

notification requirement before it awards contracts for four large air tankers. S. 3261 would waive this requirement, and allow the Forest Service to deploy these urgently needed air tankers.

There are hundreds of men and women currently fighting the White Rock fire, and I understand they are making progress. We should recognize their bravery, and provide them with the tools needed to do their dangerous job more safely by taking swift action on this issue.

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

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

The bill (S. 3261) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 3261

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. WAIVER.

Notwithstanding the last sentence of section 3903(d) of title 41, United States Code, the Chief of the Forest Service may award contracts pursuant to Solicitation Number AG-024B-S-11-9009 for large air tankers earlier than the end of the 30-day period beginning on the date of the notification required under the first sentence of section 3903(d) of that title.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we less than a week ago had two pilots killed in Nevada fighting fires with one of these airplanes that was old, old, old. I appreciate the work of the Senators who worked so hard to get this done. This is an important piece of legislation that will allow us to do a better job of fighting fires when we have these new large air tankers. The old ones are really, really old.

#### MAKING A TECHNICAL CORRECTION IN PUBLIC LAW 112-108

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 5883, which was received from the House and is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows: A bill (H.R. 5883) to make a technical correction in Public Law 112-108.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, there be no intervening action or debate, and any related statements be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (H.R. 5883) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

#### CORRECTING A TECHNICAL ERROR IN PUBLIC LAW 112-122

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 5890.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows: A bill (H.R. 5890) to correct a technical error in Public Law 112-122.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, there be no intervening action or debate, and any statements related to this matter be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (H.R. 5890) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

#### HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE LATE FANG LIZHI TO THE PEOPLE OF CHINA AND THE CAUSE OF FREEDOM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 476 and the Senate now proceed to its consideration.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows: A resolution (S. Res. 476) honoring the contributions of the late Fang Lizhi to the people of China and the cause of freedom.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I do not know of any further debate on this resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

If not, the question is on adoption of the resolution.

The resolution (S. Res. 476) was agreed to.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, there be no intervening action or debate, and any statements related to this matter be printed in the RECORD.

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

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 476

Whereas the Chinese scientist and democracy advocate, Fang Lizhi, passed away at his home in Tucson, Arizona, on April 6, 2012;

Whereas Fang Lizhi was born in February 1936 in Beijing, China;

Whereas, in 1952, Fang Lizhi enrolled in the Physics Department of Peking University, where he met his future wife, Li Shuxian, and joined the Chinese Communist Party in 1955;

Whereas, in 1955, Fang Lizhi openly questioned the lack of independent thinking in

China's education system and, in 1957, drafted a letter with Li Shuxian and other associates proposing political reform;

Whereas Fang Lizhi and Li Shuxian were sentenced to hard labor in 1957 and 1958, respectively, as victims of China's Anti-Rightist Campaign;

Whereas, during China's Cultural Revolution, Fang Lizhi and other faculty members and students of the University of Science and Technology of China were sentenced to "reeducation through labor" in a coal mine and a brick factory;

Whereas, after he was again freed from confinement, Fang Lizhi emerged as China's leading astrophysicist and wrote the first modern Chinese-language cosmological studies, although the theory of general relativity contradicted Communist dogma;

Whereas, when he was appointed as vice president of the University of Science and Technology of China in 1984, Fang Lizhi initiated a series of reforms intended to democratize the management of the university and enhance academic freedom;

Whereas, in the winter of 1986-1987, when Chinese students across China protested on behalf of democracy and human rights, the Government of China fired Fang Lizhi from his post at the University of Science and Technology of China and subsequently purged him from the Communist party;

Whereas when, in the wake of his purge, excerpts from Fang Lizhi's speeches were distributed by authorities in China as examples of "bourgeois liberalism", his writings became tremendously popular among Chinese students;

Whereas, in February 1989, Fang Lizhi published an essay entitled "China's Despair and China's Hope", in which he wrote, "The road to democracy has already been long and difficult, and is likely to remain difficult for many years to come.";

Whereas, in this essay, Fang Lizhi also wrote that "it is precisely because democracy is generated from below—despite the many frustrations and disappointments in our present situation—I still view our future with hope";

Whereas, in the spring and early summer of 1989, Chinese students gathered in Tiananmen Square to voice their support for democracy, as well as to protest corruption in the Chinese Communist Party;

Whereas Fang Lizhi chose not to join the protests at Tiananmen Square in order to demonstrate that the students were acting autonomously;

Whereas, from June 3 through 4, 1989, the Government of China directed the People's Liberation Army to clear Tiananmen Square of protesters, killing hundreds of students and other civilians in the process;

Whereas, the Government of China issued arrest warrants for Fang Lizhi and Li Shuxian after the Tiananmen Massacre, accusing the pair of engaging in "counter-revolutionary propaganda" and denouncing Fang as the "instigator of chaos which resulted in the deaths of many people";

Whereas, on June 5, 1989, Fang Lizhi and Li Shuxian were escorted by United States diplomats to the United States Embassy in Beijing;

Whereas, between June 1989 and June 1990, United States diplomatic personnel under the leadership of Ambassador James R. Lilley sheltered Fang Lizhi and Li Shuxian at the United States Embassy in Beijing, despite the many hardships it imposed on the mission;

Whereas, at a November 15, 1989, ceremony awarding Fang Lizhi the Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Award, Senator Edward M. Kennedy said of Fang "What Andrei Sakharov was in Moscow, Fang Lizhi became in Beijing.";

Whereas, on June 25, 1990, Fang Lizhi and Li Shuxian were allowed to leave China for the United Kingdom and then the United States;

Whereas, in 1992, Fang Lizhi received an appointment as a professor of physics at the University of Arizona in Tucson, where he continued his research in astrophysics and advocating for human rights in China;

Whereas, in the years since June 4, 1989, a new generation of Chinese activists has continued the struggle for democracy in their homeland, working "from below" to protect the rights of Chinese citizens, to increase the openness of the Chinese political system, and to reduce corruption among public officials; and

Whereas, with the passing of Fang Lizhi, China and the United States have lost a great scientist and one of the most eloquent human rights advocates of the modern era: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

- (1) mourns the loss of Fang Lizhi;
- (2) honors the life, scientific contributions, and service of Fang Lizhi to advance the cause of human freedom;
- (3) offers the deepest condolences of the Senate to the family and friends of Fang Lizhi; and
- (4) stands with the people of China as they strive to improve their way of life and create a government that is truly democratic and respectful of international norms in the area of human rights.

#### COMMENDING THE FIREFIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE PERSONNEL—USS "MIAMI" FIRE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 488.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 488) commending the efforts of the firefighters and emergency response personnel of Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Connecticut, who came together to extinguish the May 23rd, 2012, fire at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery, Maine.

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

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today in support of a resolution recognizing the incredible courage and tremendous skill of the firefighters and emergency first responders who extinguished the fire aboard the USS *Miami* (SSN 755), a Los Angeles-class nuclear-powered submarine, 2 weeks ago at Kittery-Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery, ME.

At approximately 5:41 p.m. on Wednesday, May 23, 2012, a four-alarm fire broke out inside the forward compartment of the USS *Miami*, which was 3 months into a 20-month overhaul at Kittery-Portsmouth. More than 100 first responders from 23 locations in 4 separate States responded to successfully contain the damage of the blaze and ensure that there was no tragic loss of life.

With nothing less than fearless determination in the face of what has been called the most significant emergency to strike the shipyard in decades, brave

firefighters battled zero visibility in tight, obstructed quarters filled with noxious smoke and searing heat for more than 10 hours to limit the fire to the forward quarters of the ship and eventually extinguish it entirely.

Due to the unimaginably challenging space constraints, Kittery-Portsmouth firefighters, in a command capacity and with a succinct collaborative effort with shipyard project team personnel, directed the rotation of multiple waves of groups of only three or four firefighters at a time to descend two stories into the ship to push back the flames. Their critical decision to immediately request assistance from mutual aid communities up and down the coast ensured sufficient manpower to sustain the continuous delivery of roughly three million gallons of water and fire suppressants needed to tame the blaze.

The integration of firefighters from so many seacoast communities was seamless, and should be held as an example of successful inter-jurisdictional cooperation that could be used as a model for similar emergencies in the future. Furthermore, the fact that each and every one of these exceptional firefighters, many of whom had no prior experience aboard a submarine, could walk into such an extraordinarily difficult situation and perform so successfully is a testament to their exhaustive training, remarkable abilities and undaunted valor.

Due to their inspirational efforts, with only seven responders suffering minor injuries, the fire and all subsequent damage was greatly limited, and the ship's nuclear reactor remained safe and stable throughout. After the fire, I had the privilege of meeting some of the firefighters who summoned unparalleled bravery and demonstrated such tenacity and skill in preventing the potentially catastrophic escalation of this fire. These men and women represent the very best of their field, and it is an honor to sponsor this resolution recognizing them.

Indeed, it is largely thanks to these able firefighters and emergency first responders that we have the opportunity to repair the USS *Miami*. When I spoke with Navy Vice Admiral McCoy, commander of Naval Sea Systems Command, after the fire, he said, "We're determined to send the *Miami* back to sea."

I join Admiral McCoy in this sentiment. With a growing shortage of submarines in our Navy, it is vital that the USS *Miami* and its crew are able to quickly return to their vital work of keeping this country safe and secure, as the boat has done since its commission in 1990. Indeed, in the coming weeks and months, I look forward to working with the Navy, the men and women of Kittery-Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, and my colleagues in the Senate to ensure that the USS *Miami* is quickly returned to service.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be

agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 488) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

#### S. RES. 488

Whereas the USS *Miami* (SSN-755), a Los Angeles-class nuclear attack submarine with a crew of 13 officers and 120 enlisted personnel, arrived at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard on March 1, 2012, for 20 months of scheduled maintenance;

Whereas at 5:41 p.m. EDT on May 23, 2012, a 4-alarm fire occurred in the forward compartment of the USS *Miami*;

Whereas emergency response personnel, led by the firefighters of Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, worked for nearly 10 hours in tight, obstructed quarters filled with noxious smoke and searing heat—

- (1) to prevent any loss of life;
- (2) to bring the fire under control; and
- (3) to successfully prevent the flames from reaching any nuclear material and allow the nuclear reactor to remain unaffected and stable throughout;

Whereas 23 fire departments and emergency response teams from the States of Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Connecticut provided mutual aid support during the fire, including—

- (1) Pease Air Force Base, New Hampshire;
- (2) York County Hazardous Materials Response Team, Maine;
- (3) Massachusetts Port Authority Logan Airport Crash Team;
- (4) South Portland Fire Department, Maine;
- (5) Eliot Fire Department, Maine;
- (6) Lee Fire Department, New Hampshire;
- (7) Dover Ambulance, New Hampshire;
- (8) Portsmouth Fire Department, New Hampshire;
- (9) Hampton Fire Department, New Hampshire;
- (10) Kittery Fire Department, Maine;
- (11) Newcastle Fire Department, New Hampshire;
- (12) American Medical Response Ambulance, New Hampshire;
- (13) Hanscomb Air Force Base, Massachusetts;
- (14) Naval Submarine Base New London, Connecticut;
- (15) Rye Fire Department, New Hampshire;
- (16) Greenland Fire Department, New Hampshire;
- (17) York Fire Department, Maine;
- (18) Newington Fire Department, Connecticut;
- (19) Somersworth Fire Department, New Hampshire;
- (20) Rollinsford Fire Department, New Hampshire;
- (21) South Berwick Fire Department, Maine;
- (22) York Ambulance, Maine; and
- (23) York Beach Fire Department, Maine; and

Whereas the heroic actions of those firefighters, emergency response personnel, and the USS *Miami* crew and shipyard firefighters, 7 of whom suffered minor injuries during the fire, directly prevented catastrophe, and greatly limited the severity of the fire even in the most challenging of environments: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

- (1) commends the exemplary and courageous service of all the firefighters and emergency response personnel who came together to successfully contain the fire, minimizing damage to a critical national security asset and ensuring no loss of life; and