

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 603

Commemorating the 50th anniversary of the National Council for International Visitors, and designating February 16, 2011, as “Citizen Diplomacy Day”.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 30, 2010

Mr. SPECTER (for himself, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. BURR, Mr. BAYH, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. BURRIS, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. DORGAN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BOND, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. CASEY, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. HAGAN, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. COBURN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. SANDERS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

SEPTEMBER 14, 2010

Committee discharged; considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Commemorating the 50th anniversary of the National Council for International Visitors, and designating February 16, 2011, as “Citizen Diplomacy Day”.

Whereas the year 2011 marks the 50th Anniversary of the National Council for International Visitors (referred to in this preamble as the “NCIV”), originally founded as the National Council for Community Services to International Visitors (commonly referred to as “COSERV”) in 1961;

Whereas the mission of NCIV is to promote excellence in citizen diplomacy—the concept that the individual citizen has the right and responsibility to help develop constructive United States foreign relations “one handshake at a time”;

Whereas citizen diplomacy has the power to shape perceptions in the United States of foreign cultures and international perceptions of the United States, effectively shattering stereotypes, illuminating differences, underscoring common human aspirations, and developing the web of human connections needed to achieve more peaceful relations between countries;

Whereas NCIV is the private sector partner of the United States Department of State International Visitor Leadership Program (referred to in this preamble as the “IVLP”), a public diplomacy initiative that brings distinguished foreign leaders to the United States for short-term professional programs under the authority of the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2451 et seq.; also referred to as the “Fulbright-Hays Act”);

Whereas the NCIV network comprises individuals, program agencies, and 92 community organizations throughout the United States, including approximately 80,000 volunteers who are involved in NCIV member activities each year as host families, professional resources, volunteer programmers, board members, and other supporters;

Whereas the network of citizen diplomats in NCIV has organized professional programs, cultural activities, and home visits for more than 190,000 foreign leaders participating in the IVLP, 285 of whom went on to become chiefs of state or heads of government in their countries;

Whereas the NCIV network has hosted and strengthened the relationships of the United States with notable foreign leaders who are alumni of the IVLP, including: Abdullah Gul, President of Turkey, Nicolas Sarkozy, President of France, Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India, Morgan Tsvangarai, Prime Minister of Zimbabwe, and Alvaro Uribe Velez, President of Colombia, as well as Willy Brandt, former Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, Kim Dae-Jung, Former President of South Korea, Frederik W. de Klerk, former President of South Africa, Indira Ghandi, former Prime Minister of India, Anwar Sadat, former President of Egypt, and many others;

Whereas United States ambassadors have in repeated surveys ranked the NCIV network-facilitated IVLP first among 63 United States public diplomacy programs;

Whereas in 2001, Senator Arlen Specter nominated the NCIV network of citizen diplomats to receive the Nobel Peace Prize, stating that they “have done . . . the best work for fraternity between nations”;

Whereas all Federal funding for the citizen diplomacy of the NCIV network is spent in the United States, where it has leveraged \$6 in local economic impact for every Federal dollar expended;

Whereas NCIV member organizations provide invaluable opportunities for United States students to develop global perspectives and vividly experience the diversity of the world by bringing foreign leaders into local schools, loaning teachers cultural artifacts, and developing internationally focused curricula;

Whereas participation of United States communities, businesses, and universities in the international exchange programs implemented by the NCIV network strengthens the ability of the United States to produce a globally literate and competitive workforce;

Whereas NCIV celebrates excellence in citizen diplomacy and has honored 7 individuals—Senator J. William Fulbright in 1987, the Honorable John Richardson in 1990, Maya Angelou in 1993, Richard Stanley in 2000, Keith Reinhard in 2007, Garth Fagan in 2008, and Rick Steves in 2009—with the NCIV Citizen Diplomat Award for their exemplary work towards transcending barriers between the peoples of the world in visionary ways;

Whereas NCIV provides leadership at the national level having convened leaders of sister organizations for 2 national Summits on Citizen Diplomacy and providing funding to its member organizations for Summits on Citizen Diplomacy in communities throughout the United States, giving those organizations the opportunity to foster internationally focused dialogue and to cultivate lasting partnerships with like-minded organizations in their own communities; and

Whereas NCIV member organizations serve as international gateways, sharing their communities with the world and the world with their communities—welcoming strangers and sending home friends: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) commemorates the 50th anniversary of the
3 National Council for International Visitors and its
4 extraordinary efforts to promote excellence in citizen
5 diplomacy;

1 (2) commends the achievements of the thou-
2 sands of citizen diplomats who have worked for gen-
3 erations to share the best of the United States with
4 foreign leaders, specialists, and scholars;

5 (3) thanks the National Council for Inter-
6 national Visitors citizen diplomats for their service
7 to their communities, our country, and the world;
8 and

9 (4) designates February 16, 2011, as “Citizen
10 Diplomacy Day”.

○