

**SENATE RESOLUTION 308—HONORING THE LIFE, ACHIEVEMENTS, AND LEGACY OF FREDERICK W. SMITH**

Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BARASSO, Mr. DAINES, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, and Mr. SULLIVAN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

**S. RES. 308**

Whereas Frederick W. Smith was born on August 11, 1944, in Marks, Mississippi;

Whereas Fred Smith was raised and lived most of his life in Memphis, Tennessee;

Whereas Fred Smith attended elementary school at Presbyterian Day School and high school at Memphis University School, where he was voted "Best All-Round" by his class;

Whereas Fred Smith earned his bachelor's degree in economics from Yale University;

Whereas, upon graduation, Fred Smith was commissioned in the United States Marine Corps, during which time he served 2 tours of duty in the Vietnam War, was honorably discharged in 1973 with the rank of captain, and received the Silver Star, the Bronze Star, and 2 Purple Hearts;

Whereas, after 4 years of service in the Marines, Fred Smith launched Federal Express (referred to in this preamble as "FedEx"), a company dedicated to the overnight shipping of small packages and documents, originally only offering service to 25 cities with a fleet of 14 jets;

Whereas, in the first few years of the existence of FedEx, Fred Smith worked tirelessly to keep FedEx open for business;

Whereas, because of the hard work of Fred Smith, FedEx quickly grew to become one of the most successful and iconic corporations in the United States, with operations that include more than 700 aircraft, more than 200,000 vehicles, approximately 5,000 operating facilities, and hundreds of thousands of employees;

Whereas, due to the vision of Fred Smith, FedEx revolutionized the package delivery system and has become a global giant in transportation, logistics, and e-commerce;

Whereas the air shipping operations of FedEx are based at its primary hub at Memphis International Airport, making the city of Memphis, Tennessee, a center for global logistics;

Whereas, in addition to his immense successes with FedEx, Fred Smith also gave back to his community, launching numerous philanthropic initiatives that worked to make the world better for children, the people of Memphis, and all people of the United States;

Whereas Fred Smith was preceded in death by his daughter, Windland Smith Rice, and is survived by his wife, Diane Smith, and his 9 children, 31 grandchildren, and 2 great-grandchildren; and

Whereas Fred Smith was a trailblazer who revolutionized global logistics, set an example for entrepreneurs across the United States, and worked his entire life to serve his community and the United States: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) honors the life, achievements, and legacy of Frederick W. Smith for—

(A) his accomplishments as a pioneer who revolutionized the transportation and express delivery industry;

(B) his inspiration to future generations of community leaders, innovators, and entrepreneurs in the United States; and

(C) his dedication to Memphis, Tennessee, a city that he loved dearly and committed to

supporting and uplifting throughout his entire life; and

(2) respectfully requests the Secretary of the Senate—

(A) communicate this resolution to the House of Representatives; and

(B) transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the family of Fred Smith.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 309—COMMEMORATING THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MARSHALL SPACE FLIGHT CENTER AND RECOGNIZING ITS CONTINUED LEADERSHIP IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SPACE LAUNCH SYSTEM AND HUMAN SPACE EXPLORATION**

Mr. TUBERVILLE (for himself and Mrs. BRITT) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

**S. RES. 309**

Whereas the Marshall Space Flight Center (referred to in this preamble as "MSFC"), located in Huntsville, Alabama, was officially established on July 1, 1960, as one of the premier centers for spaceflight research and development of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (referred to in this preamble as "NASA");

Whereas MSFC played a pivotal role in the historic Apollo program, designing and developing the Saturn V rocket that carried astronauts to the Moon, and marked a defining achievement in the scientific and engineering excellence of the United States;

Whereas MSFC has consistently led innovation and mission support for critical NASA programs, including Skylab, the first space station of the United States, the Hubble Space Telescope, the Chandra X-ray Observatory, and numerous other scientific payloads that have revolutionized understanding of the universe;

Whereas MSFC has provided engineering leadership, payload integration, and science operations in support of the International Space Station (commonly referred to as the "ISS"), helping maintain a continuous human presence in space since the year 2000;

Whereas MSFC continues to serve as the lead center for the development and integration of the Space Launch System (referred to in this preamble as the "SLS"), the most powerful launch vehicle developed by NASA since Saturn V, and a cornerstone of the Artemis program;

Whereas the SLS represents the commitment of the United States to returning humans to the Moon, preparing for future crewed missions to Mars, and expanding deep space exploration for generations to come;

Whereas the leadership of MSFC in the SLS program exemplifies the unmatched technical expertise of MSFC in large-scale propulsion systems, systems integration, and complex spaceflight engineering;

Whereas MSFC continues to serve as an anchor for the aerospace industry and STEM education in the Tennessee Valley region and beyond, providing high-tech jobs, economic opportunity, and outreach to schools and universities; and

Whereas MSFC is home to a dedicated workforce committed to excellence, safety, integrity, and teamwork: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) commemorates the 65th anniversary of the establishment of the Marshall Space Flight Center (referred to in this resolution as "MSFC");

(2) recognizes the historical legacy and critical contributions of MSFC to the leadership of the United States in space exploration over the past 65 years;

(3) commends the continued excellence and leadership of the MSFC in the development and integration of the Space Launch System (commonly referred to as the "SLS") as the leading technology for deep space exploration;

(4) reaffirms the strong support of the Senate for the ongoing mission of the MSFC and the broader goals of the Artemis program at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (commonly referred to as "NASA") and beyond; and

(5) honors the commitment, skill, and innovation of the engineers, scientists, technicians, and support staff who have contributed to the mission of MSFC to advance spaceflight for the United States.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 310—RECOGNIZING TUNISIA'S LEADERSHIP IN THE ARAB SPRING AND EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR UPHOLDING ITS DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES AND NORMS**

Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. COONS, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. SCHIFF) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

**S. RES. 310**

Whereas Tunisia gained its independence from France on March 20, 1956, with Habib Bourguiba serving as Prime Minister, before becoming Tunisia's first President in 1957;

Whereas President Bourguiba led Tunisia through independence and the ensuing 30 years, a period that included vast social reforms and restrictions on civil society and democratic participation;

Whereas, in 1987, Prime Minister Zine El Abidine Ben Ali deposed President Bourguiba and named himself President of Tunisia, citing Bourguiba's incompetence and failing health to justify his undemocratic actions;

Whereas President Ben Ali was subsequently elected in 1989 and 1994 without genuine opposition, and was re-elected in 1999, 2004, and 2009 by implausibly high vote margins in election processes that were widely deemed as neither free nor fair;

Whereas President Ben Ali's rule was marred by gross human rights violations and a lack of democratic freedoms;

Whereas, the 2003 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, released by the Department of State on February 25, 2004, stated, referring to Tunisia—

(1) "Elections are regularly characterized by notable irregularities, including voter intimidation, and there is no secret ballot.";

(2) "Security forces physically abused, intimidated, and harassed citizens who voiced public criticism of the Government.";

(3) "The Government continued to impose significant restrictions on freedom of speech and the press."; and

(4) "The Government remained intolerant of public criticism and used physical abuse, criminal investigations, the court system, arbitrary arrests, residential restrictions, and travel controls (including denial of passports) to discourage criticism by human rights and opposition activists.";

Whereas, on December 17, 2010, 26-year-old fruit and vegetable street vendor Mohamed Bouazizi lit himself on fire in desperate protest in Sidi Bouzid, Tunisia, an act that was largely seen as the beginning of the Arab Spring movement that spread throughout the region;

Whereas ensuing popular protests in Tunisia in response to corruption, repression, and economic failure—

- (1) forced the resignation of President Ben Ali from the office of President;
- (2) ended his 23-year rule; and
- (3) further inspired similar pent up democratic demands throughout the Arab world;

Whereas Tunisia emerged from the Arab Spring as one of the most hopeful and promising reformed democracies in the region, including with an interim government and a Constituent Assembly responsible for drafting a new constitution and fostering political compromise for a future democratic government;

Whereas, in February 2011, Senator John McCain urged United States support for Tunisia's democratic transition, noting "The revolution in Tunisia has been very successful and it has become a model for the region";

Whereas, in March 2011, United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon pledged full support for Tunisia's transition to democracy, hailing the country's revolution as the spark that lit "the profound and dramatic changes" sweeping the Arab world;

Whereas, on January 26, 2014, the Constituent Assembly of Tunisia adopted a new constitution demonstrating consensus for building a democracy founded on freedom and equality;

Whereas the new constitution of Tunisia includes Articles that—

- (1) give equal rights to men and women;
- (2) protection freedoms of assembly, peaceful demonstration, expression, and publication; and
- (3) outline an electoral system and representation for the Tunisian people with checks and balances;

Whereas, in November 2014, Tunisia held its first genuinely free and fair presidential election since its independence in 1956, with 27 candidates freely competing for the office of president;

Whereas longtime politician Beji Caid Essebsi won the election in a runoff with 55 percent of the vote, becoming Tunisia's first legitimately elected president since independence;

Whereas President Essebsi faced many difficult challenges, including economic turmoil, terrorist attacks, and public expectations for change;

Whereas public disillusionment with the country's political elites increased amid continued corruption and devastating acts of terrorism that severely hurt the tourism industry and larger economy;

Whereas political outsider and constitutional law professor Kais Saied won the presidential election held on October 13, 2019, and was sworn into office 10 days later in a peaceful transfer of power;

Whereas, by 2021, protests in response to worsening economic conditions, further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, occurred across cities in Tunisia, to which the police responded violently;

Whereas, in July 2021, President Saied capitalized on unrest to unilaterally seize power by—

- (1) dismissing Prime Minister Hichem Mechichi;
- (2) suspending Parliament for 30 days; and
- (3) assuming full executive authority without first consulting the government;

Whereas in late 2021, President Saied indefinitely suspended Parliament and transferred all legislative powers to himself;

Whereas, in early 2022, President Saied continued to undermine Tunisia's democratic institutions, including by taking control of the Independent High Authority for Elections and dissolving the High Judicial Council;

Whereas, in July 2022, President Saied unilaterally put to a referendum a new draft constitution, which—

- (1) consolidated power to the presidency;
- (2) limited parliamentary authority; and
- (3) diminished judicial independence;

Whereas the new draft constitution was approved despite remarkably low voter turnout and heavy domestic and international criticism surrounding the lack of genuine debate throughout the drafting process;

Whereas, between 2021 and 2024, Tunisia experienced—

- (1) a dramatic drop in voter participation and public confidence in the political process; and
- (2) an escalation in politically motivated arrests of political opponents, judges, lawyers, journalists, and business leaders in an effort to stifle dissent;

Whereas prior to Tunisia's presidential elections in October 2024, President Saied relied on legal texts he introduced or drafted to disqualify or jail nearly all of his political opponents;

Whereas President Saied won a second term on October 6, 2024, winning 90.7 percent of the vote with a 28.8 percent voter turnout, which was the lowest turnout since the 2011 revolution;

Whereas, in April 2025, Tunisian authorities handed down mass convictions to 40 individuals, including a United States citizen, who were primarily human rights defenders, lawyers, and prominent political opposition figures, following a politically motivated trial marred with a lack of due process and procedural flaws; and

Whereas President Saied's authoritarian actions continue to dramatically undermined and threaten what remains of Tunisia's nascent democratic institutions: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

- (1) recognizes Tunisia as the symbolic birthplace of the historic Arab Spring movement and the country's notable democratic reforms that emerged during the Arab Spring period;
- (2) commends the Tunisian people for their courage and democratic achievements made in the immediate years following the Arab Spring;
- (3) expresses deep concern for dramatic reversals of such democratic gains, including—

- (A) the erosion of judicial independence;
- (B) political repression and arrests; and
- (C) the undemocratic consolidation of power;

- (4) urges the Government of Tunisia—
- (A) to release all political prisoners;
- (B) to respect the rights of the people to free exercise of peaceful assembly, expression, and the press; and
- (C) to restore and respect the independence of electoral, judicial, and anti-corruption institutions;

- (5) supports the Tunisian people in their constitutionally protected right to peacefully demonstrate; and
- (6) urges the Trump Administration to sanction those Tunisian officials who have been primarily involved in repression of peaceful democratic activities.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 311—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE PARLIAMENTARIAN OF THE SENATE SHOULD SERVE NOT MORE THAN 1 TERM OF 6 YEARS

Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Mr. TUBERVILLE, and Mrs. BLACKBURN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 311

Whereas the Parliamentarian of the Senate serves at the will of the Secretary of the Senate, who is chosen by the majority leader;

Whereas the Parliamentarian of the Senate advises the presiding officer on rules, procedures, and precedents;

Whereas, since 1981, only 3 individuals have served as Parliamentarian of the Senate, serving an average of 15 years;

Whereas, in 2001, the Secretary of the Senate dismissed the Parliamentarian of the Senate; and

Whereas a 6-year term limit for the Parliamentarian of the Senate would prevent entrenchment of power, promote accountability, and encourage fresh perspectives: Now, therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

- (1) acknowledges that the Parliamentarian of the Senate serves at the pleasure of the Secretary of the Senate, who is chosen by the majority leader of the Senate;
- (2) recognizes that historical precedent allows the Secretary of the Senate to dismiss the Parliamentarian of the Senate;
- (3) remains committed to using the reconciliation process to return the United States to sound fiscal footing by removing waste, fraud, and abuse from mandatory spending programs; and
- (4) believes that the Parliamentarian of the Senate should serve not more than 1 term of 6 years.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2358. Mr. HUSTED (for Ms. CANTWELL) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 257, to improve the resilience of critical supply chains, and for other purposes.

SA 2359. Ms. SLOTKIN (for herself and Mr. KIM) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the joint resolution S.J. Res. 59, to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities against the Islamic Republic of Iran that have not been authorized by Congress; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

#### TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2358. Mr. HUSTED (for Ms. CANTWELL) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 257, to improve the resilience of critical supply chains, and for other purposes, as follows:

On page 31, line 23, insert "the Committee on Foreign Relations," after "Transportation".

On page 32, lines 1 and 2, strike "Commerce" and insert "Commerce, the Committee on Foreign Affairs,".

SA 2359. Ms. SLOTKIN (for herself and Mr. KIM) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the joint resolution S.J. Res. 59, to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities against the Islamic Republic of Iran that have not been authorized by Congress; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations; as follows:

At the end of section 1, add the following:

- (7) The Government of Iran is a leading state sponsor of terrorism and has repeatedly engaged in a range of destabilizing and malign activities across the Middle East and around the world.
- (8) These actions include harassment and direct threats to United States personnel,