

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 146

Recognizing the 25th anniversary of the eruption of Mount St. Helens.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 18, 2005

Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. STEVENS, and Mr. PRYOR)
submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the 25th anniversary of the eruption of Mount
St. Helens.

Whereas, on May 18, 1980, at 8:32 a.m. Pacific Daylight
Time, the volcano of Mount St. Helens erupted, changing
its elevation from 9,677 feet to 8,363 feet;

Whereas the eruption was triggered by an earthquake of
magnitude 5.1 approximately 1 mile beneath the volcano;

Whereas the lateral blast covered an area approximately 230
square miles and reached as far as 17 miles northwest
of the crater;

Whereas the velocity of the blast was estimated to be at least
300 miles per hour;

Whereas the pyroclastic flows covered 6 square miles, reached
temperatures of 1,300 degrees Fahrenheit, and moved at
speeds between 50 and 80 miles per hour;

Whereas, as a result of the eruption, over 4,000,000,000 board-feet of timber was blown down, which is enough material to build about 150,000 homes;

Whereas volcanic ash clouded the sky above eastern Washington, reached the east coast of the United States in 3 days, and eventually circled the globe in 15 days;

Whereas the eruption claimed the lives of 57 people; and

Whereas tens of thousands of animals perished: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) recognizes the 25th Anniversary of the
3 eruption of Mount St. Helens on May 18, 2005;

4 (2) acknowledges the importance of monitoring
5 all 169 volcanoes in the United States and its terri-
6 tories;

7 (3) recognizes the invaluable work of the De-
8 partment of the Interior, the United States Geologi-
9 cal Survey, the United States Forest Service, the Di-
10 rectorate of Emergency Preparedness and Response
11 of the Department of Homeland Security, and the
12 Cascade Volcano Observatory in monitoring the ac-
13 tivities of Mount St. Helens;

14 (4) acknowledges the progress in science that
15 has led to a more comprehensive understanding of
16 volcanology, seismology, and plate tectonics, thus en-
17 hancing the ability to predict volcanic activity and
18 eruptions; and

1 (5) supports monitoring volcanoes and helping
2 to develop emergency response plans to ensure that
3 the people and communities of the United States are
4 safe.

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