

Finally, I wish to thank the real heroes behind this bill, the 9/11 families who pushed and persevered to get this bill done. They turned their personal tragedy into public action so we all could be safer. As public servant and fellow citizen, I salute these outstanding Americans.

Strengthening America at home and abroad, moving America forward in pursuit of freedom and prosperity, and protecting the American people and our homeland—these have been the driving motivations of the 108th Congress. I am very proud to have been a part of this effort. I am proud to have had that opportunity to lead the Senate during this momentous time.

There is more to do. There is much more to do. This is an ongoing process, and we will not rest until our enemy is vanquished. But in these final days, my fellow Americans can take note of and comfort in this historic achievement.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CORNYN). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business until 12:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, we have a little business to do before the Senate which has been cleared by both sides of the aisle. I ask unanimous consent we do that little piece of business, and then I will make my statement.

This is December 7. It is the anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, the fateful day in 1941.

I ask unanimous consent we might do that.

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

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF PELELIU

Mr. BURNS. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.J. Res. 102, which is at the desk.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (H.J. Res. 102) recognizing the 60th anniversary of the battle of Peleliu and the end of the Imperial Japanese control of Palau during World War II and urging the Secretary of the Interior to work to protect the historic sites of the Peleliu Battlefield National Historic Landmark and to establish commemorative programs honoring the Americans who fought there.

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

Mr. BURNS. This Senator recognizes a good friend of mine from Billings, MT who was involved in Peleliu with the U.S. Marine Corps.

I ask unanimous consent that the joint resolution be read the third time and passed, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements related thereto be printed in the RECORD.

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

The joint resolution (H.J. Res. 102) was read the third time and passed.

The preamble was agreed to.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE DETENTION OF TIBETAN POLITICAL PRISONERS

Mr. BURNS. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 483, submitted earlier today by Senator BROWNBACK.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 483) expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the detention of Tibetan political prisoners by the Government of the People's Republic of China.

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

Mr. BURNS. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to this matter be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 483) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 483

Whereas, according to the Department of State and international human rights organizations, the Government of the People's Republic of China continues to commit widespread and well-documented human rights abuses in Tibet;

Whereas the People's Republic of China has yet to demonstrate its willingness to abide by internationally accepted standards of freedom of belief, expression, and association by repealing or amending laws and decrees that restrict those freedoms;

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China has detained hundreds of Tibetan nuns, monks, and lay persons as political prisoners for speaking out against China's occupation of Tibet and for their efforts to preserve Tibet's distinct national identity;

Whereas Phuntsog Nyidron was arrested on October 14, 1989, together with 5 other nuns, for participating in a peaceful protest against China's occupation of Tibet;

Whereas, on February 26, 2004, following a sustained international campaign on her behalf, the Government of the People's Republic of China released Phuntsog Nyidron from detention after she served more than 14 years of her 16-year sentence;

Whereas Tenzin Delek, a prominent Tibetan religious leader, and 3 other monks were arrested on April 7, 2002, during a nighttime raid on Jamyang Choekhorling monastery in Nyagchu County, Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture;

Whereas, following a closed trial and more than 8 months of incommunicado detention, Tenzin Delek and another Tibetan, Lobsang Dhondup, were convicted of inciting separatism and for their alleged involvement in a series of bombings on December 2, 2002;

Whereas Lobsang Dhondup was sentenced to death and Tenzin Delek was sentenced to death with a 2-year suspension;

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China told senior officials of the United States and other governments that the cases of Lobsang Dhondup and Tenzin Delek would be subjected to a "lengthy review" by the Supreme People's Court prior to the death sentences being carried out;

Whereas the Supreme People's Court never carried out this review, and Lobsang Dhondup was executed on January 26, 2003;

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China has failed to produce any evidence that either Lobsang Dhondup or Tenzin Delek were involved in the crimes for which they were convicted, despite repeated requests from officials of the United States and other governments;

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China continues to imprison Tibetans for engaging in peaceful efforts to protest China's repression of Tibetans and preserve the Tibetan identity;

Whereas Tibetan political prisoners are routinely subjected to beatings, electric shock, solitary confinement, and other forms of torture and inhumane treatment while in Chinese custody;

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China continues to exert control over religious and cultural institutions in Tibet, abusing human rights through the torture, arbitrary arrest, and detention without fair or public trial of Tibetans who peacefully express their political or religious views or attempt to preserve the unique Tibetan identity; and

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China has paroled individual political prisoners for good behavior or for medical reasons in the face of strong international pressure, but has failed to make the systemic changes necessary to provide minimum standards of due process or protections for basic civil and political rights: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) the Government of the People's Republic of China is in violation of international human rights standards by detaining and mistreating Tibetans who engage in peaceful activities to protest China's repression of Tibetans or promote the preservation of a distinct Tibetan identity;

(2) sustained international pressure on the Government of the People's Republic of China is essential to improve the human rights situation in Tibet and secure the release of Tibetan political prisoners;

(3) the Government of the United States should—