

COMMEMORATING THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MURDER OF JAMES WRIGHT FOLEY AND CALLING FOR THE MORAL COURAGE TO PRIORITIZE THE RETURN OF AMERICANS HELD CAPTIVE ABROAD AND TAKE ALL NECESSARY EFFORTS TO DETER INTERNATIONAL HOSTAGE TAKING AND ARBITRARY DETENTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 805. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 805) commemorating the tenth anniversary of the murder of James Wright Foley and calling for the moral courage to prioritize the return of Americans held captive abroad and take all necessary efforts to deter international hostage taking and arbitrary detention.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the Shaheen-Graham amendment to the resolution be considered and agreed to; that the resolution, as amended, be agreed to; that the Shaheen-Graham amendment to the preamble be considered and agreed to; that the preamble, as amended, be agreed to; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The amendment (No. 3300) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following: "That the Senate—

(1) stands with all those who have been taken hostage or wrongfully detained, those who have been released, and the families and friends who fight for their freedom;

(2) prioritizes the return of all innocent United States nationals targeted for kidnapping or wrongful detention abroad and will continue to take all necessary steps to secure the release of Americans and deter our adversaries from using Americans as tools for their geopolitical ambitions;

(3) acknowledges the need to continue working with allies and partners to develop a coordinated approach to deter and prevent international hostage-taking;

(4) condemns the practice of targeting and wrongfully detaining Americans in order to threaten American sovereignty and interfere with United States foreign policy;

(5) supports efforts to ensure that the United States Government hostage enterprise is properly resourced and authorized to address the evolving dynamic of hostage-taking and wrongful detention, including through the Hostage Response Group at the National Security Council, the Hostage Recovery Fusion Cell, the Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs, and supporting departments and agencies to speed the safe return of United States nationals held hostage abroad and deter future hostage-taking;

(6) commends the personnel, past and present, of the hostage enterprise who have

endeavored to faithfully execute the mission of recovering Americans unjustly held captive abroad; and

(7) recognizes August 19, 2014, as a solemn remembrance of this national security threat and the United States Government's sacred obligation to protect United States nationals abroad from being taken captive unjustly.

The resolution (S. Res. 805), as amended, was agreed to.

The amendment (No. 3301) to the preamble was considered and agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the preamble)

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas James W. Foley was an American freelance journalist, an author, teacher and humanitarian from New Hampshire;

Whereas James dedicated his career to robust, independent, and compassionate journalism that took him to war zones and classrooms alike;

Whereas, upon his return after being detained for six weeks in Libya, James said, "for some reason I have physical courage, but, that's nothing compared to moral courage. If I don't have the moral courage to challenge authority, to write about things that might have reprisals on my career, if I don't have that moral courage, we don't have journalism";

Whereas, on November 22, 2012, James was kidnapped while reporting on the conflict in northern Syria;

Whereas, on August 19, 2014, James Wright Foley was publicly beheaded by the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS), his death then used as propaganda against the United States of America;

Whereas, on September 4, 2014, the James W. Foley Legacy Foundation was established to inspire the moral courage needed to secure the freedom of Americans taken captive abroad, prevent future hostage-taking, and promote journalist safety;

Whereas the Foley Foundation participated in the National Counter Terrorism Center task force, ordered by President Barack Obama to evaluate United States hostage policy and engagement with families of those held captive;

Whereas, on June 24, 2015, President Obama issued Presidential Policy Directive 30, which committed to "achieving the safe and rapid recovery of U.S. nationals taken hostage outside the United States" and established the current United States hostage enterprise, which includes the Hostage Response Group (HRG) at the National Security Council, the Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs (SPEHA), and the Hostage Recovery Fusion Cell (HRFC) that together pursue recovery strategies, support returned hostages and families of current hostages, and coordinate the use of diplomatic, law enforcement, intelligence, and military capabilities to resolve international hostage-takings;

Whereas the Foley Foundation has worked since 2014, in collaboration with the United States Government's hostage enterprise and families of United States nationals taken hostage abroad by terrorists or criminals and those wrongfully detained by nation states to help reunite families;

Whereas, in 2019, after negotiating the release of a United States citizen wrongfully detained in Iran, President Trump reiterated that "the highest priority of the United States is the safety and well-being of its citizens. Freeing Americans held captive is of vital importance to my Administration, and we will continue to work hard to bring home all our citizens wrongfully held captive over-

seas," and in 2023, upon negotiating the release of five Americans held in Iran, President Biden said that "reuniting wrongfully detained Americans with their loved ones has been a priority for my Administration since day one";

Whereas, since 2019, the Foley Foundation has annually published research in the "Bringing Americans Home" report, which evaluates the experiences of American families with a loved one held captive abroad, returned hostages and detainees, and government and nongovernment experts;

Whereas, in December 2020, Congress passed, and President Trump reaffirmed the United States commitment to bringing home American citizens by signing into law the Robert Levinson Hostage Recovery and Hostage-Taking Accountability Act (22 U.S.C. 1741 et seq.) to prioritize and provide assistance to Americans wrongfully detained abroad and to their family members;

Whereas, in September 2021, Alexandra Kotey pleaded guilty to eight counts of kidnapping, torture, and accessory to murder of four Americans, including James Wright Foley, Kayla Jean Mueller, Steven Joel Sotloff, and Peter Edward Kassig;

Whereas, on August 19, 2022, the Department of Justice convicted former British jihadist, El Shafee ElSheik in Federal Court in the Eastern District of Virginia for the kidnapping, torture, and murder of Americans Sotloff, Kassig, Mueller, and Foley, as well as three British citizens;

Whereas, under Democratic and Republican presidents, the United States has successfully freed more than 120 Americans from unjust captivity abroad;

Whereas President Joe Biden's July 2022 Executive Order 14078 (relating to bolstering efforts to bring hostages and wrongfully detained United States nationals home) declared that hostage taking and the wrongful detention of United States nationals constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States; and

Whereas the targeting of United States nationals for use as political pawns by nation states is a grave threat to the security of United States nationals traveling abroad, seeks to hold the United States Government hostage, and strains international stability: Now, therefore, be it

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The resolution, as amended, with its preamble, as amended, was agreed to, as follows:

S. RES. 805

Whereas James W. Foley was an American freelance journalist, an author, teacher and humanitarian from New Hampshire;

Whereas James dedicated his career to robust, independent, and compassionate journalism that took him to war zones and classrooms alike;

Whereas, upon his return after being detained for six weeks in Libya, James said, "for some reason I have physical courage, but, that's nothing compared to moral courage. If I don't have the moral courage to challenge authority, to write about things that might have reprisals on my career, if I don't have that moral courage, we don't have journalism";

Whereas, on November 22, 2012, James was kidnapped while reporting on the conflict in northern Syria;

Whereas, on August 19, 2014, James Wright Foley was publicly beheaded by the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS), his death then used as propaganda against the United States of America;

Whereas, on September 4, 2014, the James W. Foley Legacy Foundation was established

to inspire the moral courage needed to secure the freedom of Americans taken captive abroad, prevent future hostage-taking, and promote journalist safety;

Whereas the Foley Foundation participated in the National Counter Terrorism Center task force, ordered by President Barack Obama to evaluate United States hostage policy and engagement with families of those held captive;

Whereas, on June 24, 2015, President Obama issued Presidential Policy Directive 30, which committed to “achieving the safe and rapid recovery of U.S. nationals taken hostage outside the United States” and established the current United States hostage enterprise, which includes the Hostage Response Group (HRG) at the National Security Council, the Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs (SPEHA), and the Hostage Recovery Fusion Cell (HRFC) that together pursue recovery strategies, support returned hostages and families of current hostages, and coordinate the use of diplomatic, law enforcement, intelligence, and military capabilities to resolve international hostage-takings;

Whereas the Foley Foundation has worked since 2014, in collaboration with the United States Government’s hostage enterprise and families of United States nationals taken hostage abroad by terrorists or criminals and those wrongfully detained by nation states to help reunite families;

Whereas, in 2019, after negotiating the release of a United States citizen wrongfully detained in Iran, President Trump reiterated that “the highest priority of the United States is the safety and well-being of its citizens. Freeing Americans held captive is of vital importance to my Administration, and we will continue to work hard to bring home all our citizens wrongfully held captive overseas,” and in 2023, upon negotiating the release of five Americans held in Iran, President Biden said that “reuniting wrongfully detained Americans with their loved ones has been a priority for my Administration since day one”;

Whereas, since 2019, the Foley Foundation has annually published research in the “Bringing Americans Home” report, which evaluates the experiences of American families with a loved one held captive abroad, returned hostages and detainees, and government and nongovernment experts;

Whereas, in December 2020, Congress passed, and President Trump reaffirmed the United States commitment to bringing home American citizens by signing into law the Robert Levinson Hostage Recovery and Hostage-Taking Accountability Act (22 U.S.C. 1741 et seq.) to prioritize and provide assistance to Americans wrongfully detained abroad and to their family members;

Whereas, in September 2021, Alexandra Kotey pleaded guilty to eight counts of kidnapping, torture, and accessory to murder of four Americans, including James Wright Foley, Kayla Jean Mueller, Steven Joel Sotloff, and Peter Edward Kassig;

Whereas, on August 19, 2022, the Department of Justice convicted former British jihadist, El Shafee ElSheik in Federal Court in the Eastern District of Virginia for the kidnapping, torture, and murder of Americans Sotloff, Kassig, Mueller, and Foley, as well as three British citizens;

Whereas, under Democratic and Republican presidents, the United States has suc-

cessfully freed more than 120 Americans from unjust captivity abroad;

Whereas President Joe Biden’s July 2022 Executive Order 14078 (relating to bolstering efforts to bring hostages and wrongfully detained United States nationals home) declared that hostage taking and the wrongful detention of United States nationals constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States; and

Whereas the targeting of United States nationals for use as political pawns by nation states is a grave threat to the security of United States nationals traveling abroad, seeks to hold the United States Government hostage, and strains international stability; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) stands with all those who have been taken hostage or wrongfully detained, those who have been released, and the families and friends who fight for their freedom;

(2) prioritizes the return of all innocent United States nationals targeted for kidnapping or wrongful detention abroad and will continue to take all necessary steps to secure the release of Americans and deter our adversaries from using Americans as tools for their geopolitical ambitions;

(3) acknowledges the need to continue working with allies and partners to develop a coordinated approach to deter and prevent international hostage-taking;

(4) condemns the practice of targeting and wrongfully detaining Americans in order to threaten American sovereignty and interfere with United States foreign policy;

(5) supports efforts to ensure that the United States Government hostage enterprise is properly resourced and authorized to address the evolving dynamic of hostage-taking and wrongful detention, including through the Hostage Response Group at the National Security Council, the Hostage Recovery Fusion Cell, the Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs, and supporting departments and agencies to speed the safe return of United States nationals held hostage abroad and deter future hostage-taking;

(6) commends the personnel, past and present, of the hostage enterprise who have endeavored to faithfully execute the mission of recovering Americans unjustly held captive abroad; and

(7) recognizes August 19, 2014, as a solemn remembrance of this national security threat and the United States Government’s sacred obligation to protect United States nationals abroad from being taken captive unjustly.

#### ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2024, THROUGH TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2024

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn under the provisions of S. Res. 888 to then convene for pro forma sessions only, with no business being conducted, on the following dates and times: Friday, September 27, at 10 a.m.; Tuesday, October 1, at 1 p.m.; Friday, October 4 at 10 a.m.; Tuesday, October 8, at 2:30 p.m.; Friday, October 11, at 8:30 a.m.; Tuesday, October 15, at 1:30 p.m.; Friday, October 18, at 10 a.m.;

Tuesday, October 22, at 8 a.m.; Friday October 25, at 10:30 a.m.; Tuesday, October 29, at 9:30 a.m.; Friday, November 1, at 11:30 a.m.; Monday, November 4, at 11 a.m.; Wednesday, November 6, at 12 noon; and Friday, November 8, at 12 noon; further, that when the Senate adjourns on Friday, November 8, it stand adjourned until 3 p.m. on Tuesday, November 12; that on Tuesday, following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that following the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Perry nomination; further, that if any nominations are confirmed during Tuesday’s session, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, and the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action; further, that the cloture motions filed during today’s session ripen on Wednesday, November 13.

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

#### ADJOURNMENT UNTIL FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2024, AT 10 A.M.

Mr. SCHUMER. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, under the previous order and pursuant to S. Res. 888, as a further mark of respect for the late James Ralph Sasser, former Senator from Tennessee, the Senate, at 9:48 p.m., adjourned until Friday, September 27, 2024, at 10 a.m.

#### CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate September 25, 2024:

##### UNITED STATES TAX COURT

JEFFREY SAMUEL ARBEIT, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES TAX COURT FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

BENJAMIN A. GUIDER III, OF LOUISIANA, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES TAX COURT FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

##### POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION

ANN C. FISHER, OF SOUTH DAKOTA, TO BE A COMMISSIONER OF THE POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 14, 2030.

ASHLEY JAY ELIZABETH POLING, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE A COMMISSIONER OF THE POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING NOVEMBER 22, 2030.

##### THE JUDICIARY

BYRON B. CONWAY, OF WISCONSIN, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN.

##### FOREIGN SERVICE

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JOHN R. BASS II AND ENDING WITH BRIAN A. NICHOLS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 2, 2023.