

(Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 15, a joint resolution removing the deadline for the ratification of the equal rights amendment.

S. CON. RES. 16

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. SASSE), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. Con. Res. 16, a concurrent resolution stating the policy of the United States regarding the release of United States citizens in Iran.

S. RES. 168

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 168, a resolution recognizing National Foster Care Month as an opportunity to raise awareness about the challenges of children in the foster care system, and encouraging Congress to implement policy to improve the lives of children in the foster care system.

S. RES. 174

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) and the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 174, a resolution recognizing May 2015 as “Jewish American Heritage Month” and honoring the contributions of Jewish Americans to the United States of America.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. KING):

S. 1266. A bill to expand the HUBZone program for communities affected by base realignment and closure, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise to introduce legislation to better tailor the HUBZone program to meet the needs of communities affected by the closure of U.S. military installations through the Base Closure and Realignment, or BRAC, process. I am pleased to be joined by my colleague from Maine, Senator KING, in introducing this legislation, the HUBZone Expansion Act of 2015.

This issue hits close to home for both Senator KING and me. When Loring Air Force Base closed in 1994 through the BRAC process, my home of Aroostook County lost 15 percent of its population. Senator KING lives in Brunswick, ME, which also experienced a considerable drop in population when it lost a major naval air station in 2011.

Military bases are often the economic heart of the towns and cities in

which they are located, and communities can struggle for years to overcome the closure of those facilities as the redevelopment process is often lengthy and riddled with bureaucratic hurdles.

In recognition of these challenges, Congress passed legislation providing HUBZone status for 5 years to military facilities closed through the BRAC process. This status allows small businesses located on former military bases or in “economically distressed communities” with high rates of poverty or unemployment to obtain certain Federal contracting preferences.

According to the Small Business Administration, there are currently 107 BRAC-related HUBZones in the U.S. Unfortunately, for many of the communities surrounding closed military bases, HUBZone status has not always had the intended effect. One of the reasons is simple. The law defines the geographic boundaries of a BRAC-related HUBZone to be the same as the boundaries of the closed base. When combined with the requirement that 35 percent of the employees of a qualifying business live within the HUBZone, redevelopment efforts are slowed or stalled. Very few people actually live on these former bases, making it difficult, if not impossible, for businesses and job seekers alike to meet the HUBZone requirements.

We have seen this very situation play out following the closure of the former Brunswick Naval Air Station, which closed as a result of the 2005 BRAC round. When the Navy left, Brunswick and its neighbor, Topsham, lost more than 2,400 military and civilian personnel. These two towns have a combined population of just 22,000, so losing these jobs has taken a significant economic toll. Because so few people live within the actual boundaries of the former naval air station, its HUBZone designation does not provide the help these communities need.

To address this first concern, our legislation would permit prospective employees who live just outside of the boundaries of the closed base to count toward the 35 percent requirement. Employees who live in the census tracts touching the boundaries of the closed base, and in census tracts that touch those census tracts, would be included, providing a large enough pool of potential workers for qualifying businesses to locate within the HUBZone.

A second reason that businesses have difficulty benefiting from the HUBZone program is because closed bases are given HUBZone status for a limited time, only 5 years. Local economic development agencies working to attract new businesses to a former base cannot begin until a base is closed, and this process can take many years. Because HUBZone preferences only apply for 5 years from closure, businesses often lose years of program eligibility. In fact, the Association of Defense Communities reports that in the seven

years following the 2005 BRAC round, only 1/3 of former base property has been transferred to local authorities for redevelopment. Our legislation would address this problem by extending the period of time for which a closed base is eligible for HUBZone status from 5 years after closure to 8 years.

Steve Levesque, the Executive Director of the Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority, oversees the redevelopment of the former Brunswick Naval Air Station. Steve supports this legislation, explaining that BRAC facilities do not have adequate residential areas needed to support the 35 percent residency requirement and that businesses cannot “realize the HUBZone benefits for BRAC’d installations as envisioned by Congress.”

Heather Blease is a Mainer who has explained the need for these changes as well. Heather is an entrepreneur who opened a small business at the former Brunswick Naval Air Station in 2013. She has described the HUBZone law as “flawed,” because the limited number of residences on the base make it nearly impossible to meet the 35 percent residency requirement. She says that this proposed legislation “would make all the difference in the world” for her business, and would create needed jobs for Mainers.

The Association of Defense Communities also supports our effort to tailor the HUBZone program to make it more usable by closed military bases.

I ask my colleagues to support the HUBZone Expansion Act of 2015 to help communities and the people most affected get back on their feet after the loss of a military installation, closed through the BRAC process.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a letter of support be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

ASSOCIATION OF DEFENSE COMMUNITIES,
May 5, 2015.

Hon. JOHN MCCAIN,
Chairman, Armed Services Committee, United States Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. JACK REED,
Ranking Member, Armed Services Committee, United States Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. MAC THORNBERRY,
Chairman, Armed Services Committee, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. ADAM SMITH,
Ranking Member, Armed Services Committee, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCCAIN, RANKING MEMBER REED, CHAIRMAN THORNBERRY AND RANKING MEMBER SMITH: On behalf of the Association of Defense Communities Board of Directors, I want to express my deep appreciation for your leadership to support defense communities across the country. As the leading organization serving communities with active, realigned or closed military installations, ADC represents more than 200 communities, states, regions and their partners.

Communities impacted by the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process continue to face severe, long-term economic distress. To assist in these communities’ recovery, Congress authorized additional support in the Small Business Reauthorization Act

of 1997, declaring that military bases closed by BRAC are eligible for designation as Historically Underutilized Business Zones (HUBZones). As you know, the HUBZone program allows small businesses in disadvantaged areas additional opportunities to compete for federal procurements. Eighteen years later, the HUBZone designation remains integral for attracting small businesses to these communities and is one of the few available federal tools supporting a community's economic transition.

While the intent of Congress was to provide the HUBZone designation to help closed military installations attract small businesses, one aspect of the HUBZone program actually works against these redevelopment areas. Under the current law, 35 percent of a business's employees also must live in a HUBZone area. Because a military installation's HUBZone area encompasses only the boundaries of the former base, many closed military installations do not have a substantial number of HUBZone-certified residential areas from which to draw a sufficient workforce for the businesses desiring to locate on those properties. It often is impossible, therefore, for a business looking to relocate to these communities to qualify for HUBZone status. Further, there traditionally are many delays in the multi-year process through which local redevelopment authorities assume control of former federal property, leaving little or no opportunity to recruit small businesses before the statutory five-year HUBZone designation has expired.

ADC is honored to endorse the current bipartisan legislative language offered by Senators King and Collins and Representatives Pingree and Poliquin, and support its inclusion in the FY 2016 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). The proposal would (1) allow small businesses in HUBZone areas to recruit personnel from a broader workforce and (2) extend from five years to eight years the period for which a BRAC-impacted community could be designated a HUBZone. If adopted, this language would be extremely helpful to communities across the country that have supported our nation's military missions but now are struggling to overcome distinct economic challenges. ADC is hopeful that your colleagues will support this provision and its inclusion in the FY 2016 NDAA as that important legislation moves forward.

Thank you again for your leadership on this and other important issues. We look forward to working with you and your colleagues to further strengthen America's defense communities.

Respectfully,

MICHAEL COOPER,
President.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 176—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2015 AS “NATIONAL BRAIN ANEURYSM AWARENESS MONTH”

Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. DURBIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 176

Whereas a brain aneurysm is an abnormal sacular or fusiform bulging of an artery in the brain;

Whereas an estimated 1 out of every 50 people in the United States has a brain aneurysm;

Whereas brain aneurysms are most likely to occur in people between the ages of 35 and 60, and there are typically no warning signs;

Whereas brain aneurysms are more likely to occur in women than in men by a 3-to-2 ratio;

Whereas young and middle-aged African-Americans have a higher risk of brain aneurysm rupture compared to Caucasian Americans;

Whereas, based on a 2004 study, the most recent year with readily-available data, the combined lost wages of survivors of a brain aneurysm rupture and their caretakers for 1 year were \$138,000,000;

Whereas various risk factors can contribute to the formation of a brain aneurysm, including smoking, hypertension, and a family history of brain aneurysms;

Whereas approximately 6,000,000 people in the United States have a brain aneurysm;

Whereas an unruptured brain aneurysm can lead to double vision, vision loss, loss of sensation, weakness, loss of balance, incoordination, and speech problems;

Whereas a brain aneurysm is often discovered when it ruptures and causes a subarachnoid hemorrhage;

Whereas a subarachnoid hemorrhage can lead to brain damage, hydrocephalus, stroke, and death;

Whereas, each year, more than 30,000 people in the United States suffer from ruptured brain aneurysms, 50 percent of whom die as a result;

Whereas, annually, between 3,000 and 4,500 people in the United States with ruptured brain aneurysms die before reaching the hospital;

Whereas a number of advancements have been made in recent years regarding the detection of aneurysms, including the computerized tomography scan, the magnetic resonance imaging test, and the cerebral arteriogram, and early detection can save lives;

Whereas various research studies are currently being conducted in the United States in order to better understand, prevent, and treat brain aneurysms;

Whereas the United States spends only \$1.30 per person for research each year on the approximately 6,000,000 people of the United States who suffer from brain aneurysms; and

Whereas the month of September would be an appropriate month to designate as “National Brain Aneurysm Awareness Month”;

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 2015 as “National Brain Aneurysm Awareness Month”; and

(2) continues to support research to prevent, detect, and treat brain aneurysms.

SENATE RESOLUTION 177—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF MAY 10 THROUGH MAY 16, 2015, AS “NATIONAL POLICE WEEK”

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. COONS, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Ms. HEITKAMP, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. HATCH, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. BROWN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. THUNE, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. KAINE, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. WARNER, Mr. RUBIO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. TESTER, and Mr. PETERS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 177

Whereas, in 1962, John Fitzgerald Kennedy signed the Joint Resolution entitled “Joint

Resolution to authorize the President to proclaim May 15 of each year as Peace Officers Memorial Day and the calendar week of each year during which such May 15 occurs as Police Week” (36 U.S.C. 136);

Whereas law enforcement officers are charged with pursuing justice and protecting communities in the United States;

Whereas Federal, State, local, and tribal police officers, sheriffs, and other law enforcement officers across the United States serve with dignity and integrity;

Whereas, in 2015, on the 20th anniversary of the Oklahoma City Murrah Federal Building bombing, the Senate honors the memory of those who perished in the bombing and the role of law enforcement officers as both first responders to terrorist attacks and protectors of the homeland from foreign and domestic threats;

Whereas law enforcement officers selflessly serve their communities even at the risk of their own personal safety, including the abhorrent murders of New York Police Department Officers Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu;

Whereas Peace Officers Memorial Day honors all law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty;

Whereas Peace Officers Memorial Day, 2015, honors 127 law enforcement officers recently killed in the line of duty, including David T. Johnson, Terry B. Fisher, Clinton Jeffrey Holtz, Carlos A. Rivera-Vega, Thomas A. Smith, Jr., Kristian D. Willhight, Brian D. Beck, David M. Baldwin, Eddie Maurice Hamer, Carlos Papillion, Jr., Cory B. Wride, Percy Lee House III, Jonathan Scott Pine, Amanda B. Baker, Brian M. Law, Juan Jaime Gonzalez, John T. Hobbs, Nicholas Choung Lee, Derek Andrew Hansen, Joaquin Correa-Ortega, Jason M. Crisp, Marc Uland Kelley, Allen Ray Richardson, James P. Morrissy, Ricky Del Fiorentino, Robert G. German, Mark A. Mayo, Mark H. Larson, Alexander E. Thalmann, David W. Smith, Jr., Gregory T. Maloney, Ernest T. Franklin, Dennis Guerra, Christopher A. Cortijo, Douglas H. Mayville, Mareli A. Morales-Santiago, Dennis Oliver Simmonds, Michael J. Seversen, William Heath Kelley, Bryan Marshall Berger, Gabriel Rich, Patrick Scott Johnson, Roberto Carlos Sanchez, Chelsea Richard, Noel Lee Hawk, John Collum, Michael Alexander Petrina, Charles Dinwiddie, Stephen Arkell, Steven LaCruz Thomas, Chad Charles, Jair A. Cabrera, Alexander Giannini, Christopher Skinner, Frank McKnight, Brian W. Jones, Paul A. Buckles, Kevin Dorian Jordan, Daryl Giles, Igor Soldo, Alyn R. Beck, Scott M. Hewell, Lee Dixon, Allen Bares, Jr., Jacob Daniel Calvin, Perry W. Renn, Jeffrey Brady Westerfield, Frank Gregory Bordonaro, Melvin Santiago, Christopher M. Goodell, Scott Patrick, Mark A. Hecker, Patrick Liberton, Joseph James Dunn I, Michael Pimentel, Geniel Amaro-Fantauzzi, Cleveland Johnson, Jr., Paul Ferrara, Daryl R. Pierson, Nickolaus E. Schultz, Jason E. Harwood, Joseph J. Matuskovic, Tyler R. Robledo, Byron Keith Dickson II, Michael Norris, Reinaldo Arocha, Jr., Jessica Laura Hollis, Michael C. Williams, Jordan J. Corder, David Kedra, Michael Joe Naylor, Eddie Johnson, Jr., Danny Oliver, Michael David Davis, Jr., Kagan Dindar, John Timothy Williamson, Anthony Haase, Robert Blajszczak, Jeffrey W. Garrett, Yevhen Eugene Kostiuhenko, Jesse Valdez III, Shaun Richard Diamond, David Payne, Robert Parker White, Matthew Chism, Darrell Perritt, Holmes Nathaniel Smith, Jr., Ronald A. Leisure, Justin Winebrenner, Jeffrey Wayne Greene, Alejandro Martinez, Sr.,