

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 579

Honoring the life of Manute Bol and expressing the condolences of the
Senate on his passing.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 13, 2010

Mr. BROWNBACK (for himself and Mr. LIEBERMAN) submitted the following
resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

RESOLUTION

Honoring the life of Manute Bol and expressing the
condolences of the Senate on his passing.

Whereas Manute Bol was born the son of a Dinka tribal chief
in Sudan, and was given the name “Manute”, which
means “special blessing”;

Whereas Manute Bol traveled to the United States in 1983
and played college basketball at the University of Bridge-
port during the 1984–1985 season;

Whereas Manute Bol began his National Basketball
Association (NBA) career with the Washington Bullets in
1985, setting the rookie shot-blocking record;

Whereas Manute Bol played in the NBA for 10 years, setting
numerous shot-blocking records;

Whereas, after beginning his career in the NBA, Manute Bol used his fame and fortune to raise funding and awareness for the people of Sudan;

Whereas Manute Bol was admitted to the United States as a religious refugee and lost over 250 members of his extended family to a civil war rife with religious tensions, but nevertheless spent his life working for reconciliation between Christians and Muslims in Sudan;

Whereas Manute Bol's last project to foster reconciliation was to build 41 schools for Christians and Muslims to learn and live together in the spirit of reconciliation;

Whereas Manute Bol constantly put himself in danger to bring peace and stability to Sudan, including by flying into war zones and visiting refugee camps that were targeted for aerial attack;

Whereas, on Manute Bol's last humanitarian visit to Sudan, the President of Southern Sudan, Salva Kiir, requested that Manute Bol extend his visit to make appearances at Sudan's national election and use his influence to counter corruption, which ultimately led to the deterioration of his health and his sudden death;

Whereas Manute Bol advocated for human rights in Sudan by appearing before Congress and lobbying Members of Congress, thus positively influencing United States foreign policy on Sudan;

Whereas, after Manute Bol retired, he resided in West Hartford, Connecticut, and Olathe, Kansas;

Whereas Manute Bol died at the age of 47 on June 19, 2010; and

Whereas Manute Bol's perseverance in his advocacy for Sudan affected the lives of thousands, and possibly millions, of people in Sudan: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) expresses profound sorrow at the death of
3 Manute Bol;

4 (2) conveys its condolences to the family,
5 friends, and colleagues of Manute Bol;

6 (3) expresses gratitude to Manute Bol for his
7 passion and determination in raising awareness of
8 human rights abuses, and his dedication to bringing
9 peace to Sudan; and

10 (4) encourages the National Collegiate Athletic
11 Association (NCAA) and the National Basketball
12 Association (NBA) to pursue exhibition games with
13 a Sudanese basketball team to increase awareness of
14 the political and humanitarian situation in Sudan,
15 with proceeds from these games donated toward the
16 construction of reconciliation schools in Sudan, as
17 proposed by Manute Bol.

○