

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 521—COM-
MENDING THE PEOPLE OF ALBA-
NIA ON THE 61ST ANNIVERSARY
OF THE LIBERATION OF THE
JEWS FROM THE NAZI DEATH
CAMPS, FOR PROTECTING AND
SAVING THE LIVES OF ALL
JEWS WHO LIVED IN ALBANIA,
OR SOUGHT ASYLUM THERE
DURING THE HOLOCAUST

Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mr. McCain) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 521

Whereas at the start of World War II, approximately 200 Jews lived in the Republic of Albania, and approximately 1800 Jews escaped to Albania from Western Europe and the former Yugoslavia;

Whereas in 1934, United States Ambassador to Albania Herman Bernstein wrote that, "There is no trace of any discrimination against Jews in Albania, because Albania happens to be one of the rare lands in Europe today where religious prejudice and hate do not exist, even though Albanians themselves are divided into three faiths.";

Whereas based on their unique history of religious tolerance, Albanians sheltered and protected Jews, even at the risk of Albanian lives, beginning with the invasion and occupation of Albania by Mussolini's Italian fascists in 1939;

Whereas after Germany occupied Albania in 1943 and the Gestapo ordered Jewish refugees in the Albanian capital of Tirana to register, Albanian leaders refused to provide a list of Jews living in Albania, and Albanian clerks issued false identity papers to protect all Jews who traveled to and hid in Tirana;

Whereas Albanians considered it a matter of national pride and tradition to help Jews during the Holocaust, and due to the actions of many individual Albanians, virtually the entire native and refugee Jewish community in Albania during World War II survived the Holocaust;

Whereas Albania had more Jewish residents after World War II than before World War II;

Whereas in June 1990, Jewish-American Congressman Tom Lantos and former Albanian-American Congressman Joe DioGuardi were the first United States officials to enter Albania in 50 years and received from the Communist Party leader and Albanian President Ramiz Alia a thick file from the Communist archives containing the records of the unpublicized heroic deeds of hundreds of Albanians who rescued Jews during World War II;

Whereas Joe DioGuardi, upon returning to the United States, sent the file for authentication to Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Museum in Jerusalem, Israel;

Whereas Yad Vashem has thus far designated 63 Albanians as "Righteous Persons" and Albania as one of the "Righteous Among the Nations";

Whereas in February 1995, Congressmen Tom Lantos, Benjamin Gilman, and Jerrold Nadler and former Congressman Joe DioGuardi spoke at a ceremony at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC, commemorating the addition of Albania to the museum's "Righteous Among the Nations" installation;

Whereas based on the information authenticated by Yad Vashem, Jewish-American author and philanthropist Harvey Sarnar

published "Rescue in Albania" in 1997, to call international attention to the unique role of the Albanian people in saving Jews from the Nazi Holocaust;

Whereas in October 1997, the Albanian American Civic League and Foundation began the distribution of 10,000 copies of "Rescue in Albania" with forewords by Congressmen Lantos and Gilman to bring to the attention of the Jewish people and their leaders in particular the plight of Albanians living under Slobodan Milosevic in order to forestall another genocide;

Whereas on May 15, 2005, Jews and Albanians gathered in New York City in a "Salute to Albanian Tolerance, Resistance, and Hope: Remembering Besa and the Holocaust" on the occasion for the 60th anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi death camps; and

Whereas in a statement presented at the ceremony Dr. Mordechai Paldi, Director of the Department for the Righteous at Yad Vashem, commemorated the heroism of Albanians as "the only ones among rescuers in other countries who not only went out of their way to save Jews, but vied and competed with each other for the privilege of being a rescuer, thanks to besa", the code of honor that requires Albanians to save the life of anyone seeking refuge, even if it means sacrificing his own life: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the people of Albania for protecting and saving the lives of all Jews, both native and refugee, living in Albania during the Holocaust;

(2) commends Yad Vashem in Israel and encourages others to recognize Albanians who took action to protect Jews during the Holocaust for their great courage and heroism; and

(3) takes this occasion to reaffirm its support for close ties between the United States and Albania.

SENATE RESOLUTION 522—CELE-
BRATING THE 150TH ANNIVER-
SARY OF THE CITIES OF BRIS-
TOL, TENNESSEE AND BRISTOL,
VIRGINIA

Mr. FRIST (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. ALLEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 522

Whereas the twin cities of Bristol, Tennessee and Bristol, Virginia were officially chartered in 1856, celebrated the Bristol Centennial in 1956, and have organized to celebrate the Bristol Sesquicentennial in 2006;

Whereas the Bristol Sesquicentennial theme, "Celebrating 150 Years of heritage and harmony" underscores the duality of Bristol as a cohesion of 2 separate cities with 1 communal spirit;

Whereas the "Bristol Sign", listed in the National Register of Historic Places, serves to exemplify the communal spirit of Bristol, bridge the States of Tennessee and Virginia over the cooperatively named "State Street", and declare Bristol "A Good Place to Live";

Whereas the people of Bristol continue to work to preserve structures of historical significance, including the Paramount theatre, the Old Customs House, and the historic train station;

Whereas the phonographic recordings known as the Bristol Sessions launched the country music careers of the Carter Family, the Stonemans, and Jimmie Rogers, and prompted historians to describe Bristol as the "Big Bang" of modern country music;

Whereas country music is a central part of the history of Bristol, which Congress recognized as the "Birthplace of Country Music";

Whereas the history and economic development of Bristol is intimately tied to commercial transportation and Bristol continues to serve as an important commercial hub for the surrounding region; and

Whereas automotive racing is integral to the identity of Bristol and the "World's Fastest Half-Mile" at the Bristol Motor Speedway continues to offer exciting events to scores of racing fans: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) acknowledges the cultural and historic achievements of the people of Bristol, Tennessee and Bristol, Virginia; and

(2) congratulates the twin cities of Bristol on their sesquicentennial.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I am pleased to join Senators FRIST, WARNER, and ALLEN in offering a Senate resolution that celebrates the 150th anniversary of the twin cities of Bristol, TN, and Bristol, VA.

Hanging on the wall of my Washington office near my desk is a painting of Bristol by George Smith called "State Street at Seventh Avenue." This painting, which was completed around 1890, depicts the shared road that links the twin cities of Bristol and which serves as the State line between Tennessee and Virginia. State Street Church can be seen on the left side of the painting, the First Presbyterian Church is in the distance on the right, and the city saloon appears at the bottom. Thanks to continuing efforts in Bristol to preserve structures of historical significance, some of these buildings and many like them can still be seen there today.

The twin cities were incorporated in 1856, the same year the Virginia and Tennessee Railroads reached Bristol. A second railroad arrived four years later. From that point on, the population grew steadily as Bristol emerged as an important transportation and commercial hub.

Today, Bristol is known for a different type of transportation. Since 1961, the Bristol Motor Speedway has been host to NASCAR races and its fans. The Speedway, which began as drawings scratched on the back of envelopes and brown paper bags, can now seat over 160,000 fans at its races. The "World's Fastest Half-Mile" is acclaimed worldwide, and I have enjoyed visiting the Speedway myself.

But Bristol is more than just a transportation hub. It is the birthplace of country music—as declared by Congress in 1998.

The roots of country music in Bristol can be traced to the influences of Scotch-Irish immigrants in the mountain regions of Tennessee and Virginia—including my own ancestors—coupled with the unique hymns of Negro spirituals and work songs. A number of early Appalachian instruments that helped spawn this new American form of music can be found on the walls of my Washington office.

In 1927, Ralph Sylvester Peer arrived in Bristol hoping to produce a commercial recording of these unique mountain sounds. That's how the recordings

known as the Bristol Sessions were born, launching the careers of country greats like the Carter Family, the Stonemans and Jimmie Rogers. Those sessions are often billed as “the Big Bang” that started the development of modern and marketable country music.

Bristol, TN, and Bristol, VA, may be two cities but they share a common spirit. You can't help but feel that spirit each time you visit, as I have had the pleasure of doing many times over the years. Nothing says it better than the Bristol Sign, which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Stretching across State Street and linking the States of Virginia and Tennessee, it declares Bristol “A Good Place to Live.”

Mr. President, I extend my warmest wishes to the people of Bristol as they celebrate the twin cities' sesquicentennial this year.

SENATE RESOLUTION 523—COMMENDING THE OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY BASEBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2006 COLLEGE WORLD SERIES

Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. SMITH) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 523

Whereas on June 26, 2006, the Oregon State University baseball team won the College World Series in Omaha, Nebraska by defeating the University of Georgia Bulldogs by a score of 5-3, the University of Miami Hurricanes by a score of 8-1, the Rice University Owls by scores of 5-0 and 2-0, and the University of North Carolina Tarheels in 2 championship series games by scores of 11-7 and 3-2;

Whereas the success of the season depended on the hard work, dedication, and performance of every player on the Oregon State University baseball team, including Erik Ammon, Darwin Barney, Bret Bochsler, Reed Brown, Dallas Buck, Brian Budrow, Mitch Canham, Bryn Card, Brett Casey, Cory Ellis, Derek Engelke, Josh Fergie, Cole Gillespie, Ryan Gipson, Tyler Graham, Mark Grbac, Kevin Gunderson, Koa Kahalehoe, Greg Keim, Jon Koller, Chris Kunda, Eddie Kunz, Joey Lakowske, Greg Laybourn, Lonnie Lechelt, Mike Lissman, Anton Maxwell, Jake McCormick, Shea McFeely, Jonah Nickerson, Joe Paterson, Casey Priseman, Sean Rockey, Bill Rowe, Scott Santschi, Alex Sogard, Dale Solomon, Michael Stutes, Rob Summers, Daniel Turpen, Geoff Wagner, and John Wallace;

Whereas numerous members of the Oregon State University baseball team were recognized for their performance in the regular season in the PAC-10 Conference, including Cole Gillespie, who was named PAC-10 Baseball Player of the Year, Chris Kunda, who was named PAC-10 Defensive Player of the Year, Darwin Barney, Dallas Buck, Cole Gillespie, Kevin Gunderson, and Jonah Nickerson who were named to the first team All PAC-10 baseball team, and Mitch Canham, Chris Kunda, and Shea McFeely who were named to the honorable mention All PAC-10 baseball team;

Whereas Head Coach Pat Casey was named PAC-10 Baseball Coach of the Year;

Whereas Jonah Nickerson was recognized as the Most Outstanding Player of the tournament; and

Whereas the College World Series victory of the Oregon State University ended a terrific season in which the team compiled a record of 50-16; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the Oregon State University baseball team, Head Coach Pat Casey and his coaching staff, Athletic Director Bob DeCarolis, and President Edward John Ray for an outstanding championship season; and

(2) respectfully requests the Secretary of the Senate to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the President of Oregon State University.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 106—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING HIGH LEVEL VISITS TO THE UNITED STATES BY DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED OFFICIALS OF TAIWAN

Mr. JOHNSON (for himself and Mr. ALLEN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 106

Whereas, for over half a century, a close relationship has existed between the United States and Taiwan, which has been of enormous political, economic, cultural, and strategic advantage to both countries;

Whereas Taiwan is one of the strongest democratic allies of the United States in the Asia-Pacific region;

Whereas it is United States policy to support and strengthen democracy around the world;

Whereas during the late 1980s and early 1990s, Taiwan made a remarkable transition to a full-fledged democracy with a vibrant economy and a vigorous multi-party political system that respects human rights and the rule of law;

Whereas President George W. Bush, in a November 2005 speech in Kyoto, Japan, lauded the Government of Taiwan for its democratic achievements;

Whereas, in spite of its praise for democracy in Taiwan, the United States Government continues to adhere to guidelines from the 1970s that bar the President, Vice President, Premier, Foreign Minister, and Defense Minister of Taiwan from coming to Washington, D.C.;

Whereas the United States Government has barred these high-level officials from visiting Washington, D.C., while allowing the unelected leaders of the People's Republic of China to routinely visit Washington, D.C., and welcoming them to the White House;

Whereas these self-imposed restrictions lead to a lack of direct contact and communication with the democratically elected leaders of Taiwan and deprive the President, Congress, and the American public of the opportunity to engage in a direct dialogue regarding developments in the Asia-Pacific region and key elements of the relationship between the United States and Taiwan;

Whereas, in consideration of the major economic, security, and political interests shared by the United States and Taiwan, it is to the benefit of the United States for United States officials to meet with and communicate directly with the democratically elected leaders of Taiwan;

Whereas, since the Taiwan Strait is one of the flashpoints in the world, it is important that United States policymakers directly communicate with the leaders of Taiwan; and

Whereas, Section 221 of the Immigration and Nationality Technical Corrections Act of

1994 (8 U.S.C. 1101 note) provides that the President or other high-level officials of Taiwan may visit the United States, including Washington D.C., at any time to discuss a variety of important issues: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the Sense of Congress that—

(1) restrictions on visits to the United States by high-level elected and appointed officials of Taiwan, including the democratically-elected President of Taiwan, should be lifted;

(2) the United States should allow direct high-level exchanges at the Cabinet level, in order to strengthen a policy dialogue with the Government of Taiwan; and

(3) it is in the interest of the United States to strengthen links between the United States and the democratically-elected Government of Taiwan and demonstrate stronger support for democracy in the Asia-Pacific region.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 4543. Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. CARPER, Mrs. BOXER, and Mr. LIEBERMAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution S.J. Res. 12, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States authorizing Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States.

SA 4544. Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. BENNETT, and Mr. BINGAMAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution S.J. Res. 12, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 4543. Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. CARPER, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. LIEBERMAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution S.J. Res. 12, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States authorizing Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States; as follows:

On page 2, line 2, strike “(two)” and all that follows and insert the following:

SECTION 1. FLAG PROTECTION.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This section may be cited as the “Flag Protection Act of 2006”.

(b) **FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**—

(1) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds that—

(A) the flag of the United States is a unique symbol of national unity and represents the values of liberty, justice, and equality that make this Nation an example of freedom unmatched throughout the world;

(B) the Bill of Rights is a guarantee of those freedoms and should not be amended in a manner that could be interpreted to restrict freedom, a course that is regularly resorted to by authoritarian governments which fear freedom and not by free and democratic nations;

(C) abuse of the flag of the United States causes more than pain and distress to the overwhelming majority of the American people and may amount to fighting words or a direct threat to the physical and emotional well-being of individuals at whom the threat is targeted; and