

information, practice emergency escape plans, and check and replace smoke alarm batteries;

Whereas smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in a reported fire in half;

Whereas, each year, nearly 3,000 people die in home fires in the United States;

Whereas, in 2009, 82 firefighters lost their lives in the line of duty;

Whereas more than 50 firefighters have already lost their lives in 2010;

Whereas 1 home structure fire is reported every 82 seconds and 1 civilian fire death occurs every 2 hours and 38 minutes;

Whereas firefighters in the United States courageously respond to calls and risk their lives to protect families and communities from fire, natural disasters, and acts of terrorism;

Whereas firefighters provide emergency medical services, special rescue response, hazardous material response, wildfire suppression, and fire education;

Whereas Fire Prevention Week is the longest running public health and safety observance on record, and, since 1922, firefighters have been honored for their role in educating and protecting the public during Fire Prevention Week;

Whereas the National Fire Protection Association has designated the week beginning on October 3, 2010 as "Fire Prevention Week"; and

Whereas the people of the United States can do their part to protect themselves, their families, and firefighters by checking their smoke alarms regularly: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate supports—

(1) the goals and the ideals of Fire Prevention Week, which begins on October 3, 2010, as designated by the National Fire Protection Association; and

(2) the work of firefighters in educating and protecting the communities of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 640—EX-PRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING UNITED STATES ENGAGEMENT WITH ASEAN AND ITS MEMBER-STATES

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

S. RES. 640

Whereas the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was founded in 1967 "to strengthen further the existing bonds of regional solidarity and cooperation";

Whereas ASEAN membership has now expanded to include 10 countries, which together span over half the size of the continental United States, with a total population of nearly 600,000,000 persons;

Whereas ASEAN is an important contributor to stability and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region;

Whereas ASEAN partners with the United States Government and others in the international community to address transnational problems like terrorism, environmental degradation, the international financial crisis, and maritime security;

Whereas the ASEAN Charter, approved by Southeast Asia's leaders in November 2007, codified norms for the behavior of ASEAN member-states toward their own citizens, covering such subjects as individual rights, democracy, the rule of law, and good governance;

Whereas the combined economy of ASEAN's member countries, valued at ap-

proximately \$1,500,000,000,000 in 2008, constitutes the fourth largest market for United States exports, and two-way United States-ASEAN trade in goods and services totaled over \$200,000,000,000 in 2008;

Whereas Southeast Asia is the largest destination for United States foreign direct investment in Asia;

Whereas almost 40,000 students from ASEAN countries studied in the United States in 2008, and an increasing number of United States citizens are studying abroad in these countries;

Whereas the United States Government recognizes the centrality of ASEAN to regional cooperation and problem-solving in the Asia Pacific;

Whereas the United States was the first country to appoint an Ambassador to ASEAN;

Whereas the United States acceded to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia during the July 2009 ASEAN ministerial meetings in Thailand;

Whereas the United States launched a new collaboration with the Lower Mekong Countries—Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam—in the areas of the environment, health, and education in July 2009 in Thailand;

Whereas President Barack Obama stated at the first meeting of the leaders of ASEAN and the United States held in Singapore in November 2009, "The United States is committed to strengthening its engagement in Southeast Asia both with our individual allies and partners, and with ASEAN as an institution.";

Whereas Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said at the July 2010 ASEAN ministerial meetings in Vietnam that the United States was "committed to assisting the nations of Southeast Asia to remain strong and independent, and [to helping ensure] that each nation enjoys peace, stability, prosperity, and access to universal human rights";

Whereas Secretary of State Clinton and Secretary of Defense Robert Gates have stated the intention of the United States to increase participation in regional institutions, including the East Asia Summit and the ASEAN Defense Ministers Meeting Plus Eight, both to be held in October 2010 in Vietnam; and

Whereas the second meeting of ASEAN and United States Government leaders, and the first to be hosted by the United States, will take place in New York City, New York on September 24, 2010: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate—

(1) to welcome the leaders of ASEAN to the United States for the second ASEAN-United States summit meeting;

(2) that the decision to host the second ASEAN-United States summit in New York City reflects the importance of ASEAN and its member-states to the United States, and the importance of the United States to ASEAN and its member-states;

(3) that the United States Government should continue to seek ways to broaden and deepen its economic, political-security, social, and cultural engagement with the countries in Southeast Asia toward a closer partnership with ASEAN and its member-states, as well as other regional institutions in the Asia-Pacific region;

(4) that the United States Government is committed to working with all ASEAN member-states to encourage the development of open and free democratic institutions in Burma that allow for the full participation of political opposition and ethnic minority groups; and

(5) that a stronger, more integrated ASEAN serves shared interests in regional peace, stability, and prosperity.

SENATE RESOLUTION 641—OBSERVING THE 5TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DATE ON WHICH HURRICANE RITA DEVASTATED THE COASTS OF LOUISIANA AND TEXAS

Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself, Mr. VITTER, Mr. CORNYN, and Mrs. HUTCHISON) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 641

Whereas on September 24, 2005, Hurricane Rita made landfall as a Category 3 hurricane just east of the Texas-Louisiana border, between Sabine Pass and Johnson's Bayou, with wind speeds of 120 miles per hour, and further devastated the Gulf Coast, which had already been hit by Hurricane Katrina;

Whereas Hurricane Rita caused 7 deaths, forced 3,000,000 residents to evacuate their homes, caused flooding and tornadoes in the States of Louisiana, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Alabama, and, according to the National Climatic Data Center, left 1,000,000 people without electricity;

Whereas damages from Hurricane Rita are estimated at \$11,300,000,000;

Whereas in 2005, Hurricane Rita was the second hurricane to reach Category 5 status in the Gulf of Mexico, which, according to the National Climatic Data Center, is only the third time that more than one Category 5 storm has formed in the Atlantic in the same year;

Whereas the storm surge from Hurricane Rita was as high as 15 feet near the landfall site and, according to the United States Geological Survey, traveled as far as 50 miles inland, causing disastrous flooding and massive loss of property;

Whereas tens of thousands of homes and businesses in the States of Louisiana and Texas were destroyed by the flooding; and

Whereas the National Wetlands Center of the United States Geological Survey indicates that 217 square miles of the coastal land of the State of Louisiana were transformed to water after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) observes the 5th anniversary of the date on which Hurricane Rita devastated the coasts of the States of Louisiana and Texas;

(2) expresses the support of the Senate to the survivors of Hurricane Rita and the condolences of the Senate to the families of the victims of Hurricane Rita;

(3) commends the courageous efforts of those who assisted in the response to the storm and the recovery process;

(4) recognizes the contributions the affected communities in the States of Louisiana and Texas have made to the United States; and

(5) reaffirms the commitment of the Senate to rebuild, renew, and restore the Gulf Coast region.

SENATE RESOLUTION 642—CONGRATULATING THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF NURSING RESEARCH ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. INOUE (for himself and Ms. COLLINS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 642

Whereas, in 1983, the Institute of Medicine recommended that nursing research be included in biomedical and behavioral science research;