

Whereas, in 1985, Mr. Hammadi, along with Hasan Izz-Al-Din, Ali Atwa, and Imad Fayez Mugniyah, hijacked Trans World Airlines Flight 847, and subsequently escaped from the scene of the hijacking;

Whereas United States Navy Petty Officer Robert Dean Stethem was singled out during the hijacking of Trans World Airlines Flight 847 because he was a serviceman of the United States, savagely beaten before being executed, and dumped on the tarmac of Beirut International Airport;

Whereas Petty Officer Stethem was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart and buried at Arlington National Cemetery;

Whereas, in 1987, Mr. Hammadi was arrested at Frankfurt Airport while carrying liquid explosives in his luggage;

Whereas, in 1989, Mr. Hammadi, a Shiite militant from Lebanon, was convicted in a court in Germany for the brutal killing of Petty Officer Stethem and was sentenced to life in prison in Germany;

Whereas, after less than 19 years behind bars Mr. Hammadi was released in December 2005 and flown to Lebanon by the Government of Germany even though the United States does not have an extradition treaty with the Government of Lebanon; and

Whereas the release of Mr. Hammadi came in the face of strong opposition from the United States Government, and Petty Officer Stethem's parents were not even informed in advance that the killer of their son was to be released; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the unfortunate actions of the Government of Germany with respect to Mohammad Ali Hammadi have undermined the joint efforts by the United States Government and the Government of Germany to effectively combat international terrorism;

(2) the early release of Mr. Hammadi sends a signal of weakness to terrorist groups such as Hezbollah and could increase the likelihood of further terrorist attacks against the citizens of Europe and the rest of the world;

(3) the United States Government should continue to call on the Government of Lebanon to hand over Mr. Hammadi and other known terrorists so that they may face trial in the United States;

(4) the United States Government should take all appropriate steps to secure the arrest of Mr. Hammadi and his fellow hijackers and their transfer to the United States for trial; and

(5) the murderers of United States Navy Petty Officer Robert Dean Stethem must be brought to justice, and a clear message must be sent to the international community that the brutal murder of service members or civilians of the United States will neither be tolerated nor forgiven.

SENATE RESOLUTION 458—AFFIRMING THAT STATEMENTS OF NATIONAL UNITY, INCLUDING THE NATIONAL ANTHEM, SHOULD BE RECITED OR SUNG IN ENGLISH

Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself, Mr. FRIST, Mr. McCONNELL, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. SANTORUM, and Mr. TALENT) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 458

Whereas Francis Scott Key wrote the words of the Star-Spangled Banner in English in 1814, inspired by the sight of the American flag still waving at Fort McHenry

after 25 hours of continual bombardment by British forces;

Whereas Congress declared the Star-Spangled Banner the National Anthem of the United States in 1931 (section 301 of title 3, United States Code);

Whereas the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States, written in English, was first specified in law by Congress in 1942 (section 4 of title 4, United States Code);

Whereas the Oath of Allegiance, to which lawful permanent residents swear upon becoming citizens of the United States (as required under section 337 of the Immigration and Naturalization Act (8 U.S.C. 1448)), is based, in part, on language originally written in English by General George Washington and sworn by him and his general officers at Valley Forge in 1778;

Whereas the vast majority of Americans are immigrants or the descendants of immigrants, proud of their ancestral country, but prouder still to be American;

Whereas millions of Americans speak or study additional languages, but English is their common language;

Whereas the original national motto of the United States, "E Pluribus Unum", meaning "from many, one", signifies the coming together of people from many foreign countries to form one Nation, was incorporated into the Great Seal of the United States in 1776, is printed on currency of the United States, and inscribed on the wall of the Senate chamber;

Whereas the people of the United States are united not by race, ancestry, or origin, but by a common language, English, and by common belief in the principles prescribed in the founding documents of the Nation, especially the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution; and

Whereas, to become citizens of the United States, under the sections 312 and 337 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1423 and 1448), lawful permanent residents of the United States who have immigrated from foreign countries must, among other requirements, renounce allegiance to the government of their country of origin, swear allegiance to the laws and Constitution of the United States, and demonstrate an understanding of the English language: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate affirms that statements or songs that symbolize the unity of the Nation, including the National Anthem, the Oath of Allegiance sworn by new United States citizens, and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States, should be recited or sung in English, the common language of the United States.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 90—ACKNOWLEDGING AFRICAN DESCENDANTS OF THE TRANSATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE IN ALL OF THE AMERICAS WITH AN EMPHASIS ON DESCENDANTS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN, RECOGNIZING THE INJUSTICES SUFFERED BY THESE AFRICAN DESCENDANTS, AND RECOMMENDING THAT THE UNITED STATES AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WORK TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION OF AFRO-DESCENDANT COMMUNITIES IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Mr. DODD submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. CON. RES. 90

Whereas we must remember that African-Americans are not the only survivors of the transatlantic slave trade;

Whereas like the United States, many European nations benefitted greatly from the colonization of Latin America and the Caribbean and their participation in the slave trade;

Whereas the story of African descendants in all of the Americas remains untold, leading them to be forgotten, made invisible, and allowed to suffer unjustly;

Whereas it is important to acknowledge that as a result of the slave trade and immigration, approximately 80,000,000 to 150,000,000 persons of African descent live in Latin America and the Caribbean, making them the largest population of persons of African descent outside of Africa;

Whereas Afro-descendants are present in most Latin American countries, including Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela;

Whereas the size of Afro-descendant populations varies in range from less than 1 percent in some countries to as much as 30 percent in Colombia and 46 percent in Brazil and make up the majority in some Spanish speaking Caribbean nations, such as Cuba and the Dominican Republic;

Whereas Afro-descendant populations have made significant economic, social, and cultural contributions to their countries and the Western Hemisphere from their unfortunate involvement in the transatlantic slave trade to their recent contributions to trade, tourism, and other industries;

Whereas although persons of African descent have made significant achievements in education, employment, economic, political, and social spheres in some countries, the vast majority are marginalized—living in impoverished communities where they are excluded from centers of education, government, and basic human rights based upon the color of their skin and ancestry;

Whereas Afro-descendants have shorter life expectancies, higher rates of infant mortality, higher incidences of HIV/AIDS, higher rates of illiteracy, and lower incomes than do other populations;

Whereas Afro-descendants encounter problems of access to healthcare, basic education, potable water, housing, land titles, credit, equal justice and representation under the law, political representation, and other economic, political, health, and basic human rights; and

Whereas skin color and ancestry have led African-Americans in the United States and African descendants in Latin America and the Caribbean to share similar injustices, leading to economic, social, health, and political inequalities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) recognizes and honors African descendants in the Americas for their contributions to the economic, social, and cultural fabric of the countries in the Americas, particularly in Latin American and Caribbean societies;

(2) recognizes that as a result of their skin color and ancestry, African descendants in the Americas have wrongfully experienced economic, social, and political injustices;

(3) urges the President to take appropriate measures to encourage the celebration and remembrance of the achievements of African descendants in the Americas and to resolve injustices suffered by African descendants in the Americas;

(4) encourages the United States and the international community to work to ensure