

the United States and Vietnam on July 11, 1995;

Whereas significant progress has been made in the bilateral relationship since the normalization of diplomatic relations between the United States and Vietnam, leading to cooperation between the governments and peoples of the United States and Vietnam in an array of areas, extending to political, economic, and cultural ties;

Whereas, in January of 2001, Congress passed the bipartisan Vietnam Education Foundation Act of 2000 (title II of division B of Public Law 106-554) to promote reconciliation between the United States and Vietnam through an international exchange program between the 2 countries, which allowed Vietnamese nationals to pursue advanced studies in the United States and United States citizens to teach in the fields of science, mathematics, medicine, and technology in Vietnam;

Whereas, in September and October of 2001, respectively, the House of Representatives and the Senate approved measures to implement a bilateral trade agreement negotiated during the Presidency of Bill Clinton, which was subsequently signed into law by President George W. Bush on October 3, 2001;

Whereas, in December 2006, Congress granted permanent normal trade relations status to Vietnam under title IV of division D of the Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-432);

Whereas, on July 25, 2013, President Barack Obama and Vietnamese President Truong Tan Sang agreed to establish a comprehensive partnership between Vietnam and the United States based on the principles of respect for the United Nations Charter, international law, respect for political institutions, independence and sovereignty, and each other's territorial integrity;

Whereas, on May 23, 2016, President Barack Obama announced the removal of remaining United States restrictions on the sale of lethal weapons and related services to Vietnam, following President George W. Bush's 2007 decision to permit case-by-case sales of nonlethal defense items and defense services and President Obama's 2014 decision to partially ease United States restrictions on the transfer of lethal weapons and articles to Vietnam;

Whereas President Donald Trump became the first United States President to visit Vietnam twice in one presidential term, including a November 2017 state visit during which President Trump and Vietnamese President Tran Dai Quang—

(1) concluded a 3-year Plan of Action for Defense Cooperation to increase bilateral naval activities;

(2) agreed on the first visit of a United States aircraft carrier (the USS Carl Vinson) to Vietnam since the end of the Vietnam War;

(3) reaffirmed the importance of freedom of navigation, overflight, and unfettered commerce in the South China Sea and a bilateral commitment to a rules-based approach to resolving maritime disputes;

(4) celebrated the conclusion of a joint effort to clean dioxin-contaminated soil and sediment in Da Nang, Vietnam;

(5) welcomed the United States' commitment to contribute to dioxin remediation efforts at Bien Hoa Airport; and

(6) pledged to increase bilateral trade and investment relations, including \$12,000,000,000 in commercial agreements;

Whereas, on September 10, 2023, President Joe Biden and General Secretary Nguyen Phú Trọng issued a Joint Communiqué that—

(1) upgraded the bilateral relationship between the United States and Vietnam to the level of Comprehensive Strategic Partnership;

(2) celebrated the expansion of dioxin remediation at Bien Hoa Air Base, extending the bilateral partnership agreement into 2028, and expanding unexploded ordnance tracking and clearance activities;

(3) recognized considerable progress made in the bilateral relationship in a short, 10-year period; and

(4) underscored fundamental principles guiding United States-Vietnam relations and respect for each other's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity;

Whereas, on October 26, 2025, the United States and Vietnam agreed to a Framework for an Agreement on Reciprocal, Fair and Balanced Trade, which will bolster United States national and economic security, expand bilateral trade, and strengthen supply chain security;

Whereas the United States and Vietnam have formed a partnership in promoting peace, cooperation, prosperity, and security in the Indo-Pacific region, including by—

(1) recognizing the strategic importance of free and open access to the South China Sea; and

(2) continuing programs initiated during the administrations of President Obama, President Trump, and President Biden to help Vietnam enhance its maritime capabilities;

Whereas, throughout these positive developments, Congress has consistently offered strong bipartisan support for the continuation and eventual completion of war legacy programs in Vietnam as the basis on which the bilateral relationship was established 30 years ago;

Whereas the United States and Vietnam will continue to deepen cooperation in a wide range of areas, including political and diplomatic relations, economic trade and investment, science and technology, education and health, cultural and people-to-people ties, defense and security, regional and global issues, and the promotion and protection of internationally-recognized human rights, to ensure the interests of the people in the United States and in Vietnam and to contribute to peace, stability, cooperation, and prosperity around the world: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes—

(A) the significance of the 30th anniversary of normalization of the bilateral relationship between the United States and Vietnam; and

(B) the strong and enduring relationship built by the United States and Vietnam based on mutual respect, trust, and a shared commitment to peace and prosperity;

(2) honors the contributions of Vietnamese Americans to the United States during the past 50 years, including—

(A) their tireless commitment to strengthening ties between the United States and Vietnam; and

(B) facilitating reconciliation and economic prosperity between the 2 countries;

(3) honors—

(A) the service of members of the United States Armed Forces who fought in Vietnam, including those who gave their lives in the conflict; and

(B) United States veteran-led initiatives established and dedicated to engaging in reconciliation efforts with the Vietnamese people;

(4) expresses the commitment of the United States to the sustained continuation of funding and operational support to war legacy programs in Vietnam foundational to the bilateral relationship, including—

(A) dioxin remediation at Bien Hoa Airport;

(B) unexploded ordnance removal;

(C) support for persons with disabilities;

(D) capacity building in provincial and national efforts on mine action; and

(E) accounting for Vietnamese missing and fallen soldiers from the war;

(5) acknowledges the significant progress in various areas of bilateral cooperation, including political and diplomatic relations, trade and economic ties, defense and security, and people-to-people exchanges, including the United States-supported Fulbright University, Vietnam's first independent non-profit higher education institution;

(6) reaffirms the commitment of the United States to sustaining and building on the partnership officially established in the U.S.-Vietnam Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in September 2023, underscored by the fundamental principles guiding the bilateral relationship, including respect for the United Nations Charter, international law, and respect for each other's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity; and

(7) expresses—

(A) the determination of the United States to continue strengthening cooperation with Vietnam across sectors; and

(B) the vital importance of the bilateral relationship between the United States and Vietnam to addressing shared challenges and promoting continued peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region.

REMEMBERING THE DECEMBER 6, 2019, TERRORIST ATTACK AT NAVAL AIR STATION PENSACOLA

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 571, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 571) remembering the December 6, 2019, terrorist attack at Naval Air Station Pensacola and commemorating those who lost their lives, and those who were injured, in the line of duty.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 571) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

HONORING THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF UNITED STATES ARMY SERGEANT WILLIAM NATHANIEL HOWARD AND UNITED STATES ARMY SERGEANT EDGAR BRIAN TORRES-TOVAR

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to consideration of S. Res. 572, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 572) honoring the service and sacrifice of United States Army Sergeant William Nathaniel Howard and United States Army Sergeant Edgar Brian Torres-Tovar, who were killed in action in Palmyra, Syria, in a targeted assault against United States servicemembers on December 13, 2025.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. THUNE. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 572) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS RELIEF ACT

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 4323, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4323) to provide for the vacating of certain convictions and expungement of certain arrests of victims of human trafficking.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. THUNE. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (H.R. 4323) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

VETERANS ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT OF 2025

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 276, S. 1383.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1383) to establish the Veterans Accessibility Committee on Equal Access, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic, as follows:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Veterans Accessibility Advisory Committee Act of 2025".

SEC. 2. VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EQUAL ACCESS.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall establish within the Department of Veterans Affairs an advisory committee on matters relating to accessibility of the Department for individuals with disabilities.

(2) *DESIGNATION.*—The advisory committee established by paragraph (1) shall be known as the "Veterans Advisory Committee on Equal Access" (in this section the "Advisory Committee").

(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) *VOTING MEMBERS.*—The Advisory Committee shall be composed of 15 voting members, appointed by the Secretary. In appointing such members, the Secretary shall ensure the following:

(A) Four are veterans with disabilities, including mobility impairment, hearing, visual, and mental or cognitive disabilities.

(B) Four are experts on issues described in subsection (f)(1)(A) or the provisions of law set forth under subsection (f)(1)(B).

(C) Two are employees of the Department, one from the Section 508 Office and one from the Architectural Accessibility Program, or successor programs or offices, who oversee the compliance of the Department with Federal accessibility laws.

(D) Five are representatives nominated by national veterans service organizations that advocate for veterans with physical, sensory, mental, or cognitive disabilities.

(2) *EX OFFICIO MEMBERS.*—The Advisory Committee shall also include four ex officio members (or their designees):

(A) The Under Secretary for Health.

(B) The Under Secretary for Benefits.

(C) The Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs.

(D) The chairperson of the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (known as the "Access Board").

(3) *QUALIFICATIONS.*—In selecting members under paragraph (1), in addition to any qualifications described in such paragraph, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that members are selected based on their ability to support the success of the Advisory Committee.

(c) TERMS; VACANCIES.—

(1) *TERMS.*—A member of the Advisory Committee shall be appointed for a term of two years. The Secretary may reappoint members to the Advisory Committee for such additional two-year terms as the Secretary determines appropriate.

(2) *VACANCIES.*—The Secretary shall fill a vacancy in the Advisory Committee in the same manner as the original appointment not later than 180 days after such vacancy occurs.

(d) MEETINGS.—

(1) *FREQUENCY.*—The Advisory Committee shall meet not less frequently than twice each year.

(2) *SUBCOMMITTEES.*—The Advisory Committee may form subcommittees, which shall meet as often as required.

(3) *QUORUM.*—A majority of the members of the Advisory Committee shall constitute a quorum.

(e) *CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON.*—The Secretary shall select a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson from among the members of the Advisory Committee. If the position of Chairperson or Vice Chairperson becomes vacant, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall select a new Chairperson or Vice Chairperson, as the case may be, not later than 30 days after the date on which the position became vacant.

(f) DUTIES.—

(1) *REQUIREMENT TO CONSULT AND SEEK ADVICE.*—On a regular basis, the Secretary shall consult with and seek the advice of the Advisory Committee—

(A) on improving the accessibility of the Department for individuals with disabilities, including improving—

(i) the accessibility of information of the Department, including electronic information;

(ii) the accessibility of the services and benefits furnished by the Department;

(iii) the accessibility in facilities or on property of the Department;

(iv) the accessibility of facilities of non-Department benefits services providers or health care providers furnishing care or services under programs administered by the Department, including under the Veterans Community Care Program under section 1703 of title 38, United States Code; and

(v) the acquisition process of the Department to ensure that products and services, including information technology and information and communication technology (as defined in the standards issued by the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board pursuant to section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794d)), are accessible when purchased; and

(B) for ensuring the compliance of the Department with provisions of law, where applicable, relating to disability and accessibility, including—

(i) the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12184 et seq.);

(ii) sections 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 791, 794, and 794d);

(iii) the Plain Writing Act of 2010 (5 U.S.C. 301 note);

(iv) the 21st Century Integrated Digital Experience Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 note);

(v) the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (Public Law 90-480); and

(vi) such other provisions of Federal law as may be that ensure equal access to Federal properties and facilities, benefits, or services for individuals with disabilities.

(2) *PROVISION OF ADVICE.*—In providing advice to the Secretary, the Advisory Committee shall, focusing on the areas of greatest need for the Department—

(A) assess the disability access needs of veterans, the public, and Department employees for full access to the Department's information, services, and benefits by reviewing relevant information, such as filed complaints by people with disabilities or physical assessments of the Department's properties and facilities;

(B) provide assessments of accessibility at the Department and the compliance of the Department with applicable provisions of law relating to disability and accessibility; and

(C) provide advice on improving accessibility at the Department, including the accessibility of all—

(i) communications, including internal and public facing;

(ii) services and benefits; and

(iii) facilities.

(3) REPORTS.—

(A) *REPORTS TO THE SECRETARY.*—Not later than two years after the date of the first meeting of the Advisory Committee, and not less frequently than once every two years thereafter, the Advisory Committee shall submit to the Secretary a report that, focusing on areas of greatest need for the Department—

(i) identifies and assesses access barriers affecting veterans, the public, and employees of the Department;

(ii) determines the extent to which the programs and activities of the Department address the barriers identified in clause (i), including compliance of the Department with provisions of law relating to accessibility law and reporting;

(iii) provides recommendations and access priorities to improve the accessibility of the Department's services, benefits, information, technology, and facilities;

(iv) provides a description of access improvements and assesses the Department's implementation of recommendations from previous reports of the Advisory Committee, including any unmet recommendations that remain necessary for improving accessibility for the Department; and