

Whereas public servants—

- (1) defend our freedom and advance United States interests around the world;
- (2) provide vital strategic support functions to our military and serve in the National Guard and Reserves;
- (3) fight crime and fires;
- (4) ensure equal access to secure, efficient, and affordable mail service;
- (5) deliver Social Security and Medicare benefits;
- (6) fight disease and promote better health;
- (7) protect the environment and the Nation's parks;
- (8) enforce laws guaranteeing equal employment opportunity and healthy working conditions;
- (9) defend and secure critical infrastructure;
- (10) help the Nation recover from natural disasters and terrorist attacks;
- (11) teach and work in our schools and libraries;
- (12) develop new technologies and explore the earth, moon, and space to help improve our understanding of how our world changes;
- (13) improve and secure our transportation systems;
- (14) promote economic growth; and
- (15) assist our Nation's veterans;

Whereas members of the uniformed services and civilian employees at all levels of government make significant contributions to the general welfare of the United States, and are on the front lines in the fight against terrorism and in maintaining homeland security;

Whereas public servants work in a professional manner to build relationships with other countries and cultures in order to better represent America's interests and promote American ideals;

Whereas public servants alert Congress and the public to government waste, fraud, abuse, and dangers to public health;

Whereas the men and women serving in the Armed Forces of the United States, as well as those skilled trade and craft Federal employees who provide support to their efforts, are committed to doing their jobs regardless of the circumstances, and contribute greatly to the security of the Nation and the world;

Whereas public servants have bravely fought in armed conflict in defense of this Nation and its ideals and deserve the care and benefits they have earned through their honorable service;

Whereas government workers have much to offer, as demonstrated by their expertise and innovative ideas, and serve as examples by passing on institutional knowledge to train the next generation of public servants;

Whereas May 1 through 7, 2011, has been designated Public Service Recognition Week to honor America's Federal, State, and local government employees; and

Whereas Public Service Recognition Week is celebrating its 27th anniversary: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

- (1) commends public servants for their outstanding contributions to this great Nation during Public Service Recognition Week and throughout the year;
- (2) salutes government employees for their unyielding dedication and spirit for public service;
- (3) honors those government employees who have given their lives in service to their country;
- (4) calls upon a new generation to consider a career in public service as an honorable profession; and
- (5) encourages efforts to promote public service careers at all levels of government.

CALLING ON THE UNITED NATIONS TO RESCIND THE GOLDSTONE REPORT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Foreign Relations Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 138 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 138) calling on the United Nations to rescind the Goldstone report, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 138) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 138

Whereas, on January 12, 2009, the United Nations Human Rights Council passed Resolution S-9/1, authorizing a "fact-finding mission" regarding the conduct of the Government of Israel during Operation Cast Lead between December 27, 2008, and January 18, 2009;

Whereas that resolution prejudged the outcome of the fact finding mission by mandating that it investigate "violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law by the occupying power, Israel, against the Palestinian people";

Whereas, on September 15, 2009, the "United Nations Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict" released its report, now known as the "Goldstone report", named for its chair, South African Jurist Richard Goldstone;

Whereas the report made numerous unsubstantiated assertions against Israel, in particular accusing the Government of Israel of committing war crimes by deliberately targeting civilians during its operations in Gaza;

Whereas the report downplayed the overwhelming evidence that Hamas deliberately used Palestinian civilians and civilian institutions as human shields against Israel and deliberately targeted Israeli civilians with rocket fire for over eight years prior to the operation;

Whereas the United Nations Human Rights Council voted to welcome the report, to endorse its recommendations, and to condemn Israel without mentioning Hamas;

Whereas, as a result of the report, the United Nations General Assembly has passed two resolutions endorsing the report's findings, the United Nations Secretary-General has been requested to submit several reports on implementation of its recommendations, and the Human Rights Council is scheduled to follow up on implementation of the report during future sessions;

Whereas the findings of the Goldstone report and the subsequent and continued

United Nations member state actions following up on those findings have caused and continue to cause extensive harm to Israel's standing in the world and could potentially create legal problems for Israel and its leaders;

Whereas Justice Richard Goldstone publicly retracted the central claims of the report he authored in an op-ed in The Washington Post on April 2, 2011;

Whereas Justice Goldstone wrote in that article that if he "had known then what I know now, the Goldstone Report would have been a different document";

Whereas Justice Goldstone concluded that, contrary to his report's findings, the Government of Israel did not intentionally target civilians in the Gaza Strip as a matter of policy;

Whereas, in contrast, Justice Goldstone states that the crimes committed by Hamas were clearly intentional, were targeted at civilians, and constitute a violation of international law;

Whereas Justice Goldstone also conceded that the number of civilian casualties in Gaza was far smaller than the report alleged;

Whereas Justice Goldstone admitted that Israel investigated the findings in the report, while expressing disappointment that Hamas has not taken any steps to look into the report's findings; and

Whereas Justice Goldstone concluded that "Israel, like any other sovereign nation, has the right and obligation to defend itself and its citizens": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

- (1) calls on the United Nations Human Rights Council members to reflect the author's repudiation of the Goldstone report's central findings, rescind the report, and reconsider further Council actions with respect to the report's findings;

- (2) urges United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon to work with United Nations member states to reform the United Nations Human Rights Council so that it no longer unfairly, disproportionately, and falsely criticizes Israel on a regular basis;

- (3) requests Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon to do all in his power to redress the damage to Israel's reputation caused by the Goldstone report;

- (4) asks the Secretary-General to do all he can to urge member states to prevent any further United Nations action on the report's findings; and

- (5) urges the United States to take a leadership role in getting the United Nations and its bodies to prevent any further action on the report's findings and limit the damage that this libelous report has caused to our close ally Israel and to the reputation of the United Nations.

PERMITTING USE OF THE CAPITOL ROTUNDA

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 33.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 33) permitting the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, there be no intervening action or debate, and that any statements related to this matter be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 33) was agreed to.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration en bloc of the following resolutions, which were submitted earlier today: S. Res. 154, S. Res. 155, S. Res. 156, and S. Res. 157.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements related to the resolutions be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolutions (S. Res. 154, S. Res. 155, S. Res. 156, S. Res. 157) were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

The resolutions, with their preambles, read as follows:

S. RES. 154

Whereas many people in the United States maintain classic automobiles as a pastime and do so with great passion and as a means of individual expression;

Whereas the Senate recognizes the effect that the more than 100-year history of the automobile has had on the economic progress of the Nation and supports wholeheartedly all activities involved in the restoration and exhibition of classic automobiles;

Whereas collection, restoration, and preservation of automobiles is an activity shared across generations and across all segments of society;

Whereas thousands of local car clubs and related businesses have been instrumental in preserving a historic part of the heritage of this Nation by encouraging the restoration and exhibition of such vintage works of art;

Whereas automotive restoration provides well-paying, high-skilled jobs for people in all 50 States; and

Whereas automobiles have provided the inspiration for music, photography, cinema, fashion, and other artistic pursuits that have become part of the popular culture of the United States: Now therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates July 8, 2011, as “Collector Car Appreciation Day”;

(2) recognizes that the collection and restoration of historic and classic cars is an important part of preserving the technological achievements and cultural heritage of the United States; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to engage in events and commemorations of “Collector Car Appreciation Day” that create opportunities for collector car

owners to educate young people on the importance of preserving the cultural heritage of the United States, including through the collection and restoration of collector cars.

S. RES. 155

Whereas libraries are an essential part of the communities and the national system of education in the United States;

Whereas the people of the United States benefit significantly from libraries that serve as an open place for people of all ages and backgrounds to use books and other resources that offer pathways to learning, self-discovery, and the pursuit of knowledge;

Whereas the libraries of the United States depend on the generous donations and the support of individuals and groups to ensure that people who are unable to purchase books still have access to a wide variety of resources;

Whereas certain nonprofit organizations facilitate the donation of books to schools and libraries across the United States, in order to extend the joy of reading to millions of people in the United States and to prevent used books from being thrown away;

Whereas as of the date of agreement to this resolution, the libraries of the United States have provided valuable resources to individuals who are affected by the economic crisis by encouraging continued education and job training; and

Whereas several States that recognize the importance of libraries and reading have adopted resolutions commemorating April 23 as “Adopt A Library Day”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates April 23, 2011, as “National Adopt A Library Day”;

(2) honors the organizations that facilitate donations to schools and libraries;

(3) urges people in the United States who own unused books to donate such books to local libraries;

(4) strongly supports children and families who take advantage of the resources provided by schools and libraries; and

(5) encourages the people of the United States to observe “National Adopt A Library Day” with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

S. RES. 156

Whereas Global Youth Service Days is an annual campaign that celebrates and mobilizes the millions of young people who improve their communities each day through community service and service-learning programs;

Whereas the goals of Global Youth Service Days are—

(1) to mobilize and support young people to address the needs of their communities, their countries, and the world through community service and service-learning;

(2) to mobilize and support schools and organizations to provide meaningful opportunities for youth engagement;

(3) to educate the public, the media, and policymakers about the year-round contributions of young people as community leaders;

(4) to recognize and celebrate young people as community assets, resources, leaders, and problem-solvers; and

(5) to inspire and sustain a lifelong commitment to service and civic engagement;

Whereas Global Youth Service Days, a program of Youth Service America, is the largest service event in the world and the only service event dedicated to engaging young people ages 5 through 25;

Whereas, in 2011, Global Youth Service Days is being observed for the 23rd consecutive year in the United States and for the 12th year globally in more than 100 countries;

Whereas Global Youth Service Days provides an opportunity for young people to po-

sition themselves as assets, resources, active citizens, and community leaders through the application of their knowledge, idealism, energy, creativity, and unique perspective to improving their communities by addressing a myriad of critical issues, such as childhood obesity, illiteracy, hunger, environmental degradation, public safety, and disaster preparedness;

Whereas, in 2011, thousands of participants in schools and community-based organizations plan to hold Global Youth Service Days activities as part of a Semester of Service, an extended service-learning campaign launched on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service, in which young people spend the semester addressing a meaningful community need connected to intentional learning goals or academic standards over the course of at least 70 hours;

Whereas Global Youth Service Days engages millions of young people worldwide with the support of the Global Youth Service Network of the Youth Service America, including more than 200 national and international partners, 100 State and local lead agencies, and thousands of local schools, afterschool programs, youth development organizations, community organizations, faith-based organizations, government agencies, businesses, neighborhood associations, and families;

Whereas, in 2011, Youth Service America intends to distribute more than \$1,000,000 in grants to more than 800 projects led by young people, including State Farm GYSD Lead Agency and Good Neighbor grants, UnitedHealth Heroes grants, Sodexo Youth and Lead Organizer grants, Disney Friends for Change grants, Learn and Serve America STEMster of Service grants, NEA Youth Leaders for Literacy grants, and MLK Semester of Service Lead Organizer Grants;

Whereas high quality community service and service-learning programs increase—

(1) the academic engagement and achievement of young people;

(2) the workforce readiness and 21st century skills of young people;

(3) the civic knowledge and engagement of young people;

(4) the intercultural understanding and global citizenship of young people; and

(5) the connectedness and commitment of young people to their communities; and

Whereas section 198(g) of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12653(g)) recognizes Global Youth Service Days as national days of service and calls on the Corporation for National and Community Service, other Federal agencies and departments, and the President of the United States to recognize and support youth-led activities on the designated days: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes and commends the significant contributions of young people of the United States and encourages the continued engagement and support of young people dedicated to serving their neighbors, their communities, and the United States;

(2) designates April 15 through 17, 2011, as “Global Youth Service Days”; and

(3) calls on the people of the United States to observe Global Youth Service Days by—

(A) encouraging young people to participate in community service and service-learning projects and to join their peers in those projects;

(B) recognizing the volunteer efforts of the young people of the United States throughout the year; and

(C) supporting the volunteer efforts of young people and engaging them in meaningful community service, service-learning, and decision-making opportunities as an investment in the future of the United States.