

“giant of 20th Century conservation in the United States”;

(3) David Brower was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize 3 times;

(4) David Brower was named the first executive director of the Sierra Club, 1 of the most prominent environmental and conservation organizations in the United States;

(5) the efforts of David Brower led to the creation of many units of the National Park System, including North Cascades National Park, Redwood National Park, and Point Reyes National Seashore;

(6) the leadership of David Brower helped protect the Grand Canyon National Park and Dinosaur National Monument;

(7) David Brower played a important role in drafting the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), which has protected much of the Sierra Nevada;

(8) David Brower revolutionized rock-climbing and mountaineering in the United States and is credited with more than 70 first ascents of Sierra Nevada peaks;

(9) David Brower made the first winter ascent of North Palisade and the first ascent of the Northwest Ridge of the peak; and

(10) the Palisade group of peaks, on the border of Kings Canyon National Park and Inyo National Forest, was David Brower's favorite part of the Sierra Nevada.

### SEC. 3. DESIGNATION OF BROWER PALISADE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The North Palisade, a prominent peak in the Palisade group of peaks in the Sierra Nevada bordering Kings Canyon National Park and the Inyo National Forest in the State of California, shall be known and designated as the “Brower Palisade”.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the peak described in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the Brower Palisade.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. KERRY, Mr. REID, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. LEAHY, Mrs. CLINTON, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 3308. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to permit facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs to be designated as voter registration agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

Mr. President, I am pleased to be an original cosponsor of the Veteran Voting Support Act, which Senator FEINSTEIN and Senator KERRY have introduced today.

This bill will address an issue of great concern to me and to so many Americans: the rights of Americans who fight to defend our values and freedoms abroad must have the full enjoyment of those rights here at home. This legislation responds to an announcement by the Bush administration's Department of Veterans Affairs that it will ban non-partisan organizations and state election officials from conducting voter registration drives at its facilities.

It is a sad commentary that in our great Nation, so many of our young veterans who have been treated shamefully by their government when it sent them into harm's way under false pretenses are again mistreated after they return home. Our troops were sent to fight an unnecessary war in Iraq—with-

out sufficient armor, without adequate reinforcements, without a plan to win the peace, and without adequate medical care and other services to help them adapt to life upon their return.

Given this President's obsession with democracy taking root in the Middle East, I would think that at a minimum he would be equally concerned with guaranteeing the right to vote to veterans returning home after risking life and limb spreading that right to others. Yet, his administration has done just the opposite. Under this President's watch, the Department of Veteran Affairs has erected barriers to voter registration that impede veterans being treated in VA facilities from participating in the political process.

First, this administration's Department of Veteran Affairs has shown little interest in, or commitment to, assisting veterans in exercising the fundamental right to vote. Since 2004, the Department has often sided in Federal court against allowing third-party organizations to conduct voter registration drives at VA hospitals. Until this past April, the Department's national policy was silent on whether it could assist disabled veterans access and complete voter registration forms. Indeed, court findings appear to indicate that in some instances, the Department may have even prohibited its own staff from providing such assistance.

Second, although the Department has made recent strides to allow veterans more access to voter registration forms, it has not gone far enough. Three months ago, the Department issued a written directive' requiring all VA facilities to develop voter registration plans that would assist patients in registering to vote. I applaud this action as a positive first step. However, I am concerned that the new directive stops short of mandating that VA facilities affirmatively offer disabled veterans a chance to register to vote. To paraphrase Paul Sullivan, the Executive Director of Veterans for Common-sense, the new directive only changed the Department from being in active opposition to veterans' voter registration to passively supporting it.

Third, and perhaps most troubling, the new directive prohibits third-party organizations and state election officials from conducting nonpartisan voter registration drives among veterans at VA facilities. I am concerned that this ban will not only undermine the Department's goal of assisting disabled veterans in registering and voting, but will also make it more difficult for these Americans to participate in the political process.

The Veterans Voting Support Act would address these concerns. This important measure would designate VA facilities as voter registration agencies, thereby ensuring that the Department actively offers veterans the assistance they need to vote and register to vote. This provision would also protect disabled veterans from being

disenfranchised by a procedural technicality. In addition, the bill provides our veterans with information relating to the opportunity to request an absentee ballot, ensure the ballots are available upon request, as well as provide assistance in completing them.

It would also require a meaningful opportunity for nonpartisan groups and election officials to provide voter registration information and assistance at VA hospitals. The Department was founded on the principle that its first duty to veterans was to meet their medical, social, and civic needs, including the full participation of veterans in our society. As a corollary, this provision will strengthen that mandate and send an important message to our veterans: our country will make every effort to ensure that those who sacrificed so much to expand democracy around the globe are involved in our democracy at home.

Finally, to ensure that the Department does not backslide from its critical function of expanding the civic involvement of disabled veterans, the bill also provides reporting requirements to ensure that the Department complies with this important goal.

The Nation's disabled veterans have given extraordinary service to our country. These courageous men and women deserve our help to ensure that they receive the necessary assistance to guarantee their full participation in our democracy. I look forward to Senate passage of the Veterans Voting Support Act, and I hope the House and the President will act quickly on this legislation to ensure the implementation of this important measure in time for the upcoming national election.

### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 617—HONORING THE LIFE AND RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF ERIC NORD, CO-FOUNDER OF THE NORDSON CORPORATION, INNOVATIVE BUSINESSMAN AND ENGINEER, AND GENEROUS OHIO PHILANTHROPIST

Mr. BROWN submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

S. RES. 617

Whereas Eric Nord, an Amherst, Ohio, native was born on November 8, 1917;

Whereas Eric Nord graduated from Amherst High School in 1935 and received a bachelor of science in mechanical engineering from the Case Institute of Technology, now known as Case Western Reserve University;

Whereas Eric Nord co-founded Ohio-based Nordson Corporation with his father and brother;

Whereas Eric Nord served as President of Nordson Corporation from 1954 to 1974, Chairman and CEO from 1974 to 1983, Chairman of the Board of Directors from 1983 to 1997, and Chairman Emeritus from 1997 to 2008;

Whereas Eric Nord was awarded 25 United States patents;

Whereas Eric Nord oversaw the early growth of Nordson Corporation from a local

business with less than \$1,000,000 in annual sales to a multinational corporation with annual sales of \$121,000,000;

Whereas Eric Nord's creativity and vision merited numerous honors and awards, including an honorary doctorate of science from Oberlin College and the Case Alumni Association Gold Medal Award in recognition of outstanding technical innovation, successful business management, and dedicated public service;

Whereas Eric Nord established the Nord Family Foundation, the Nordson Corporation Foundation, the Community Foundation of Greater Lorain County, and the Eric and Jane Nord Foundation;

Whereas the charitable work of Eric Nord contributed more than \$100,000,000 to worthy causes;

Whereas Eric Nord was a strong advocate for civil rights, fighting to establish fair housing practices for minorities in Oberlin, Ohio, during the 1960s;

Whereas Eric Nord was a beloved member of the community, philanthropist, husband, and father;

Whereas Eric Nord was an advocate for education, the arts, and social services; and

Whereas Ohio has lost an exemplary citizen and innovator with the passing of Eric Nord on June 19, 2008: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate honors the life and recognizes the accomplishments of Eric Nord, a civic-minded business leader, compassionate humanitarian, and dedicated family man.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 618—RECOGNIZING THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOMBING OF THE UNITED STATES EMBASSIES IN NAIROBI, KENYA AND DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA, AND MEMORIALIZING THE CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES, KENYA, AND TANZANIA WHOSE LIVES WERE CLAIMED AS A RESULT OF THE AL QAEDA LED TERRORIST ATTACKS**

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

S. RES. 618

Whereas on August 7, 1998, the al Qaeda terrorist group, led by Osama bin Laden, organized nearly simultaneous vehicular bombing attacks on the United States embassies in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam;

Whereas approximately 4,000 people were injured in the Nairobi bombing, including 14 United States citizens, 13 Foreign Service Nationals, and 2 contractors;

Whereas 213 people were killed in the bombing in Nairobi, including victims who were employees of the United States Government, or were family members of employees of the United States Government, namely—

(1) the following United States citizens: Nathan Aliganga, Julian Bartley, Sr., Julian Bartley, Jr., Jean Dalizu, Molly Hardy, Kenneth Hobson, Prabhi Kavalier, Arlene Kirk, Dr. Mary Louise Martin, Michelle O'Connor, Sherry Olds, and Uttamlal (Tom) Shah;

(2) the following Foreign Service Nationals: Chrispin W. Bonyo, Lawrence A. Gitau, Hindu O. Idi, Tony Irungu, Geoffrey Kalio, G. Joel Kamau, Lucy N. Karigi, Francis M. Kibe, Joe Kiongo, Dominic Kithuva, Peter K. Macharia, Francis W. Maina, Cecelia Mamboleo, Lydia M. Mayaka, Francis Mbugua Ndungu, Kimeu N. Nganga, Francis Mbogo Njunge, Vincent Nyoike, Francis Olewe Ochilo, Maurice Okach, Edwin A.O.

Omori, Lucy G. Onono, Evans K. Onsongo, Eric Onyango, Sellah Caroline Opati, Rachel M. Pussy, Farhat M. Sheikh, Phaedra Vrontamitis, Adams T. Wamai, Frederick M. Yafes; and

(3) the following contractors: Moses Namayi and Josiah Odero Owuor;

Whereas 85 people were injured in the Dar es Salaam bombing, including 2 United States citizens and 5 Foreign Service Nationals;

Whereas 1 Foreign Service National working at the Dar es Salaam embassy, Saidi Rogarth, is still listed by the Department of State as missing;

Whereas 11 people were killed in the Dar es Salaam bombing, including—

(1) Yusuf Ndange, a Foreign Service National; and

(2) the following contractors: Abdulrahman Abdalla, Paul E. Elisha, Abdalla Mnyola, Abbas William Mwillla, Bakari Nyumbu, Mtendeje Rajabu, Ramadhani Mahundi, and Dotto Ramadhani;

Whereas damage to both buildings was extensive, rendering the facilities unusable;

Whereas the outpouring of aid and assistance from the people and Governments of Kenya and Tanzania was widespread and greatly appreciated by the people of the United States;

Whereas security guards at both embassies acted bravely on the day of the bombings, protecting the lives and property of citizens of the United States, Kenya, and Tanzania;

Whereas the United States embassies in both Nairobi and Dar es Salaam have been rebuilt;

Whereas the United States Government is partnering with the people and Governments of Kenya and Tanzania to help both countries obtain a more democratic future;

Whereas 12 of the suspects indicted in the case have either been killed, captured, or are serving life sentences without parole; and

Whereas the United States Government continues to search for the remaining suspects, including Osama bin Laden: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the historic significance of the tenth anniversary of the al Qaeda bombings of the United States embassies in Nairobi, Kenya and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania;

(2) mourns the loss of those who lost their lives in these tragic and senseless attacks, especially those who were employed by the embassies;

(3) remembers the families and colleagues of the victims whose lives have been forever changed by the loss endured on August 7, 1998;

(4) expresses its deepest gratitude to the people of Kenya and Tanzania for their gracious contributions and assistance following these attacks;

(5) reaffirms its support for the people of Kenya and Tanzania in striving for future opportunity, democracy, and prosperity; and

(6) reaffirms its resolve to defeat al Qaeda and other terrorist organizations.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 619—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR A CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND BAHRAIN**

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

S. RES. 619

Whereas Bahrain is a friend of the United States and a critical partner in the war on

terrorism, as demonstrated by Bahrain's designation as a major ally outside of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the completion of the United States-Bahrain Free Trade Agreement in 2006, and the continued presence of United States forces in Bahrain;

Whereas the strategic relationship between the United States and Bahrain should not prevent the United States from speaking honestly to the Government of Bahrain about concerns regarding human rights issues in a mutually respectful dialogue; and

Whereas numerous reports, including the Department of State's 2007 Country Report on Human Rights Practices in Bahrain, detail potential shortcomings by the Government of Bahrain in the areas of human rights and democracy, including—

(1) the use of torture and undue force against political activists;

(2) systematic discrimination by the Sunni government against the Shi'a majority, including forbidding Shi'a from joining the military and discriminating against Shi'a in public sector employment;

(3) the denial, in practice, of the right to a fair trial; and

(4) gerrymandering of political districts in order to support favored candidates: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) supports a constructive dialogue on human rights issues as an integral part of the bilateral agenda between the United States and Bahrain;

(2) expresses support for efforts to promote human rights, democracy, and the rule of law in Bahrain; and

(3) calls upon the President and the Secretary of State to aid in those efforts.

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 94—RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTEGRATION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES**

Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. OBAMA) submitted the following concurrent resolution, which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 94

Whereas service members representing a wide diversity of races and nationalities have fought in every war in the history of the United States;

Whereas, on July 26, 1948, President Harry Truman signed Executive Order 9981, ordering the racial integration of the Armed Forces;

Whereas President Truman declared that there should be equality of treatment and opportunity for all persons in the Armed Forces, without regard to race, color, religion, or national origin;

Whereas the United States could not maintain an all-volunteer force without the service of, and critical role played by, service members representing a wide diversity of races and nationalities;

Whereas service member diversity brings a unique perspective and experience to the Armed Forces;

Whereas the Armed Forces led the way in social integration prior to the signal achievement of the legal victory in the Supreme Court decision of *Brown v. Board of Education*, 347 U.S. 483 (1954), which rejected separate white and colored schools;

Whereas the Armed Forces led the way in social integration prior to the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which banned discrimination in employment practices and public accommodations, the Voting Rights