Whereas the Viking Mission produced the first scientific data from the surface of Mars;

Whereas the Viking orbiters mapped 97 percent of the Martian surface;

Wheread the Viking 1 Lander continued its mission for 2,307 days;

Whereas the Viking Mission was NASA's first comprehensive mission to seek evidence that Mars could have the potential to support life, and it discovered that Mars has an environment modified by the interaction with water and complex surface chemistry;

Whereas the Viking Mission revolutionized our scientific understanding of the Red Planet, led to future exploration of Mars and the Solar System, and was one of the first stepping stones for the human exploration of Mars: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the academic and industry contributors to the Viking Mission for leading the way in the exploration of Mars;

(2) recognizes the importance of the Viking Mission to the long-term exploration of the solar system by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and to the search for life beyond Earth;

(3) encourages the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to continue on the path to landing American astronauts on the surface of Mars; and

(4) encourages the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the American scientific community to continue to promote space exploration and scientific discovery across the solar system.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 48—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT THE ITALIAN SUPREME COURT OF CASSATION SHOULD DOMESTICATE AND RECOGNIZE JUDGMENTS ISSUED BY UNITED STATES COURTS ON BEHALF OF UNITED STATES VICTIMS OF TERRORISM, AND THAT THE ITALIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS SHOULD CEASE ITS POLITICAL INTERFERENCE WITH ITALY'S INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY, WHICH IT CARRIES OUT IN THE INTERESTS OF STATE SPONSORS OF TERRORISM SUCH AS THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. KIRK, and Mr. MURPHY) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 48

Whereas, in 1996, Congress passed the Terrorism Exception to the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act to give United States citizens a private means of redress for injuries and deaths caused by state-sponsored acts of terrorism (originally codified at section 1605(a)(7) of title 28, United States Code and subsequently amended and re-codified at section 1605A of title 28, United States Code) (in this resolution referred to as the ''Terrorism Exception'');

Whereas the Terrorism Exception continues to be an important tool for the United States Government to protect the interests of its nationals, and to deter global terrorism;

Whereas the families of Alisa Flatow, Sarah Duker, and Matthew Eisenfeld, United States students killed in Iran-sponsored bombings, secured judgments against the Islamic Republic of Iran in United States Federal court for its role in those murders;

Whereas the families of Alisa Flatow, Sarah Duker, and Matthew Eisenfeld attempted to enforce those United States judgments against Iranian assets held in Italy;

Whereas the families of Alisa Flatow, Sarah Duker, and Matthew Eisenfeld initially domesticated their judgments in Italian court;

Whereas the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs entered appearances in subsequent proceedings on behalf of the Islamic Republic of Iran, interfering with the domestication and successfully causing the Italian Supreme Court of Cassation (Italy's highest court of appeal) to overturn the Court of Appeals of Rome's judgment in favor of these United States terrorism victims (Islamic Republic of Iran v. Flatow, Cass., sez. un., 22 giugno 2007, n. 14570 (It.); Islamic Republic of Iran v. Eisenfeld, Cass., sez. un., 22 giugno 2007, n. 14571 (It.));

Whereas the Italian Supreme Court of Cassation condemned the Terrorism Exception—a crucial United States antiterrorism statute—as a violation of international law on the grounds that it gives United States citizens a remedy for acts of terrorism committed outside of the United States (Flatow v. Islamic Republic of Iran, Cass., sez. un., 28 ottobre 2015, n. 21946 (It.); Eisenfeld v. Islamic Republic of Iran, Cass., sez. un., 28 ottobre 2015, n. 21947 (It.));

Whereas the Italian Supreme Court of Cassation therefore refuses to recognize any judgments issued by United States courts under the Terrorism Exception (id.);

Whereas Congress will use every tool at its disposal to seek justice for United States citizens who are murdered in acts of terrorism, including attacks committed outside the United States; and

Whereas United States courts have applied the Terrorism Exception to bring justice to European Union victims of state-sponsored terrorism directed against United States nationals (see, e.g., Hurst v. Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, 474 F. Supp. 2d 19 (D.D.C. 2007); Rein v. Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, 995 F. Supp. 325 (E.D.N.Y. 1998)): Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) Italy has violated the principle of reciprocity governing the mutual recognition of domestic court awards between our two nations;

(2) the intervention by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on behalf of Iran against victims of Iranian terrorism was initiated to the detriment of both United States and European Union terrorism victims; and

(3) the European Court of Human Rights should—

(A) overturn the Italian Supreme Court of Cassation's erroneous rulings in Flatow v. Islamic Republic of Iran (Cass., sez. un., 28 ottobre 2015, n. 21946 (It.)) and Eisenfeld v. Islamic Republic of Iran (Cass., sez. un., 28 ottobre 2015, n. 21947 (It.)); and

(B) order the Italian Supreme Court of Cassation to recognize the United States judgments held by the Flatow, Duker, and Eisenfeld families against Iran.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 49—SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO STOP THE THEFT, ILLEGAL POSSESSION OR SALE, TRANSFER, AND EXPORT OF TRIBAL CULTURAL ITEMS OF INDIANS, ALASKA NATIVES, AND NATIVE HAWAIIANS IN THE UNITED STATES AND INTERNATIONALLY

Mr. UDALL (for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, and Mr. HEINRICH) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs:

S. CON. RES. 49

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This concurrent resolution may be cited as the ''Protection of the Right of Tribes to stop the Export of Cultural and Traditional Patrimony Resolution'' or the ''PROTECT Patrimony Resolution''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this resolution:

(1) NATIVE AMERICAN.—The term ''Native American'' means—

(A) an Indian tribe (as defined in section 2 of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (25 U.S.C. 3001));

(B) a member of an Indian tribe described in subparagraph (A); or

(C) a Native Hawaiian (as defined in section 2 of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (25 U.S.C. 3001)).

(2) TRIBAL CULTURAL ITEM.—The term ''tribal cultural item'' has the meaning given the term ''cultural item'' in section 2 of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (25 U.S.C. 3001).

SEC. 3. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Tribal cultural items—

(A) have ongoing historical, traditional, or cultural importance central to a Native American group or culture;

(B) cannot be alienated, appropriated, or conveyed by any individual; and

(C) are vital to Native American cultural survival and the maintenance of Native American ways of life.

(2) The nature and description of tribal cultural items are sensitive and to be treated with respect and confidentiality, as appropriate.

(3) Violators often export tribal cultural items internationally with the intent of evading Federal and tribal laws.

(4) Tribal cultural items continue to be removed from the possession of Native Americans and sold in black or public markets in violation of Federal and tribal laws, including laws designed to protect Native American cultural property rights.

(5) The illegal trade of tribal cultural items involves a sophisticated and lucrative black market, where the items are traded through domestic markets and then are often exported internationally.

(6) Auction houses in foreign countries have held sales of tribal cultural items from the Pueblo of Acoma, the Pueblo of Laguna, the Pueblo of San Felipe, the Hopi Tribe, and other Indian tribes.

(7) After tribal cultural items are exported internationally, Native Americans have difficulty stopping the sale of the items and securing their repatriation to their home communities, where the items belong.

(8) Federal agencies have a responsibility to consult with Native Americans to stop the theft, illegal possession or sale, transfer, and export of tribal cultural items.

(9) An increase in the investigation and successful prosecution of violations of the