

Whereas the actual and potential benefits that may be derived from many species have not yet been fully discovered and would be permanently lost if not for conservation efforts;

Whereas recovery efforts for species such as the whooping crane, Kirtland's warbler, the peregrine falcon, the gray wolf, the gray whale, the grizzly bear, and others have resulted in great improvements in the viability of such species;

Whereas saving a species requires a combination of sound research, careful coordination, and intensive management of conservation efforts, along with increased public awareness and education;

Whereas 2/3 of endangered or threatened species reside on private lands;

Whereas voluntary cooperative conservation programs have proven to be critical to habitat restoration and species recovery; and

Whereas education and increasing public awareness are the first steps in effectively informing the public about endangered species and species restoration efforts: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates May 16, 2008, as “Endangered Species Day”; and

(2) encourages schools to spend at least 30 minutes on Endangered Species Day teaching and informing students about—

(A) threats to endangered species around the world; and

(B) efforts to restore endangered species, including the essential role of private landowners and private stewardship in the protection and recovery of species; and

(3) encourages organizations, businesses, private landowners, and agencies with a shared interest in conserving endangered species to collaborate in developing educational information for use in schools; and

(4) encourages the people of the United States—

(A) to become educated about, and aware of, threats to species, success stories in species recovery, and opportunities to promote species conservation worldwide; and

(B) to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce a resolution to establish the third annual Endangered Species Day on May 16, 2008. I am introducing this resolution with Senators COLLINS, CANTWELL, LIEBERMAN, CLINTON, KERRY, BROWN, SNOWE, LEVIN, BOXER, and FEINGOLD whose co-sponsorship I appreciate.

I want to commend my constituent, Mr. David Robinson, who first suggested the establishment of an Endangered Species Day. Mr. Robinson is an example of people who really do make a difference.

The designation of Endangered Species Day will provide many wonderful opportunities for the public to familiarize themselves with the status and recovery efforts of endangered species in our country and around the world.

Last year, more than 50 events were held across the country to highlight endangered species success stories. The Governor of Maine, and the cities and counties of Santa Barbara, San Diego, and San Francisco also declared state and local Endangered Species Days. Zoos and aquariums across the country, such as the Roger Williams Zoo and the San Diego Wild Animal Park, also held educational events.

Based on the success of last year, I am confident that the events of this year's Endangered Species Day will continue to foster increased communication and awareness about many of the most endangered species by encouraging such activities as school field trips to the zoo or attending a lecture at the local library. In my city of San Francisco, the Golden Gate National Recreation Area and the Farralones National Marine Sanctuary plan to hold special tours and viewings of endangered species to commemorate this special day.

Endangered Species recovery programs in California are examples of the conservation and management efforts that have helped significantly restore populations of California condor, the least Bell's vireo songbird, and the California gray whale. Over 300 species classified as either endangered or threatened currently call California home, and efforts to protect them will ensure that they continue to do so.

Despite these success stories, we need to be aware that more can be done. At this time, we have more than 5,000 threatened species in the U.S. and abroad, which receive protection. One small step is to increase awareness about the seriousness of the circumstances facing many of these endangered species and educating the public about them.

I am introducing this bill with the hope that Endangered Species Day can spark the wonder and interest in our youth to continue the conservation efforts we have begun, but still are far from finishing.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution.

SENATE RESOLUTION 521—AUTHORIZING THE TAKING OF A PHOTOGRAPH IN THE CHAMBER OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE

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

S. RES. 521

*Resolved*, That paragraph 1 of Rule IV of the Rules for the Regulation of the Senate Wing of the United States Capitol (prohibiting the taking of pictures in the Senate Chamber) be temporarily suspended for the sole and specific purpose of permitting the Senate Photographic Studio to photograph the United States Senate in actual session on Tuesday, June 3, 2008, at the hour of 2:15 p.m.

SEC. 2. The Sergeant at Arms of the Senate is authorized and directed to make the necessary arrangements therefor, which arrangements shall provide for a minimum of disruption to Senate proceedings.

SENATE RESOLUTION 522—RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE MODERN STATE OF ISRAEL AND REAFFIRMING THE BONDS OF CLOSE FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND ISRAEL

Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. McCONNELL, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. BOND, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. BURR, Mr. BYRD, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. COBURN, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. COLEMAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. DODD, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. GREGG, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HATCH, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. INOUE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KERRY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. KOHL, Mr. KYL, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. REED, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. SMITH, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. SPECTER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. VITTER, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WEBB, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 522

Whereas on November 29, 1947, the United Nations General Assembly voted to partition the British Mandate of Palestine and create a Jewish state;

Whereas on May 14, 1948, the people of Israel proclaimed the establishment of the sovereign and independent State of Israel, and the United States Government established full diplomatic relations with Israel;

Whereas the desire of the Jewish people to establish an independent modern State of Israel is an outgrowth of the existence of the historic kingdom of Israel established in the Land of Israel 3,000 years ago, with the city of Jerusalem as its capital;

Whereas for over 2,000 years, there has been continuous Jewish presence and residence in the land comprising the modern State of Israel;

Whereas the establishment of the modern State of Israel as a homeland for the Jewish people followed the slaughter of more than 6,000,000 European Jews during the Holocaust;

Whereas since its establishment 60 years ago, the modern State of Israel has rebuilt a nation, forged a new and dynamic democratic society, and created a thriving economic, political, cultural, and intellectual life despite the heavy costs of war, terrorism, and unjustified diplomatic and economic boycotts against the people of Israel;

Whereas the people of Israel have established a vibrant, pluralistic, democratic political system, including freedom of speech, association, and religion; a vigorously free press; free, fair and open elections; the rule of law; a fully independent judiciary; and other democratic principles and practices;

Whereas Israel has developed some of the leading universities in the world, and 8 Israeli citizens have been awarded the Nobel Prize;

Whereas Israel has developed an advanced, entrepreneurial economy, is among the world's leaders in the high-tech industry, and is at the forefront of research and development in the field of renewable energy sources;

Whereas Israel regularly sends humanitarian aid, search-and-rescue teams, mobile hospitals, and other emergency supplies, to help victims of disasters around the world, including the 1994 Rwandan civil war, the 1998 bombing of the United States Embassy in Kenya, the 1999 earthquakes in Turkey, the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, the 2005 hurricanes along the southern coast of the United States, and the 2007 fires in Greece;

Whereas Israel has absorbed millions of Jews from countries throughout the world and fully integrated them into Israeli society;

Whereas Israel has bravely defended itself from repeated terrorist and military attacks since its independence;

Whereas successive leaders of Israel have sought to achieve peace with Israel's Arab neighbors;

Whereas Israel has established peaceful bilateral relations with neighboring Egypt and Jordan and has made its desire to establish peaceful relations with all Arab states abundantly clear;

Whereas for 6 decades, the United States and Israel have maintained a special relationship based on mutually shared democratic values, common strategic interests, and moral bonds of friendship and mutual respect;

Whereas the American people feel a strong affinity for the Israeli people based on common values and shared cultural heritage; and

Whereas the United States continues to regard Israel as a strong and trusted ally and an important strategic partner: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the historic significance of the 60th anniversary of the reestablishment of the sovereign and independent State of Israel as a homeland for the Jewish people;

(2) reaffirms the bonds of friendship and cooperation which have existed between the United States and Israel for the past 60 years, and commits to strengthening those bonds;

(3) commends the people of Israel for their remarkable achievements in building a new state and a pluralistic, democratic society in the face of terrorism, as well as hostility, ostracism, and belligerence from many of their neighbors;

(4) reaffirms its support for Israel's right to defend itself against threats to its security and existence;

(5) reaffirms its enduring support for Israel as Israel pursues peace with its neighbors; and

(6) extends the warmest congratulations and best wishes to the State of Israel and the Israeli people for a peaceful, prosperous, and successful future.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I come to the floor today with the distinct honor of introducing a resolution with my friend Senator McCONNELL commemorating the 60th anniversary of the founding of the modern State of Israel.

On this historic occasion, Jews and non-Jews from around the world will come together to celebrate 60 years of Israeli independence. Out of the dark shadows of the Holocaust, which claimed the lives of over 6 million Jews, and many others, the state of Israel was reborn on the very same lands where the Jewish people had maintained a continuous presence for more than 2 millennia.

As an American, I am so proud that the United States has stood by Israel, our closest of allies, from the very beginning of its modern existence. On May 14, 1948, the date on which the people of Israel proclaimed the establishment of the sovereign and independent state of Israel, the United States was right there to offer our unwavering support and establish full diplomatic ties with our new friend. Sixty years later, I want the new generations of Israelis and Jewish-Americans to know that America reaffirms its commitment to the U.S.-Israel alliance and pledges to strengthen the bonds we have forged throughout the decades.

Yom Ha'atzmaut, the Israeli Independence Day, falls on May 8th this year, the same day the world traditionally celebrates the Allied victory over Nazism. Because of America's commitment to defeating European fascism, the histories of the United States and Israel will be forever linked. For it was from the ashes of World War II that our great country rose to become a global superpower at the same time a beacon of democracy and hope was established in the Holy Land.

Today, we face a new set of challenges to peace and freedom. As we have so many times before, the United States and Israel will stand together to combat those who seek to undermine the right of a Jewish state to exist. The Middle East remains an extremely volatile region with a series of ongoing violent conflicts, so it is a great comfort to know that we have a strong partner in such a strategically important part of the globe.

In a region long dominated by autocratic and monarchic traditions, Israel has been a paragon of democratic pluralism. Over the course of its modern existence, Israeli society has defended the principles we, as Americans, hold in such high esteem: freedom of speech, religion, and the press, an independent judiciary, and free market capitalism. Israel's strong democracy, despite being constantly under siege from neighboring states and terrorist entities, shows a remarkable commitment to the ideals of freedom and democracy.

Millions of Americans will undoubtedly commemorate this momentous anniversary, including thousands in my home State of Nevada. I am very fortunate to hail from a part of the country with such a dynamic Jewish community; one that is committed to promoting the interests of our great State in any way they can. I would like to offer special congratulations to all

those folks in Nevada who have worked so hard to put on events to honor the 60th anniversary of Israeli independence.

In the spirit of continuing the tradition of strong U.S.-Israel relations, I urge this entire chamber to wish all those who choose to celebrate this occasion another 60 years of happiness and prosperity. My best wishes for a safe and peaceful anniversary celebration.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 4542. Mr. LAUTENBERG submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4146 proposed by Mrs. BOXER to the bill H.R. 1195, to amend the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users to make technical corrections, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4543. Mr. LAUTENBERG submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1195, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4544. Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself and Mr. VITTER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1195, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4545. Ms. LANDRIEU submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4146 proposed by Mrs. BOXER to the bill H.R. 1195, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4546. Mr. SPECTER (for himself and Mr. CASEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4146 proposed by Mrs. BOXER to the bill H.R. 1195, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4547. Mr. STEVENS (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1195, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4548. Mr. SPECTER (for himself and Mr. CASEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1195, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4549. Ms. MURKOWSKI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4146 proposed by Mrs. BOXER to the bill H.R. 1195, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4550. Mr. GRAHAM submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1195, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4551. Mr. SMITH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4146 proposed by Mrs. BOXER to the bill H.R. 1195, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4552. Mr. DODD (for himself, Mr. SHELBY, and Mr. SCHUMER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1195, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4553. Mrs. HUTCHISON (for herself, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. STEVENS, Mrs. LINCOLN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MARTINEZ, and Mr. COLEMAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4146 proposed by Mrs. BOXER to the bill H.R. 1195, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4554. Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. WARNER, Ms. MIKULSKI, and Mr. WEBB) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1195, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4555. Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to