

session of the Senate on September 20, 2012, in room SD-628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, at 2:15 p.m., to conduct a business meeting to consider the following:

S. 65, A bill to reauthorize the programs of the Department of Housing and Urban Development for housing assistance for Native Hawaiians; S. 2024, A bill to make technical amendment to the T'uf Shur Bien Preservation Trust Area Act, and for other purposes; S. 3546, Esther Martinez Language Preservation Act Reauthorization; S. 3548, To clarify certain provisions of the Native American Veterans' Memorial Establishment Act of 1994; and H.R. 2467, To take certain Federal lands in Mono County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Bridgeport Indian Colony).

Those wishing additional information may contact the Indian Affairs Committee at (202) 224-2251.

#### COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Indian Affairs will meet during the session of the Senate on September 20, 2012, in room SD-628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, at 2:15 p.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "Advancing the Federal-Tribal Relationship through Self-Governance and Self-Determination."

Those wishing additional information may contact the Indian Affairs Committee at (202) 224-2251.

#### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

##### COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 19, 2012, at 9:30 a.m., in room 366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

##### COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 19, 2012, at 9:30 a.m.

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

##### COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 19, 2012, at 2:30 p.m. in room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled, "Five Years of the America COMPETES Act: Progress, Challenges, and Next Steps."

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

##### COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 19, 2012, at 2:15 p.m.

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

##### COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 19, 2012, at 10:00 a.m. in room 430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

##### COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 19, 2012, at 10 a.m. to conduct a hearing entitled "Homeland Threats and Agency Responses."

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

##### COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 19, 2012, at 10 a.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "Judicial Nominations."

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

##### SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Special Committee on Aging be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 19, 2012, at 2:30 p.m. in room 562 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled "Eliminating Waste and Fraud in Medicare: An Examination of Prior Authorization Requirements for Power Mobility Devices."

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

##### SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTION, CIVIL RIGHTS, AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Constitution, Civil Rights, and Human Rights, be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 19, 2012, at 2:30 p.m., in room SH-216 of the Hart Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "Hate Crimes and the Threat of Domestic Extremism."

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

##### SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT OF GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT, THE FEDERAL WORKFORCE, AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs', Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia, be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 19, 2012, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "Investing in an Effective Federal Workforce."

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

#### PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Freny Dessai, Sarah Butler, Talitha James, Amanda Sellers, Bryan Watt, Daniel Lind, and Daniel West, staff of the Finance Committee, be granted the privilege of the floor for the duration of the consideration of the continuing resolution.

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

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Paul Schirduan, with the Homeland Security Committee, be granted the privilege of the floor for the remainder of the Congress.

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

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Mike Sobaski and Peter Visser of my staff be granted the privilege of the floor for the duration of today's proceedings.

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

#### MEASURES SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the following resolutions, en bloc, which were submitted earlier today: S. Res. 562, S. Res. 563, S. Res. 564, S. Res. 565, S. Res. 566, S. Res. 567, S. Res. 568, S. Res. 569, and S. Res. 570.

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 any statements related to the resolutions be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

The resolutions, with their preambles, read as follows:

##### S. RES. 562

Whereas healthcare information technology and management systems have been recognized as essential tools for improving patient care, ensuring patient safety, stopping duplicative tests and paperwork, and reducing healthcare costs;

Whereas the Center for Information Technology Leadership has estimated that the implementation of national standards for interoperability and the exchange of health

information would save the United States approximately \$77,000,000,000 in expenses relating to healthcare each year;

Whereas Congress has made a commitment to leveraging the benefits of healthcare information technology and management systems, including supporting the adoption of electronic health records that will help to reduce costs and improve quality while ensuring the privacy of patients;

Whereas the ability to exchange health information confidently and securely between different providers, systems, and insurers is critical to transforming the healthcare delivery system of the United States to improve clinical outcomes for patients, control costs, and expand access to care through the use of technology;

Whereas Congress has made real-time health information exchange a priority and an essential component of the Medicare and Medicaid Electronic Health Records Incentive Programs;

Whereas Congress has emphasized improving the quality and safety of delivery of healthcare in the United States; and

Whereas, since 2006, organizations across the United States have united to support National Health Information Technology Week to improve public awareness of the benefits of improved quality and cost efficiency of the healthcare system that the implementation of health information technology could achieve: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week beginning on September 10, 2012 and ending on September 14, 2012 as “National Health Information Technology Week”;

(2) recognizes the value of information technology and management systems in transforming healthcare for the people of the United States; and

(3) calls on all interested parties to promote the use of information technology and management systems to transform the healthcare system of the United States.

S. RES. 563

Whereas phenylketonuria is a rare, inherited metabolic disorder that is characterized by the inability of the body to process the essential amino acid phenylalanine, and which causes mental retardation and other neurological problems, such as memory loss and mood disorders, when treatment is not started within the first few weeks of life;

Whereas newborn screening for phenylketonuria was initiated in the United States in 1963 and was mandated by the Newborn Screening Saves Life Act of 2008 (42 U.S.C. 201 note);

Whereas approximately 1 of every 15,000 infants in the United States is born with phenylketonuria;

Whereas the 2012 Phenylketonuria Scientific Review Conference affirmed the recommendation of lifelong dietary treatment for phenylketonuria made by the National Institutes of Health Consensus Development Conference Statement 2000;

Whereas adults with phenylketonuria who discontinue treatment are at risk for other serious medical issues such as depression, impulse control disorder, phobias, tremors, and pareses;

Whereas women with phenylketonuria must maintain strict metabolic control before and during pregnancy to prevent fetal damage;

Whereas children born from untreated mothers with phenylketonuria may have a condition known as maternal PKU syndrome, which can cause small brains, mental retardation, birth defects of the heart, and low birth weight;

Whereas phenylketonuria is treated with medical food;

Whereas, although there is no cure for phenylketonuria, a treatment involving medical food and restricting phenylalanine intake can prevent progressive, irreversible brain damage;

Whereas maintaining a strict medical diet for phenylketonuria can be difficult to achieve, and poor metabolic control can result in a significant decline in mental and behavioral performance;

Whereas access to health coverage for medical food varies across the United States, and the long-term costs associated with caring for untreated children and adults far exceed the cost of providing medical food treatment;

Whereas scientists and researchers are hopeful that breakthroughs in phenylketonuria research will be forthcoming;

Whereas researchers across the United States are conducting important research projects involving phenylketonuria; and

Whereas the Senate is an institution that can raise awareness of phenylketonuria among the general public and the medical community: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates December 3, 2012, as “National Phenylketonuria Awareness Day”;

(2) encourages all people in the United States to become more informed about phenylketonuria; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit a copy of this resolution to the National PKU Alliance, a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of individuals with phenylketonuria.

S. RES. 564

Whereas over-the-counter and prescription medicines approved by the Food and Drug Administration have been determined to be safe and effective when used properly;

Whereas the misuse or abuse of these medicines can be extremely dangerous and produce serious side effects;

Whereas the Office of National Drug Control Policy reports that medicine abuse is the fastest-growing drug problem in the United States, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has classified medicine abuse as an epidemic;

Whereas the 2011 Monitoring the Future survey, funded by the National Institutes of Health, and the 2011 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, sponsored by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, both illustrate that, after marijuana, over-the-counter and prescription medicines account for the most frequently abused drugs among 12th graders;

Whereas the access teenagers often have to prescription medicines in home medicine cabinets and the lack of understanding by teenagers of the potential harms of these powerful medicines make it more critical than ever to raise public awareness about the dangers of medicine abuse;

Whereas the Drug Enforcement Administration and many State and local law enforcement agencies have established drug disposal programs (commonly referred to as “take-back programs”) to facilitate the collection and destruction of unused, unwanted, or expired medications, thereby helping to take outdated or unused medications off household shelves and out of the reach of children and teenagers;

Whereas National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month promotes the message that over-the-counter and prescription medicines are to be taken only as labeled or prescribed, and that using such medicines to get high or in large doses can cause serious or life-threatening consequences;

Whereas observance of National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month should be encour-

aged at the national, state, and local levels to increase awareness of the abuse of medicines;

Whereas a nationwide prevention and education campaign has been launched by the national organization that represents 5,000 anti-drug coalitions nationwide, along with the association representing makers of over-the-counter medicines, to provide local coalitions with tools, training, and outreach strategies to engage and educate parents, grandparents, teachers, law enforcement officials, retailers, doctors, and other healthcare professionals about the potential harms of cough medicine abuse; and

Whereas educating the public about the dangers of medicine abuse, encouraging parents to talk about medicine abuse with their teenagers, mobilizing parents to safeguard their home medicine cabinets, and promoting abuse prevention are critical components of what must be a multi-pronged effort to curb over-the-counter and prescription medicine abuse: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates the month of October 2012 as “National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month”;

(2) urges communities to carry out appropriate programs and activities to educate parents and youth of the potential dangers associated with medicine abuse.

S. RES. 565

Whereas people in the 21<sup>st</sup> century are writing more than ever before for personal, professional, and civic purposes;

Whereas the social nature of writing invites people of every age, profession, and walk of life to create meaning through composing;

Whereas more and more people in every occupation deem writing as essential and influential in their work;

Whereas writers continue to learn how to write for different purposes, audiences, and occasions throughout their lifetimes;

Whereas developing digital technologies expand the possibilities for composing in multiple media at a faster pace than ever before;

Whereas young people are leading the way in developing new forms of composing by using different forms of digital media;

Whereas effective communication contributes to building a global economy and a global community;

Whereas the National Council of Teachers of English, in conjunction with its many national and local partners, honors and celebrates the importance of writing through the National Day on Writing;

Whereas the National Day on Writing celebrates the foundational place of writing in the personal, professional, and civic lives of the people of the United States;

Whereas the National Day on Writing provides an opportunity for individuals across the United States to share and exhibit their written works through the National Gallery of Writing;

Whereas the National Day on Writing highlights the importance of writing instruction and practice at every educational level and in every subject area;

Whereas the National Day on Writing emphasizes the lifelong process of learning to write and compose for different audiences, purposes, and occasions;

Whereas the National Day on Writing honors the use of the full range of media for composing, from traditional tools like print, audio, and video, to Web 2.0 tools like blogs, wikis, and podcasts; and

Whereas the National Day on Writing encourages all people of the United States to write, as well as to enjoy and learn from the writing of others: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of October 20, 2012, as the “National Day on Writing”;

(2) strongly affirms the purposes of the National Day on Writing;

(3) encourages participation in the National Gallery of Writing, which serves as an exemplary living archive of the centrality of writing in the lives of the people of the United States; and

(4) encourages educational institutions, businesses, community and civic associations, and other organizations to promote awareness of the National Day on Writing and celebrate the writing of the members those organizations through individual submissions to the National Gallery of Writing.

S. RES. 566

Whereas the estuary regions of the United States comprise a significant share of the national economy, with 53 percent of the population, 40 percent of the employment, and 49 percent of the economic output of the United States located in the estuary regions of the United States;

Whereas projections indicate that 75 percent of the total population of the United States will live and work in coastal counties by 2025;

Whereas coasts and estuaries contribute more than \$800,000,000,000 annually in trade and commerce to the United States economy;

Whereas more than 43 percent of all adults in the United States visit a sea coast or estuary at least once a year to participate in some form of recreation, generating \$8,000,000,000 to \$12,000,000,000 in revenue annually;

Whereas more than 28,000,000 jobs in the United States are supported by commercial and recreational fishing, boating, tourism, and other coastal industries that rely on healthy estuaries;

Whereas estuaries provide vital habitat for countless species of fish and wildlife, including many that are listed as threatened or endangered;

Whereas estuaries provide critical ecosystem services that protect human health and public safety, including water filtration, flood control, shoreline stabilization and erosion prevention, and the protection of coastal communities during extreme weather events;

Whereas the United States has lost more than 110,000,000 acres, or 50 percent, of the wetland of the United States since the first European settlers arrived;

Whereas bays once filled with fish and oysters have become dead zones filled with excess nutrients, chemical wastes, harmful algae, and marine debris;

Whereas changes in sea level can impact estuarine water quality and estuarine habitat;

Whereas the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1451 et seq.) declares that it is the national policy to preserve, protect, develop, and if possible, to restore or enhance, the resources of the coastal zone of the United States, including estuaries, for current and future generations;

Whereas 24 coastal and Great Lake States and territories of the United States contain a National Estuary Program or a National Estuarine Research Reserve System;

Whereas scientific study leads to better understanding of the benefits of estuaries to human and ecological communities;

Whereas the Federal Government, State, local, and tribal governments, national and community organizations, and individuals work together to effectively manage the estuaries of the United States;

Whereas estuary restoration efforts restore natural infrastructure in local communities

in a cost effective manner, helping to create jobs and reestablish the natural functions of estuaries that yield countless benefits; and

Whereas September 29, 2012, has been designated as “National Estuaries Day” to increase awareness among all people of the United States, including Federal, State and local government officials, about the importance of healthy estuaries and the need to protect and restore estuaries: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 29, 2012, as “National Estuaries Day”;

(2) supports the goals and ideals of National Estuaries Day;

(3) acknowledges the importance of estuaries to sustaining employment and the economic well-being and prosperity of the United States;

(4) recognizes that persistent threats undermine the health of the estuaries of the United States;

(5) applauds the work of national and community organizations and public partners that promote public awareness, understanding, protection, and restoration of estuaries;

(6) reaffirms the support of the Senate for estuaries, including the scientific study, preservation, protection, and restoration of estuaries; and

(7) expresses the intent of the Senate to continue working to understand, protect, and restore the estuaries of the United States.

S. RES. 567

Whereas George Hickman was renowned as a Tuskegee Airman, a treasured leader in the Seattle community, and the lucky charm of Seattle sports until his passing on August 19, 2012, at the age of 88;

Whereas George Hickman leaves behind a loving wife of 57 years, Doris, 4 children, Regina, Sherie, Vincent, and Shauneil, 3 grandchildren, and 1 great-grandchild;

Whereas George Hickman served as a Tuskegee Airman and was one of the first African-American fighter pilots trained for World War II;

Whereas George Hickman served in the United States Army Air Corps from 1943 to 1945;

Whereas the honorable service of George Hickman and the other Tuskegee Airmen directly led to the desegregation of the Armed Forces of the United States;

Whereas George Hickman received the Congressional Gold Medal in 2007 with his fellow Tuskegee Airmen;

Whereas George Hickman was a special guest along with nearly 200 other Tuskegee Airmen at the 2009 inauguration of President Barack Obama;

Whereas George Hickman worked as a B-52 engineer for Boeing from 1955 until his retirement in 1984;

Whereas George Hickman was a beloved usher at University of Washington athletic events for more than 40 years; and

Whereas George Hickman also was a fan favorite as an usher at Seattle Seahawks games for nearly a decade: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) commends the long and loving life of George Hickman, his service to the United States as a Tuskegee Airman, and his role as an aviation pioneer;

(2) recognizes the service George Hickman performed for his country and his significance as a role model for African-American military pilots;

(3) recognizes the contributions of the greatest generation who fought for the freedoms of the people of the United States; and

(4) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution for appropriate display to Doris Hickman, the University of Washington Athletic Department, and the Seattle Seahawks organization.

S. RES. 568

Whereas Hispanic-serving institutions play an important role in educating many underprivileged students and helping those students attain their full potential through higher education;

Whereas Hispanic-serving institutions are degree-granting institutions that have a full-time equivalent undergraduate enrollment of at least 25 percent Hispanic students;

Whereas there are more than 300 Hispanic-serving institutions in operation in the United States;

Whereas Hispanic-serving institutions serve more than half (54 percent) of all Hispanic students, enrolling more than 1,300,000 students in 2010;

Whereas Hispanic-serving institutions are actively involved in stabilizing and improving the communities in which the Hispanic-serving institutions are located;

Whereas celebrating the vast contributions of Hispanic-serving institutions to the United States strengthens the culture of the United States; and

Whereas the achievements and goals of Hispanic-serving institutions are deserving of national recognition: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the achievements and goals of Hispanic-serving institutions across the United States;

(2) designates the week beginning September 16, 2012, as “National Hispanic-Serving Institutions Week”;

(3) calls on the people of the United States and interested groups to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs to demonstrate support for Hispanic-serving institutions.

S. RES. 569

Whereas the well-being of the United States requires that the young people of the United States become an involved, caring citizenry of good character;

Whereas the character education of children has become more urgent, as violence by and against youth increasingly threatens the physical and psychological well-being of the people of the United States;

Whereas, more than ever, children need strong and constructive guidance from their families and their communities, including schools, youth organizations, religious institutions, and civic groups;

Whereas the character of a nation is only as strong as the character of its individual citizens;

Whereas the public good is advanced when young people are taught the importance of good character and the positive effects that good character can have in personal relationships, in school, and in the workplace;

Whereas scholars and educators agree that people do not automatically develop good character and that, therefore, conscientious efforts must be made by institutions and individuals that influence youth to help young people develop the essential traits and characteristics that comprise good character;

Whereas, although character development is, first and foremost, an obligation of families, the efforts of faith communities, schools, and youth, civic, and human service organizations also play an important role in fostering and promoting good character;

Whereas Congress encourages students, teachers, parents, youth, and community leaders to recognize the importance of character education in preparing young people to

play a role in determining the future of the United States;

Whereas effective character education is based on core ethical values, which form the foundation of a democratic society;

Whereas examples of character are trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, citizenship, and honesty;

Whereas elements of character transcend cultural, religious, and socioeconomic differences;

Whereas the character and conduct of our youth reflect the character and conduct of society, and, therefore, every adult has the responsibility to teach and model ethical values and every social institution has the responsibility to promote the development of good character;

Whereas Congress encourages individuals and organizations, especially those that have an interest in the education and training of the young people of the United States, to adopt the elements of character as intrinsic to the well-being of individuals, communities, and society;

Whereas many schools in the United States recognize the need, and have taken steps, to integrate the values of their communities into their teaching activities; and

Whereas the establishment of "National Character Counts Week", during which individuals, families, schools, youth organizations, religious institutions, civic groups, and other organizations focus on character education, is of great benefit to the United States: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week beginning October 21, 2012, as "National Character Counts Week"; and

(2) calls upon the people of the United States and interested groups—

(A) to embrace the elements of character identified by local schools and communities, such as trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship; and

(B) to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies, programs, and activities.

#### S. RES. 570

Whereas all 50 States and 7 other countries provide services through the Parents as Teachers evidence-based home visiting model for nearly 260,000 children annually, which offers a multifaceted approach to building strong families and promoting a positive parent-child interaction so children are healthy, safe, and ready to learn;

Whereas Parents as Teachers provides evidence- and research-based training that assists parent educators in developing proficiencies in—

- (1) family support and parenting education;
- (2) child and family development;
- (3) human diversity within family systems;
- (4) health, safety, and nutrition; and
- (5) relationships between families and communities;

Whereas the Parents as Teachers evidence-based home visiting model is an essential component to prepare children to be school ready and narrows the achievement gap between children in poverty and nonpoverty households; and

Whereas there are more than 3,000 organizations offering Parents as Teachers services across the United States and around the world, which give parents of young children the support and information necessary so all children will learn, grow, and develop to realize their full potential: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates the November 8, 2012, as "National Parents as Teachers Day";

(2) recognizes the importance of parent education and the role the education plays in the development of a child; and

(3) commends Parents as Teachers for its work with families across the United States.

#### HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF LODI GYALTSEN GYARI

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Foreign Relations Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 557 and the Senate proceed to its 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. 557) honoring the contributions of Lodi Gyaltzen Gyari as Special Envoy of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and in promoting the legitimate rights and aspirations of the Tibetan people.

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 that any statements relating to the measure be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 557) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

#### S. RES. 557

Whereas Lodi Gyaltzen Gyari, who was born in Nyarong, Kham in 1949, was recognized according to Tibetan Buddhist tradition as a reincarnate lama and began his monastic studies at 4 years of age in Lhumorhab Monastery, which was located in what is now Kardze Prefecture, Sichuan Province;

Whereas, in 1958, 9-year-old Lodi Gyari fled Nyarong with his family to avoid pursuit by the Chinese People's Liberation Army and was said to have led his group to safety in India through prayer and divinations;

Whereas Lodi Gyari, as a young man in India, began a career-long commitment to the Tibetan struggle against Chinese oppression in Tibet, becoming editor for the Tibetan Freedom Press, founder of the Tibetan Review, the first English language journal published by Tibetans in exile, and a founding member of the Tibetan Youth Congress;

Whereas Lodi Gyari served as a civil servant in the Central Tibetan Administration of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, as Chairman of the Tibetan Parliament in exile, and as a Deputy Cabinet Minister for the Departments of Religious Affairs and Health and Cabinet Minister for the Department of Information and International Relations;

Whereas, in 1991, Lodi Gyari moved to the United States in the capacity of Special Envoy of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and was soon after selected to be President of the International Campaign for Tibet;

Whereas, for 3 decades, Lodi Gyari has met with leaders and diplomats of governments around the world and with Members of the United States Congress and parliaments of other nations—

(1) to explain the Tibetan position with regard to engagement with China;

(2) to urge supportive strategies and policies from governments;

(3) to explain the Dalai Lama's "Middle Way" philosophy of seeking genuine autonomy for Tibet within the People's Republic of China that contributes to harmony between the Tibetan and Chinese peoples; and

(4) to promote Tibetan statecraft as the Dalai Lama's senior ambassador-at-large;

Whereas, during his time as Special Envoy based in Washington, DC, Congress approved many policy and programmatic measures on Tibet, which served to institutionalize the Tibet issue within the Government of the United States, most notably the establishment of a Special Coordinator on Tibetan Issues within the Department of State and support for Tibetan refugees;

Whereas, in 1999, Lodi Gyari became a United States citizen;

Whereas in May 1998, His Holiness the Dalai Lama authorized Special Envoy Lodi Gyari to be the principal person to reestablish contact with the Chinese government on the Tibetan issue;

Whereas, between September 2002 and January 2010, Lodi Gyari led the Dalai Lama's negotiating team in 9 formal rounds of meetings with Chinese officials with tireless drive and immense skill, winning the respect of the international community;

Whereas Lodi Gyari presented the Chinese government with the Memorandum on Genuine Autonomy for the Tibetan People and its accompanying Note, thus detailing the Tibetan side's vision for a political solution for Tibet consistent within the framework of the Chinese constitutional and laws on autonomy;

Whereas Lodi Gyari, in service to the Dalai Lama, came to represent in national capitals around the world, the great hope and conviction that the rights of Tibetans could be protected and their repression could be ended.

Whereas, in the personally and professionally difficult task of representing Tibetan interests in dialogue with the People's Republic of China, Lodi Gyari demonstrated spirit, intelligence, and extraordinary tact, and brought civility, reason and a measure of mutual understanding to the Tibetan-Chinese relationship;

Whereas Lodi Gyari has credited the far-sighted wisdom of His Holiness the Dalai Lama in empowering the Tibetan people by his devolution of his political authority to an elected Tibetan leadership; and

Whereas, Lodi Gyari resigned his position, effective June 1, 2012, in the context of the deteriorating situation inside Tibet, including increasing incidents of Tibetan self-immolations, and expressing deep frustration over the lack of positive response from the Chinese side in their nearly 10-year dialogue, and in respect for the process of the devolution of political power to the elected Tibetan leaders.

Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) honors the service of Lodi Gyaltzen Gyari as Special Envoy of His Holiness the Dalai Lama;

(2) commends the achievements of Lodi Gyaltzen Gyari in building an international coalition of support for Tibet that recognizes—

(A) the imperative to preserve the distinct culture and religious traditions of Tibet; and

(B) that the Tibetan people are entitled under international law to their own identity and dignity and genuine autonomy within the People's Republic of China that fully preserves the rights and dignity of the Tibetan people;

(3) acknowledges the role of Lodi Gyaltzen Gyari, as a naturalized United States citizen, to promoting understanding in the United States of the Tibetan people, their culture