on the nomination of Justin R. Walker, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for District of Columbia Circuit.

### SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

The Special Committee on Aging is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 21, 2020, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

## UNITED STATES FOREIGN SERVICE DAY

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res 556.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 556) designating May 1, 2020, as the "United States Foreign Service Day" in recognition of the men and women who have served, or are presently serving, in the Foreign Service of the United States, and honoring the members of the Foreign Service who have given their lives in the line of duty.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.