

lives, or who were injured, and the harm caused to the surrounding community, as a result of the terrorist attack;

(3) remembers Ensign Joshua Kaleb Watson, Petty Officer Third Class Mohammed Sameh Haitham, and Petty Officer Third Class Cameron Scott Walters, who were killed in the terrorist attack;

(4) expresses gratitude for the heroic actions that the civilians, uniformed personnel, and law enforcement performed during and in the aftermath of the terrorist attack;

(5) lauds the decision to give medals and awards to the law enforcement officers, uniformed servicemembers, and civilians who responded heroically on the morning of December 6, 2019; and

(6) commends the efforts undertaken by the Department of Defense to enhance security at military installations to ensure that the tragedy represented by the terrorist attack is never repeated.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 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 SERVICE MEMBERS ON DECEMBER 13, 2025**

Ms. ERNST (for herself and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 572

Whereas, on the morning of December 13, 2025, members of the Iowa Army National Guard were conducting a counter-terrorism engagement near Palmyra, Syria, as part of ongoing multinational efforts to degrade Islamic State remnants;

Whereas, during this engagement, a lone gunman believed to be affiliated with the Islamic State opened fire on United States and partner forces in a deliberate assault;

Whereas, as a result of this attack, United States Army Sergeant William Nathaniel “Nate” Howard, age 29, of Marshalltown, Iowa, and United States Army Sergeant Edgar Brian Torres-Tovar, age 25, of Des Moines, Iowa, both assigned to the 1st Squadron, 113th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division of the Iowa Army National Guard, were killed in action;

Whereas a United States civilian interpreter also lost their life in this attack, and 3 other Iowa National Guard soldiers sustained injuries;

Whereas Sergeant Howard and Sergeant Torres-Tovar were dedicated soldiers who served with distinction in defense of the United States and in the global campaign against terrorism;

Whereas Sergeant Howard served over 11 years in the Iowa Army National Guard and had a deep commitment to his fellow soldiers and his mission, representing the very best of Iowa and the United States;

Whereas Sergeant Torres-Tovar was beloved by his community and fellow National Guardsmen for his selflessness, professionalism, and commitment to service, and he joined the Iowa Army National Guard before his high school graduation ceremony in 2019; and

Whereas the families, friends, and communities of Sergeant Howard and Sergeant Torres-Tovar have endured an immeasurable

loss and continue to honor the memory of their loved ones: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) honors the memory, service, and sacrifice of United States Army Sergeant William Nathaniel “Nate” Howard for his dedicated service to his State and to his country as a member of the Iowa Army National Guard;

(2) honors the memory, service, and sacrifice of United States Army Sergeant Edgar Brian Torres-Tovar for his dedicated service to his State and to his country as a member of the Iowa Army National Guard;

(3) extends its sympathies, gratitude, and support to the families of Sergeant Howard and Sergeant Torres-Tovar, and to all others affected by this attack;

(4) honors the bravery and professionalism of the National Guard members and partner forces who responded under fire and cared for the wounded;

(5) expresses profound gratitude for the swift actions of the United States and allied personnel on the scene who engaged the attacker and prevented further loss of life;

(6) condemns in the strongest terms the horrific terrorist assault targeting United States service members and civilians;

(7) recognizes that the members of the National Guard and all volunteers who serve in harm’s way on behalf of the United States embody the highest ideals of duty, courage, and selfless service; and

(8) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) the family of Sergeant Howard; and

(B) the family of Sergeant Torres-Tovar.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 573—EXPRESSING THE NEED FOR THE UNITED STATES’ CONTINUED LEADERSHIP ON MATTERS OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM**

Mr. RISCH submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 573

Whereas the freedom of religion is the United States’ first right that launched a revolution to enshrine freedom for all;

Whereas the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States clearly states, “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances”;

Whereas the United States’ founding fathers believed all persons had “inalienable rights”, as endowed by our Creator and further protected by the Government;

Whereas these inalienable rights also belong to those around the world, as they are inherent and the foundation of individual dignity and freedom;

Whereas the United States is the global leader in the fight to protect and expand the inalienable right to freedom of religion;

Whereas the United States has consistently reaffirmed its commitment to the freedom of religion, including through the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-292) and the Frank R. Wolf International Religious Freedom Act (Public Law 114-281);

Whereas Congress has reaffirmed its commitment to the promotion of religious freedom abroad by creating and confirming Ambassadors-at-Large for International Religious Freedom and the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism;

Whereas other Western countries have not taken similar steps to enshrine the inalien-

able right of religious freedom in their founding documents or in a consistent pattern of domestic policies;

Whereas the rise of religious intolerance in Europe has created an environment that—

(1) criminalizes certain religious practices that target Jews; and

(2) creates subtly inhospitable environments for Christians;

Whereas countries around the world continue to engage in gross violations of internationally recognized human rights, including violations of the inalienable right to freedom of religion;

Whereas governments in Afghanistan, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Burma, China, Cuba, Egypt, Eritrea, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, North Korea, Pakistan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Syria, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, and Vietnam, and have all engaged in patterns of violations of varying degrees of religious freedom;

Whereas the Chinese Communist Party arrested dozens of Zion House Church members and leaders in October 2025, which was the greatest attack on Christianity in China in decades in their continued campaign to Sinicize religion;

Whereas the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom 2025 Annual Report revealed that the Government of Nicaragua continues to ruthlessly suppress religious freedom for Christians, including through intimidation tactics;

Whereas Vatican leaders are mourning the ongoing killings of Christians for their faith, which are occurring in increasing numbers in some places;

Whereas according to the pontifical foundation Aid to the Church in Need, more than 360,000,000 Christians live in areas where they face high levels of persecution;

Whereas such patterns of violating religious freedom will continue in these countries unless the United States sends clear, concise, and strong messages to cease such behavior; and

Whereas, as the global leader for centuries on religious freedom, only the United States can proclaim without reservation that these countries must reverse course and protect and defend the inalienable rights of all people, particularly those who are seeking to exercise the most provocative right, which is the natural and inalienable right to freedom of religion: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) reaffirms the United States’ leadership around the world to promote, protect, and expand the inalienable and internationally recognized right to freedom of religion;

(2) encourages the Secretary of State—

(A) to continue to engage on matters of religious freedom;

(B) to use all available tools and resources to discourage foreign governments from continuing patterns of violations; and

(C) to continue to engage on matters of religious freedom with friendly nations to prevent further erosion of religious freedom;

(3) reaffirms the importance of the offices of the Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom and the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism;

(4) supports the offices of the Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom and the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism to work together to ensure that no faith or believer is left behind; and

(5) commits the United States to always support those seeking freedom from authoritarian repression against our shared and inalienable rights.

## AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 4114. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4115. Mr. BENNET submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4116. Mr. HICKENLOOPER (for himself and Mr. BENNET) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4117. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4118. Ms. BALDWIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4119. Ms. BALDWIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4120. Ms. HIRONO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4121. Ms. HIRONO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4122. Ms. HIRONO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4123. Ms. HIRONO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4124. Ms. HIRONO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4125. Mr. LUJAN (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4126. Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. MORAN, and Ms. DUCKWORTH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4127. Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4128. Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Ms. ROSEN, and Mr. CURTIS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to

amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4129. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4130. Ms. KLOBUCHAR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4131. Ms. KLOBUCHAR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4132. Ms. KLOBUCHAR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4133. Ms. KLOBUCHAR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4134. Mr. SHEEHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4135. Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. SULLIVAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4136. Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. PADILLA) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4137. Mr. WARNOCK (for himself and Mr. OSSOFF) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4138. Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4139. Mr. WELCH (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. KAINE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. KIM, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4140. Mr. THUNE (for Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. DAINES)) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 321, commemorating 30 years of diplomatic relations between the United States and Vietnam on July 11, 2025.

SA 4141. Mr. THUNE (for Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. DAINES)) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 321, supra.

SA 4142. Mr. THUNE (for Mr. MORAN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 787, to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a commission to review operations at the Veterans Health Administration and submit to Congress reports with respect to that review, and for other purposes.

SA 4143. Mr. TILLIS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4144. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4145. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4146. Mr. GALLEG0 (for himself and Mr. KELLY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4147. Mr. PADILLA submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

## TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

**SA 4114.** Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS TO MAKE A PAYMENT FOR THE PERSONAL BENEFIT OF THE PRESIDENT.**

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Congress enacted the Federal Tort Claims Act in 1946 (which was subsequently enacted into positive law as chapter 171 of title 28, United States Code (referred to in this section as the “Federal Tort Claims Act”), allowing plaintiffs to file tort claims against the United States in Federal court and waiving the application of a sovereign immunity defense for specific torts committed by Federal employees while acting within their scope of employment.

(2) The Department of Justice defends the Federal Government against claims that arise under the Federal Tort Claims Act (in this section referred to as “FTCA claims”). It is the responsibility of the Department to protect the legal and financial interests of the United States in settlements of FTCA claims.

(3) The Department of Justice is required to assess the legal sufficiency of FTCA claims that are being considered for possible settlement, before payment can be issued under section 1304 of title 31, United States Code, the sole payment mechanism for claims that arise under the FTCA.

(4) President Trump filed 2 FTCA claims in 2023, stemming from investigations related to Russian interference in the 2016 Presidential election and the search conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation of his private residence at Mar-a-Lago.

(5) The unprecedented demand to use taxpayer dollars to pay the President, at his order, is in direct contravention of the system of checks and balances that the Constitution of the United States demands.

(6) Within the Department of Justice, the 2 individuals eligible to effectuate this command by President Trump, who are serving in the positions of Deputy Attorney General and Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Civil Division of the Department of Justice, formerly represented the President or others in his political orbit. These individuals lack objectivity in the review of this request.

(b) PROHIBITION.—None of the funds made available under any division of this Act may