

I would join in this call for getting things done.

A message that I have tried to make clear is that many of us, most of us, perhaps all of us are away from home, away from family. We come to Washington, DC. And in much of my life, I felt guilty about being gone from things at home. That sense of regret about being absent to family, to kids, to wife, is somewhat compensated for in the service that comes from this, serving in the U.S. Senate, from public service. But unless we actually accomplish things, it is hard to justify the sadness that comes, the challenges that come, the absence of fulfilling responsibilities that occur in our lives if we are here without accomplishments.

As Senator LANKFORD made so clear, it doesn't always have to be the biggest things or the things that are thought of to be the biggest; it could be things that are in many ways, in people's minds, the modest or small things. But I can't imagine that anybody in the U.S. Senate or Congress or public service or in jobs that are demanding would do so if they didn't think there was a goal accomplished at the end of their time.

We all ought to take to heart what the Senator from Oklahoma said about getting things done. It can help us justify being away from those we love so frequently and doing something that actually matters to America and the world.

We don't—certainly we shouldn't—come here for purposes of the name on the door or a nice desk in a big office or for the camaraderie or to be able to call yourself a U.S. Senator. Those things are absolutely meaningless. But if we can find the common denominator between Republicans and Democrats, between individuals from different States and different parts of the country; if we can find the common denominator between people who have different ideas and political philosophies, the U.S. Senate should be a place that is designed to pull people together, to bring us together so that those accomplishments occur.

I commend my colleague from Oklahoma as a Senator who has accomplishments and works hard to make sure that we all are working together so we all can have accomplishments. I express my gratitude to and respect for the Senator.

REMEMBERING CHARLEY SHOEMAKER

Mr. President, I want to take the moment I have to honor the life and mourn the passing of a Kansan, Charley Shoemaker—someone I knew really well and somebody who was from time to time an adviser to me, particularly on issues related to veterans.

Charley Shoemaker was born and raised in Leavenworth, KS. Charley took Kansas values and hard work and dedicated his service—he took service to heart, and he worked hard on behalf of other people—especially veterans—throughout his life.

He served in the U.S. Army, sacrificing for his country and defending

freedom in Vietnam. Following his departure from the Army, Charley met his wife Roberta in Leavenworth, where they raised their children and would enjoy 44 years of marriage together.

Charley's dedication to his fellow servicemembers continued well after his time and well after the time that Active Duty came to an end. Charley found the VFW or the VFW found Charley—I am not sure which, but they became integrally engaged and involved with each other. He was so involved in his local VFW post in Leavenworth, he served in many positions throughout his time as a member.

Charley began his leadership role as the commander of VFW Post 56 but would go on to serve as district manager, Kansas Department commander, Western Conference commander, and VFW councilman for Kansas and Colorado. He later served as VFW national inspector general under national commander B.J. Lawrence.

It was through his service that I came to know Charley. His knowledge, expertise, and passion for improving the lives of other veterans—veterans he knew and veterans he never met—were incredibly valuable to them and valuable to me. He regularly provided me with advice and was part of a group of veterans who met with me to discuss veterans' affairs.

Charley's compassion and his insight into tackling the challenges that veterans face were invaluable to me but so much more valuable to thousands of veterans across Kansas and across our country that he served.

Charley's passion for giving back to his fellow servicemembers and his community led him to give much of his time and energy to volunteering—volunteering each year, for example, for the Leavenworth Veterans Day Parade. He established the Leavenworth County Law Enforcement Awards Dinner to honor those who dedicated their lives in service to their community and their country.

Charley was a light to all who knew him, and he is deeply missed. My prayers are with his sons, Michael, Patrick, Christopher, and Charles; his grandchildren, brothers and sisters, and many nieces and nephews. His legacy will live on in the hearts of all who knew him.

Mr. President, I thank you for the opportunity to express my gratitude and respect for Charley—a life well lived.

I yield the floor.

(Mr. MORENO assumed the Chair.)

(Mr. HUSTED assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. MOODY). The majority leader.

COMMEMORATING 30 YEARS OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND VIETNAM ON JULY 11, 2025

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous

consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 321.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 321) commemorating 30 years of diplomatic relations between the United States and Vietnam on July 11, 2025.

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

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Merkley-Daines substitute amendment at the desk to the resolution be agreed to; that the resolution, as amended, be agreed to; that the Merkley-Daines substitute amendment at the desk to the preamble be 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. 4140) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the resolved clause and insert the following:

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.

The resolution (S. Res. 321), as amended, was agreed to.

The amendment (No. 4141), in the nature of a substitute, to the preamble was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the preamble)

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas, since the end of the Vietnam War, hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese have resettled in and built vibrant communities across the United States, which contribute to the rich diversity of our Nation;

Whereas joint efforts across the administrations of President Ronald Reagan and President George H. W. Bush to address questions surrounding United States servicemembers missing in action (MIA) set the foundation for the normalization of bilateral relations between the United States and Vietnam;

Whereas, between 1991 and 1993, the Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs of the Senate conducted public hearings and issued an extensive report on prisoner of war (POW) and MIA issues, helping to lay the domestic political foundation for subsequent breakthroughs in United States-Vietnam relations;

Whereas efforts to identify and return the remains of service members missing in action on both the United States and Vietnamese sides, alongside unexploded ordnance removal, dioxin remediation, disability programs supporting survivors impacted by these war remnants, and efforts to continue public education on these topics have contributed to ongoing war legacy programs, which are a vital component of the bilateral relationship between Vietnam and the United States;

Whereas section 521 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1994 and 1995 (Public Law 103-236) expressed the Senate's support for the normalization of relations with Vietnam and sent an important political signal to the Executive branch on moving ahead with diplomatic normalization;

Whereas, on February 4, 1994, President Bill Clinton lifted the trade embargo, which had been in place since the end of the Vietnam War, paving the way for the announcement of a normalization of relations between 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

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The resolution, as amended, with its preamble, as amended, reads as follows:

S. RES. 321

Whereas, since the end of the Vietnam War, hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese have resettled in and built vibrant communities across the United States, which contribute to the rich diversity of our Nation;

Whereas joint efforts across the administrations of President Ronald Reagan and President George H. W. Bush to address questions surrounding United States servicemembers missing in action (MIA) set the foundation for the normalization of bilateral relations between the United States and Vietnam;

Whereas, between 1991 and 1993, the Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs of the Senate conducted public hearings and issued an extensive report on prisoner of war (POW) and MIA issues, helping to lay the domestic political foundation for subsequent breakthroughs in United States-Vietnam relations;

Whereas efforts to identify and return the remains of service members missing in action on both the United States and Vietnamese sides, alongside unexploded ordnance removal, dioxin remediation, disability programs supporting survivors impacted by these war remnants, and efforts to continue public education on these topics have contributed to ongoing war legacy programs, which are a vital component of the bilateral relationship between Vietnam and the United States;

Whereas section 521 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1994 and 1995 (Public Law 103-236) expressed the Senate's support for the normalization of relations with Vietnam and sent an important political signal to the Executive branch on moving ahead with diplomatic normalization;

Whereas, on February 4, 1994, President Bill Clinton lifted the trade embargo, which had been in place since the end of the Vietnam War, paving the way for the announcement of a normalization of relations between

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;

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(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;

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(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.