

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 489

Whereas Benjamin Hooks was born in Memphis, Tennessee on January 31, 1925;

Whereas Benjamin Hooks died April 15, 2010, at the age of 85 in Memphis, Tennessee, and is survived by his wife, Frances Hooks, his daughter, Patricia Gray, and 2 grandsons;

Whereas Benjamin Hooks was the fifth of 7 children born to Robert B. and Bessie Hooks, and was the grandson of Julia Hooks, the second Black woman in the United States to graduate from college;

Whereas Benjamin Hooks attended LeMoyné-Owen College in Memphis and, in 1944, graduated from Howard University;

Whereas Benjamin Hooks joined the United States Army during World War II and was promoted to staff sergeant;

Whereas in 1948, Benjamin Hooks received his law degree from DePaul University in Chicago, Illinois and returned to Memphis, Tennessee to help breakdown segregation;

Whereas Benjamin Hooks set up his own law practice and was one of a few Blacks practicing law in Memphis from 1949-1965;

Whereas Benjamin Hooks was appointed to a vacancy on the Shelby County criminal court, by Governor Frank G. Clement in 1965, making him the first Black criminal court judge in the history of Tennessee;

Whereas Benjamin Hooks was a leader in the civil rights movement and joined the Southern Christian Leadership Conference of Reverend Martin Luther King in 1956;

Whereas Benjamin Hooks became the first Black appointee to the Federal Communications Commission in 1972, when he was appointed by President Richard Nixon, and, in that capacity, worked towards minority employment and involvement in broadcasting;

Whereas Benjamin Hooks was elected executive director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) on November 6, 1976, and served in that role until 1992;

Whereas Benjamin Hooks was an ordained minister and delivered sermons for 52 years at the Greater Middle Baptist Church and as pastor at Greater New Mountain Moriah Missionary Baptist Church in Detroit;

Whereas Benjamin Hooks was honored in 1996 with the dedication of the Benjamin L. Hooks Institute for Social Change at the University of Memphis, which he helped to create;

Whereas Benjamin Hooks and Francis Hooks renewed their wedding vows on March 24, 2001, after almost 50 years of marriage;

Whereas in November 2007, Benjamin Hooks was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor in the United States, by President George W. Bush; and

Whereas the passing of Benjamin Hooks is a great loss: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the outstanding contributions of Dr. Benjamin L. Hooks to the civil rights movement, the ministry, his family, and the community of Memphis, Tennessee; and

(2) pays tribute to Dr. Benjamin L. Hooks, his passion for life, dedication to service, and commitment to equality.

AUTHORIZING THE USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res 243, which is at the desk and just received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 243) authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for an event to celebrate the birthday of King Kamehameha.

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

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 243) was agreed to.

MAJOR CHARLES R. SOLTES, JR., O.D. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS BLIND REHABILITATION CENTER

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Veterans' Affairs Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4360 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4360) to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs blind rehabilitation center in Long Beach, California, as the "Major Charles Robert Soltes, Jr., O.D. Department of Veterans Affairs Blind Rehabilitation Center."

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

Mr. AKAKA. Madam President, I am pleased that the Senate is passing H.R. 4360 by unanimous consent. Major Soltes was truly an inspiration to all of us, and I am proud to support this legislation. Major Soltes deployed to Iraq in 2004 and paid the ultimate sacrifice for our great country after the vehicle in which he was traveling ran over an improvised explosive device. Throughout his career in the Army, he assumed many leadership positions, received numerous military decorations, and was instrumental in establishing a free medical clinic for the local population in Iraq.

It is particularly fitting that we are naming the VA blind rehabilitation center in Long Beach, CA, after Major Soltes. He was from Irvine, CA, a graduate of the New England College of Optometry, and completed his residency at the prestigious Brooke Army Medical Center. He also served as the Director of the Optometry Residency Program at the U.S. Military Academy. In 1999, Major Soltes became the clinical director of Irvine Vision Institute, an optometry specialty center where served until his voluntary deployment to Iraq.

Major Soltes leaves behind his wife, Sally Dang, O.D., and three young children. Dr. Dang is a low-vision optom-

etrict who received her training at the West Haven VA Blind Rehabilitation Center after graduating from the New England College of Optometry. She has recently volunteered to provide low-vision services and care for blinded veterans to fulfill a promise she made to her husband before he deployed to Iraq.

Major Soltes was a dedicated Army officer, and an outstanding clinician, educator, and military optometrist and naming the Long Beach VA blind rehabilitation center in honor of him will be a fitting tribute to his lasting memory.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (H.R. 4360) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 20, 2010

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, April 20; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate proceed to a period for the transaction of morning business for 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the Republicans controlling the first half and the majority controlling the final half; that following morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session, as provided for under the previous order.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, under an agreement reached earlier tonight, at 12 noon the Senate will proceed to vote on the confirmation of the nomination of Lael Brainard to be Under Secretary of the Treasury.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:45 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, April 20, 2010, at 10 a.m.