

90,000 service members who have returned from overseas contingency operations have been clinically diagnosed with PTSD;

Whereas the Department of Veterans Affairs reports that—

(1) since 2002, more than 217,000 of the more than 750,000 veterans of overseas contingency operations who have sought care at a Department of Veterans Affairs medical center have been diagnosed with PTSD; and

(2) in fiscal year 2011, more than 475,000 of the nearly 6,000,000 veterans from all wars who sought care at a Department of Veterans Affairs medical center received treatment for PTSD;

Whereas many cases of PTSD remain unreported, undiagnosed, and untreated due to a lack of awareness about PTSD and the persistent stigma associated with mental health issues;

Whereas PTSD significantly increases the risk of depression, suicide, and drug- and alcohol-related disorders and deaths, especially if left untreated;

Whereas perceived or actual symptoms of PTSD or other mental health issues create unique challenges for veterans seeking employment;

Whereas the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs have made significant advances in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of PTSD and the symptoms of PTSD, but many challenges remain; and

Whereas the establishment of a National Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Day will raise public awareness about issues related to PTSD, reduce the stigma associated with PTSD, and help ensure that those suffering from the invisible wounds of war receive proper treatment: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates June 27, 2012, as “National Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Day”;

(2) supports the efforts of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Defense to educate service members, veterans, the families of service members and veterans, and the public about the causes, symptoms, and treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder (referred to in this resolution as “PTSD”); and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit a copy of this resolution to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Defense.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, today I am submitting—for the third year in a row—resolution to designate June 27 as National Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Day. That date was inspired by the birthday of North Dakota National Guard Staff Sergeant Joe Biel. Staff Sergeant Biel served two tours of duty in Iraq as a Trailblazer, part of a unit responsible for route clearance operations. Each day, Joe’s mission was to go out with his unit to find and remove Improvised Explosive Devices and other dangers from heavily traveled roads to make it safe for coalition forces and Iraqi civilians to travel. Joe lost his post-deployment struggle and, suffering from PTSD, tragically took his own life 6 months after returning home. There is no doubt that Joe Biel is a hero who gave his life for our country.

I learned of Joe’s story because friends from his platoon, the 4th Platoon, A Company, of the North Dakota National Guard’s 164th Combat Engi-

neer Battalion, have organized an annual motorcycle ride across the State of North Dakota in his memory. The Joe Biel Memorial Ride serves as a reunion for the 164th, a memorial for a lost friend, and a beacon to those suffering from PTSD and other mental health issues across the region. The key point made to me by the event’s organizer, Staff Sergeant Matt Leaf, is that we have to raise awareness of this issue so that the lives of service members, veterans, and other PTSD sufferers and their families can be saved.

For many, the war does not end when the warrior comes home. All too many service members and veterans face PTSD symptoms like anxiety, anger, and depression as they try to adjust to life after war. We cannot sweep these problems under the rug. PTSD is real. We know PTSD is caused by a traumatic event. We also know that we are sending our troops into combat situations where they are going to experience traumatic events. We know that the percentage of PTSD diagnoses increases with each deployment into combat. We know, as a nation, that we must take responsibility to help our sons and daughters cope with what they have experienced. We owe them that much.

When our troops came home from Vietnam, we ignored their health concerns for far too long. When our troops came home from the first Gulf War we tried to make sure the government was doing all it could to resolve their health concerns. PTSD is this conflict’s Gulf War Illness. The Department of Defense has created a Defense Center of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury and teams with the National Institute for Mental Health and universities to address PTSD. The Department of Veterans Affairs has likewise established the National Center for the study of PTSD. These departments have made significant advances in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of PTSD and its symptoms to help us live up to our responsibility.

But more can and must be done. We need to ensure that these efforts are coordinated. In 1995, a President’s Advisory Commission was created to conduct an independent, open, and comprehensive review of government activities relating to Gulf War illness. Today, I am calling on President Obama to establish a new Presidential Advisory Commission to conduct a similar review of the Government’s efforts to address PTSD in order to maximize the time and treasure we are spending on solving this problem. We owe it to those who have served.

I am proud that Staff Sergeant Leaf and his fellow Trailblazers continue the annual Joe Biel Memorial Bike Ride, to be held on Memorial Day this year. I am proud that I was able to help boost their efforts to bring attention to this issue by creating a National PTSD

Awareness Day. I am proud to introduce this Resolution once again. Actions like these garner attention and help to eliminate the stigma surrounding mental health issues. They are about letting our troops and veterans know it is okay to come forward and say they need help—that it is a sign of strength, not weakness, to seek assistance. And they help show that we can, and we must, do more.

SENATE RESOLUTION 456—COMMEMORATING AND ACKNOWLEDGING THE DEDICATION AND SACRIFICE MADE BY THE FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS WHO HAVE BEEN KILLED OR INJURED IN THE LINE OF DUTY

Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. HATCH, Mr. COONS, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. KOHL, Mr. TESTER, Mr. KERRY, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BAUCUS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. SESSIONS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 456

Whereas the well-being of all citizens of the United States is preserved and enhanced as a direct result of the vigilance and dedication of law enforcement personnel;

Whereas more than 900,000 men and women, at great risk to their personal safety, presently serve their fellow citizens as guardians of the peace;

Whereas peace officers are on the front lines in protecting the schools and schoolchildren of the United States;

Whereas in 2011, 163 peace officers across the United States were killed in the line of duty;

Whereas Congress should strongly support initiatives to reduce violent crime and to increase the factors that contribute to the safety of law enforcement officers;

Whereas there are more than 19,000 Federal, State, and local law enforcement officers who lost their lives in the line of duty while protecting their fellow citizens, and whose names are engraved upon the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, District of Columbia;

Whereas in 1962, President John F. Kennedy designated May 15 as National Peace Officers Memorial Day; and

Whereas on May 15, 2012, more than 20,000 peace officers are expected to gather in Washington, District of Columbia, to join with the families of their recently fallen comrades to honor those comrades and all others who went before them: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commemorates and acknowledges the dedication and sacrifices made by the Federal, State, and local law enforcement officers who have been killed or injured in the line of duty;

(2) recognizes May 15, 2012, as “National Peace Officers Memorial Day”; and

(3) calls on the people of the United States to observe that day with appropriate ceremony, solemnity, appreciation, and respect.

SENATE RESOLUTION 457—EX-PRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT THE REPUBLIC OF ARGENTINA'S MEMBERSHIP IN THE G20 SHOULD BE CONDITIONED ON ITS ADHERENCE TO INTERNATIONAL NORMS OF ECONOMIC RELATIONS AND COMMITMENT TO THE RULE OF LAW

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

S. RES. 457

Whereas Argentina has enjoyed the privilege of membership in the Group of Twenty Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (G20);

Whereas, at the Summit of the Group of Twenty in 2008, G20 leaders declared that "our work will be guided by a shared belief that market principles, open trade and investment regimes, and effectively regulated financial markets foster the dynamism, innovation, entrepreneurship that are essential for economic growth, employment and poverty reduction";

Whereas, at the Pittsburgh Summit of 2009, G20 nations "designated the G20 to be the premier forum for our international economic cooperation";

Whereas, at the Cannes Summit of 2011, G20 leaders reaffirmed their "commitment to work together" and stressed among other principles the need to conduct International Monetary Fund surveillance of national economies, avoid protectionism and the need to reinforce the multilateral trading system, strengthen anti-money laundering measures, and combat financing of terrorism;

Whereas the Republic of Argentina has consistently violated the spirit and letter of these and other G20 declarations through its policy of expropriating the property of foreign investors, evading the judgments of United States courts, ignoring decisions of international arbitral forums, refusing to comply with International Monetary Fund membership requirements, and failing to implement anti-money laundering and terrorist financing measures;

Whereas the President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner has flouted international norms and agreements by proposing legislation to nationalize Argentina's largest oil and gas producer, YPF SA, effectively expropriating the assets of foreign investors;

Whereas President Fernandez won congressional backing to seize YPF SA (YPFD) from Spain's Repsol YPF SA (YPF), with the Argentina Senate approving the legislation on April 26, 2012, and the lower house of the Argentina Congress voting 207 to 32 on May 3, 2012, to back her bill empowering the Government of Argentina to take 51 percent of YPF;

Whereas Argentina has persistently ignored claims brought by United States and other countries before the International Center for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID), administered by the World Bank, despite receiving billions of dollars in loans from the World Bank;

Whereas Argentina remains one of only four countries, and the only G20 member, that refuse to submit to an International Monetary Fund review in violation of Article IV of the IMF Charter; and

Whereas the Financial Action Task Force has warned of Argentina's failure to comply with fully 47 out of 49 recommendations to address the vulnerability of institutions to terrorist financing and money laundering, giving Argentina the worst evaluation of any G20 nation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) finds that the Republic of Argentina has failed to meet the responsibilities inherent to membership in the G20;

(2) calls upon the President and the Secretary of the Treasury to work with the governments of the G20 to suspend the participation of the Republic of Argentina in the G20 until the Government of Argentina has fully demonstrated its intent to adhere to international norms of economic relations and to commit to the rule of law; and

(3) calls upon the President and the Secretary of the Treasury to work with the governments of the G20 members to condition any reinstatement of Argentina's membership in the G20 on its demonstrated compliance with its international commitments and obligations.

SENATE RESOLUTION 458—COMMEMORATING MAY 15, 2012, AS THE SESQUICENTENNIAL OF THE FOUNDING OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Mr. JOHANNIS (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, and Mr. ROBERTS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 458

Whereas, on May 15, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln signed into law an Act that established a Department of Agriculture (12 Stat. 387, chapter 72);

Whereas President Lincoln gave the Department of Agriculture general authority to acquire and spread useful information on agricultural subjects and to assist in the development and use of new and valuable seeds and plants;

Whereas, in 1862, President Lincoln also signed into law the Act entitled "An Act to secure homesteads to actual settlers on the public domain" (commonly known as the "Homestead Act of 1862"; 12 Stat. 392, chapter 75) and the Act of July 2, 1862 (commonly known as the "First Morrill Act"; 12 Stat. 503, chapter 130), which, along with the creation of the Department of Agriculture, lay the foundation for Federal agricultural policy;

Whereas, in the 1850s, there was 1 farmer for every 2 people in the United States, while today the average farmer in the United States feeds more than 150 people;

Whereas the United States is now the second largest producer and the largest exporter of agricultural products in the world;

Whereas the role of the Department of Agriculture has expanded to include functions impacting nearly every aspect of the rural United States and beyond;

Whereas the Department of Agriculture helps to ensure the safety of the food supply of the United States, provides conservation assistance, collects market data, provides nutrition assistance, protects the health of plants and animals, supports rural communities, conducts agricultural research, maintains risk management tools for producers, and promotes agricultural exports; and

Whereas the professionalism, dedication, and work ethic of the public servants at the Department of Agriculture provide a shining example of why President Lincoln called the Department of Agriculture the "People's Department": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the men and women of the Department of Agriculture on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the Department;

(2) celebrates the growth and success of agriculture in the United States; and

(3) honors the farmers and ranchers of the United States, whose ingenuity, adapt-

ability, and skill have created the safest and most abundant food supply in the history of mankind.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2099. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2072, to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2100. Mr. LEE (for himself and Mr. DEMINT) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2072, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2101. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2072, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2102. Mr. CORKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2072, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2103. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2072, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2104. Mr. TOOMEY (for himself, Mr. DEMINT, and Mr. LEE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2072, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2099. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2072, to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 8 and insert the following:

SEC. 8. NONSUBORDINATION REQUIREMENT.

Section 2 of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945 (12 U.S.C. 635), as amended by section 7 of this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

"(j) NONSUBORDINATION REQUIREMENT.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Bank may not make or guarantee a loan that is subordinate to any other loan."

SEC. 8A. FINANCING OF DOMESTIC FOSSIL FUEL PROJECTS; RESTRICTION ON FINANCING OF FOSSIL FUEL PROJECTS OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES.

(a) IDENTIFICATION OF DOMESTIC FOSSIL FUEL PROJECTS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Export-Import Bank of the United States shall identify projects involving the production, refining, or transportation of fossil fuels in the United States that could benefit from the provision of financing by the Bank.

(b) FINANCING OF FOSSIL FUEL PROJECTS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if the Export-Import Bank of the United States identifies projects involving the production, refining, or transportation of fossil fuels in the United States that could benefit from the provision of financing by the Bank under subsection (a)—

(1) the Bank may provide financing (including guarantees, insurance, or extensions of credit, or participation in the extension of credit) with respect to those projects; and

(2) the Bank shall not provide financing with respect to any project that involves the production, refining, or transportation of fossil fuels in a foreign country until the Bank certifies to Congress that—

(A) all projects identified under subsection (a) have been reviewed; and