

S. RES. 283

Whereas on May 26, 2002, the Republic of Colombia successfully completed democratic multiparty elections for President and Vice President;

Whereas these elections were deemed by international and domestic observers, including the United Nations and the Organization of American States, to be free, fair, and a legitimate nonviolent expression of the will of the people of the Republic of Colombia;

Whereas the United States has consistently supported the efforts of the people of the Republic of Colombia to strengthen and continue their democracy;

Whereas the Senate notes the courage of the millions of citizens of the Republic of Colombia that turned out to vote in order to freely and directly express their opinion; and

Whereas these open, fair, and democratic elections of the new President and Vice President of the Republic of Colombia, and the speedy posting of election results, should be broadly commended: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the government and the people of the Republic of Colombia for the successful completion of democratic elections held on May 26, 2002, for President and Vice President;

(2) congratulates President-elect Alvaro Uribe Velez and Vice President-elect Francisco Santos Calderon on their recent victory and encourages their strong commitment to democracy, national reconciliation, and reconstruction;

(3) congratulates Colombian President Andres Pastrana, who has been a strong ally of the United States, a long-standing supporter of peace process negotiations, and a builder of national unity in the Republic of Colombia, for his personal commitment to democracy;

(4) commends all Colombian citizens and political parties for their efforts to work together to take risks for democracy and to willfully pursue national reconciliation in order to cement a lasting peace and to strengthen democratic traditions in the Republic of Colombia;

(5) supports Colombian attempts to—

(A) ensure democracy, national reconciliation, and economic prosperity;

(B) support human rights and rule of law; and

(C) abide by all the essential elements of representative democracy as enshrined in the Inter-American Democratic Charter, Organization of American States, and United Nations principles;

(6) encourages the government and people of the Republic of Colombia to continue their struggle against the evils of narcotics and all forms of terrorism;

(7) encourages the government of the Republic of Colombia to promote—

(A) the professionalism of the Colombian Armed Forces and Colombian National Police; and

(B) judicial and legal reforms; and

(8) reaffirms that the United States is unequivocally committed to encouraging and supporting democracy, human rights, rule of law, and peaceful development in the Republic of Colombia and throughout the Americas.

ORDER FOR RECORD TO REMAIN OPEN UNTIL 1:30 P.M.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the RECORD remain open today until 1:30 p.m., notwithstanding the adjournment of the Senate, for the submission of state-

ments and the introduction of legislation.

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

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, JUNE 17, AND TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 2002

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until the hour of 2 p.m. on Monday, June 17; that following the prayer and the 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 resume consideration of the terrorism insurance bill; that when the Senate completes its business on Monday, it stand in adjournment until Tuesday, June 18, at 9:30 a.m.; 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 resume consideration of the terrorism insurance bill, with the time until 9:45 a.m. equally divided between the two managers of the bill for debate only, prior to the cloture vote on the terrorism insurance bill; further, that the live quorum with respect to the cloture motion be waived; that Senators have until 3 p.m. on Monday to file first-degree amendments and until 9:40 a.m. on Tuesday to file second-degree amendments; and that the Senate stand in recess on Tuesday, June 18, from 12:30 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. for the weekly party conferences.

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

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. REID. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order following the statements of Senator BYRD of West Virginia.

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

The Senator from West Virginia.

NATIONAL FLAG DAY

Mr. BYRD. Madam President, the first national observance of Flag Day occurred on June 14, 1877, when Congress ordered that the flag be flown over public buildings every June 14. June 14 officially became National Flag Day when President Truman signed an act of Congress on August 3, 1949. This year marks the 225th anniversary of the signing of the Flag Act resolution on June 14, 1777. What a historic day this is, June 14. The resolution was a model of simplicity in just 32 words:

Resolved that the flag of the United States be made of 13 stripes, alternative red and

white; that the Union be 13 stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation.

Thus, was our national flag established. The last phrase “representing a new constellation” carries tremendous weight in just four words. The new United States of America was truly a new constellation in the firmament of nation states, and it blazes just as brightly today, 225 years later.

The poet, Joseph Rodman Drake, said it best, in the “American Flag.”

When freedom from her mountain height
Unfurled her standard to the air,
She tore the azure robe of night,
And set the stars of glory there.
She mingled with its gorgeous dyes
The milky baldric of the skies.
Then from his mansion in the sun
She called her eagle bearer down,
And gave into his mighty hand
The symbol of her chosen land.

So our flag, our standard, is known throughout the world and beyond. No other flag flies on the face of the Moon. Our flag is instantly recognizable in every capital and in the emptiest quarters of the world. Even those who revile that flag, even those who would attack that flag in our Nation, recognize America's dominant, even preeminent, role in world affairs, symbolized by that flag.

There it stands. For over 200 years, the American flag has led the way. It took us west to California, a great State—one of whose Senators at this moment presides over the Senate with a degree of decorum, aplomb and dignity that is so rare as a day in June.

Yes, it took us west to California, north to Alaska. It led brave men to the North and South Poles. It has flown atop Mount Everest. It has been emblazoned in the sides of deep-diving submarines. It has led charges. It has held fast against terrible odds, and it has risen from the ashes to soar over Iwo Jima and the World Trade Towers. In every bleak hour, the snap and the crack of that mighty banner has rallied our courage and given us hope.

Without words, the American flag instantly sums up all that is best about our Nation: Our courage, our leadership, our generosity, our determination, our freedom.

That first Flag Act forever shaped our flag, but in the early years of the Nation, several variations existed for the Flag Act was not precise about the exact arrangement of the stars. As new States joined the Union, additional stripes, as well as additional stars, were added to the flag.

An act passed in 1794, for example, provided for 15 stripes and 15 stars after May 1795. By 1818, the flag was growing unwieldy, and a subsequent act of April 4, 1818, signed by President Monroe, provided for 13 stripes for the original 13 colonies and one star for each State to be added to the flag on the 4th of July following admission of each new State to the Union.

Almost a century later on June 24, 1912, which is the year the great Titanic went down—1,570 people lost their lives that year on April 15, 1912—