

Whereas, in March 1999, the United States, along with other members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), commenced military action aimed at ending Slobodan Milosevic's brutal campaign of ethnic cleansing against the people of Kosovo;

Whereas that military action resulted in the defeat of Serb forces and the creation of the United Nations Mission in Kosovo, an interim United Nations administration that governs Kosovo, and which ended, de facto, the sovereignty that was previously exercised by the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia over Kosovo;

Whereas the men and women of the Armed Forces of the United States have served bravely in Kosovo since 1999, and their presence and participation in the NATO-led Kosovo Force has been indispensable in protecting the people of Kosovo and stabilizing the region;

Whereas United Nations administration was never intended nor understood as a permanent solution to the political status of Kosovo;

Whereas, in light of NATO's military intervention in Kosovo and the United Nations trusteeship established in Kosovo pursuant to United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999), the international community has recognized the political circumstances in Kosovo as unique, and the settlement of Kosovo's status therefore does not establish a precedent for the resolution of other conflicts;

Whereas continuing uncertainty about the status of Kosovo is unacceptable to the overwhelming majority of the inhabitants of Kosovo, inhibits economic and political development in Kosovo, and contributes to instability and radicalism in both Kosovo and Serbia;

Whereas, in 2005, the United Nations Secretary-General appointed the former President of Finland, Martti Ahtisaari, as United Nations Special Envoy for Kosovo to develop a comprehensive settlement proposal to resolve the political status of Kosovo;

Whereas, in March 2007, after 14 months of intensive diplomacy, Special Envoy Ahtisaari submitted to the Security Council a comprehensive settlement proposal that would result in supervised independence for Kosovo, with robust protections for the rights of minorities; and

Whereas Special Envoy Ahtisaari has explored every reasonable avenue for compromise in the course of his diplomacy and has stated that further negotiations would be counterproductive: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) the United States should support the independence of Kosovo in accordance with its currently constituted borders, a resolution that represents the only just, sustainable solution for an economically viable and politically stable Kosovo;

(2) the United States should, in consultation and cooperation with its allies, vigorously and promptly pursue a United Nations Security Council resolution that endorses the recommendations of United Nations Special Envoy for Kosovo Martti Ahtisaari;

(3) in the absence of timely action by the United Nations Security Council, the United States should be prepared to act in conjunction with like-minded democracies to confer diplomatic recognition on, and establish full diplomatic relations with, Kosovo as an independent state, such as the United States worked in cooperation with like-minded democracies to protect the people of Kosovo in 1999;

(4) the United States should oppose any delay in the resolution of the political status of Kosovo as counterproductive, potentially

dangerous, and likely to make the achievement of a lasting settlement more difficult;

(5) the United States should work together with the European Union as a full partner in supporting the political and economic development of an independent Kosovo;

(6) the United States should support the integration of Kosovo into international and Euro-Atlantic institutions, including its timely admission to the Partnership for Peace program of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), with the ultimate goal of full membership in NATO;

(7) the United States should reaffirm its commitment to southeastern Europe, including the continuation of the military mission in Kosovo to deter and disrupt any efforts by any party to destabilize the region through violence;

(8) the Government of Kosovo should exercise responsible leadership under supervised independence and thereby accelerate the transition to full independence, taking particular care to reassure, protect, and ensure the full political and economic rights of Serb and other minority communities in Kosovo;

(9) the Government of Kosovo should make every reasonable effort to develop a cooperative relationship with the Government of Serbia, in recognition of its legitimate interests in the safety of the Serb population in Kosovo and in the protection and preservation of the patrimonial sites of the Serbian Orthodox Church in Kosovo; and

(10) the Government of Serbia should exercise responsible leadership and seize the opportunity and the imperative presented by the independence of Kosovo to end the dark chapter of the 1990s and focus its energies toward achieving a prosperous and peaceful future through regional cooperation and integration into Euro-Atlantic institutions, including NATO and the European Union, and toward the establishment of open, constructive relations with the government of Kosovo.

SENATE RESOLUTION 136—EX-PRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE CONDEMNING THE SEIZURE BY THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN OF 15 BRITISH NAVAL PERSONNEL IN IRAQI TERRITORIAL WATERS, AND CALLING FOR THEIR IMMEDIATE, SAFE, AND UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE

Mr. COLEMAN (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. BROWNBACK, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. KERRY, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. DODD, Mrs. CLINTON, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. VITTER, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. VOINOVICH, and Mr. SMITH) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 136

Whereas, on March 23, 2007, a naval vessel of the United Kingdom, the HMS Cornwall, was conducting routine operations in Iraqi territorial waters pursuant to United Nations Security Council Resolution 1723 (2006) and in support of the Government of Iraq;

Whereas, on March 23, 2007, a boarding team consisting of 7 Royal Marines and 8 sailors embarked in 2 of the boats of the HMS Cornwall to conduct a routine boarding of an Indian flagged merchant vessel pursuant to the authorization of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1723 (2006);

Whereas, as Vice Admiral Charles Style, Deputy Chief of the British Defense Staff

(Commitments), demonstrated in a presentation on March 28, 2007, "the merchant vessel was 7.5 nautical miles south east of the Al Faw Peninsula. . . . 29 degrees 50.36 minutes North 048 degrees 43.08 minutes East. This places her 1.7 nautical miles inside Iraqi territorial waters. This fact has been confirmed by the Iraqi Foreign Ministry. . . .";

Whereas at some point shortly after completion of the successful inspection of the merchant ship, the two United Kingdom vessels were surrounded and escorted by Iranian Islamic Republican Guard Navy vessels toward the Shatt 'Al Arab Waterway and into Iranian territorial waters;

Whereas, as Margaret Beckett, the Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom, stated to the House of Commons on March 28, 2007, even the coordinates of the seizure event that were given by Iran's Ambassador to the United Kingdom at the Ambassador's first meeting with United Kingdom officials were themselves in Iraqi waters;

Whereas Foreign Secretary Beckett noted in that same statement that authorities of the Government of Iran provided "corrected" coordinates of the incident on March 25, 2007, claiming that the event took place in Iranian waters;

Whereas the merchant vessel that was boarded had remained anchored since the time it was boarded, and on March 25, 2007, its location was verified to be in Iraqi waters;

Whereas Prime Minister of the United Kingdom Tony Blair stated on March 25, 2007, that "there is no doubt at all that these people were taken from a boat in Iraqi waters. It is simply not true that they went into Iranian territorial waters. . . ."; and

Whereas the Government of Iran has yet to release the 15 British sailors it has been holding captive since seizing the sailors from Iraqi waters on March 23, 2007: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns in the strongest possible terms the seizure by the Government of Iran of 15 British naval personnel from Iraqi territorial waters as a provocative and illegal act; and

(2) calls for the immediate, safe, and unconditional release of the personnel from captivity.

SENATE RESOLUTION 137—RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF HOT SPRINGS NATIONAL PARK ON THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ENACTMENT OF THE ACT THAT AUTHORIZED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF HOT SPRINGS RESERVATION

Mrs. LINCOLN (for herself and Mr. PRYOR) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:

S. RES. 137

Whereas, with the establishment of the Hot Springs Reservation, the concept in the United States of setting aside a nationally significant place for the future enjoyment of the citizens of the United States was first carried out 175 years ago in Hot Springs, Arkansas;

Whereas the Hot Springs Reservation protected 47 hot springs in the area of Hot Springs, Arkansas;

Whereas, in the first section of the Act of April 20, 1832 (4 Stat. 505, chapter 70), Congress required that "the hot springs in said territory, together with four sections of land, including said springs, as near the centre thereof as may be, shall be reserved for

the future disposal of the United States, and shall not be entered, located, or appropriated, for any other purpose whatever”;

Whereas the Hot Springs Reservation was the first protected area in the United States;

Whereas the Act that authorized the establishment of the Hot Springs Reservation was enacted before the establishment of the Department of the Interior in 1849, and before the establishment of Yellowstone National Park as the first national park of the United States in 1872;

Whereas, in 1921, the Hot Springs Reservation was renamed “Hot Springs National Park” and became the 18th national park of the United States; and

Whereas the tradition of preservation and conservation that inspired the development of the National Park System, which now includes 390 units, began with the Act that authorized the establishment of the Hot Springs Reservation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That on 175th anniversary of the Act of Congress that authorized the establishment of the Hot Springs Reservation, the Senate recognizes the important contributions of the Hot Springs Reservation and the Hot Springs National Park to the history of conservation in the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 138—HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND LEGACY OF CÉSAR ESTRADA CHÁVEZ

Mr. SALAZAR (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. REID, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. WEBB, and Mr. KERRY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Judiciary:

S. RES. 138

Whereas César Estrada Chávez was born on March 31, 1927, near Yuma, Arizona, where he spent his early years on his family’s farm,

Whereas, at the age of 10, César Estrada Chávez joined the thousands of migrant farm workers laboring in fields and vineyards throughout the Southwest, when his family lost their farm due to a bank foreclosure;

Whereas César Estrada Chávez, after attending more than 30 elementary and middle schools and achieving an eighth-grade education, left to work full-time as a farm worker to help support his family;

Whereas, at the age of 17, César Estrada Chávez entered the United States Navy and served the Nation with distinction for 2 years;

Whereas, in 1948, César Estrada Chávez returned from military service to marry Helen Fabela, whom he met working in the vineyards of central California, and had 8 children;

Whereas, as early as 1949, César Estrada Chávez committed himself to organizing farm workers to campaign for safe and fair working conditions, reasonable wages, decent housing, and the outlawing of child labor;

Whereas, in 1952, César Estrada Chávez joined the Community Service Organization, a prominent Latino civil rights group, and worked to coordinate voter registration drives and conduct campaigns against discrimination in East Los Angeles, and later served as the national director of the organization;

Whereas, in 1962, César Estrada Chávez left the Community Service Organization to found the National Farm Workers Association, which eventually became the United Farm Workers of America;

Whereas César Estrada Chávez was a strong believer in the principles of non-

violence practiced by Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.;

Whereas César Estrada Chávez effectively utilized peaceful tactics, such as fasting in 1968 for 25 days, in 1972 for 25 days, and in 1988 for 38 days, to call attention to the terrible working and living conditions of farm workers in the United States;

Whereas, under the leadership of César Estrada Chávez, the United Farm Workers of America organized thousands of migrant farm workers to fight for fair wages, health care coverage, pension benefits, livable housing, and respect;

Whereas, through his commitment to non-violence, César Estrada Chávez brought dignity and respect to the farm workers who organized themselves, and became an inspiration and a resource to other people in the United States and people engaged in human rights struggles throughout the world;

Whereas the influence of César Estrada Chávez extends far beyond agriculture and provides inspiration for those working to better human rights, to empower workers, and to advance an American Dream that includes all its inhabitants of the United States;

Whereas César Estrada Chávez died on April 23, 1993, in San Luis, Arizona, only miles from his birthplace of 66 years earlier;

Whereas more than 50,000 people attended the funeral services of César Estrada Chávez in Delano, California, and he was laid to rest at the headquarters of the United Farm Workers of America, known as Nuestra Señora de La Paz, located in the Tehachapi Mountains at Keene, California;

Whereas, since his death, schools, parks, streets, libraries, and other public facilities, and awards and scholarships have been named in honor of César Estrada Chávez;

Whereas, since his death, 8 States and dozens of communities across the Nation honor the life and legacy of César Estrada Chávez on March 31 of each year, the day of his birth;

Whereas César Estrada Chávez was a recipient of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Peace Prize during his lifetime, and after his death was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom on August 8, 1994; and

Whereas the United States should not cease its efforts to ensure equality, justice, and dignity for all people in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the accomplishments and example of a great American hero, César Estrada Chávez;

(2) pledges to promote the legacy of César Estrada Chávez; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to commemorate the legacy of César Estrada Chávez, and to always remember his great rallying cry, “Sí, se puede!”.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, this week, our Nation comes together to honor one of our Nation’s foremost civil rights and labor leader, César Estrada Chávez. I rise today, along with my colleague Senator KEN SALAZAR, to submit a resolution honoring the accomplishments and legacy of César Chávez.

César Estrada Chávez was born 80 years ago, on March 31, 1927, in Arizona to poor migrant farm workers. He and his family struggled to survive at a time when “Whites only” signs were still on display and when it was necessary to trade in his school books to support his family working full-time in the fields.

“But rather than just survive those times, César Chávez turned his experi-

ences into ammunition to help fight for a better life for all Americans, becoming one of our Nation’s most inspirational leaders.

Following the principles of Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr., in 1962 César Chávez co-founded the first successful farm workers union in the United States—the United Farm Workers (UFW). Through the UFW, Chávez brought many farm workers together, including Mexican- and Filipino-Americans, to fight for common goals. He also inspired hope in these workers through his great rallying catchphrase, “Sí Se Puede.”

In one of their major victories, after 5 years of boycotting table grapes, the United Farm Workers gained the first-ever collective bargaining agreement between farm workers and growers in the history of our country.

As the son of poor, working-class parents who were not afforded the benefits of a union, I am moved by César Chávez’s selfless work on behalf of others. Remembering his legacy reinforces my belief that all hard-working individuals deserve the right to bargain collectively to achieve better wages, better health benefits and suitable working conditions.

I am happy that New Jersey has a proud labor tradition, which would not have been possible without people committed to fairness, social justice and equality. The legacy of César Chávez still resonates today, from the rural agricultural fields to the urban centers all across this Nation, and his achievements are an inspiration to all hard-working Americans who want to achieve a better quality of life.

Senator Robert F. Kennedy rightly said that César Chávez was “one of the heroic figures of our time,” and I believe our resolution reinforces that statement. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, and by doing so, acknowledge that César Chávez is truly an American hero.

SENATE RESOLUTION 139—COMMENDING GENERAL PETER J. SCHOOMAKER FOR HIS EXTRAORDINARY DEDICATION TO DUTY AND SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES

Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. AKAKA) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

S. RES. 139

Whereas General Peter J. Schoomaker, the 35th Chief of Staff of the United States Army, will be released from active duty in April 2007, after over 35 distinguished years of active Federal service;

Whereas General Schoomaker, a native of Wyoming, graduated from the University of Wyoming in 1969, served in a variety of command and staff assignments with both conventional and special operations forces, including participation in numerous combat operations, such as Desert One in Iran, Urgent Fury in Grenada, Just Cause in Panama, Desert Shield/Desert Storm in Southwest Asia, and Uphold Democracy in Haiti,