

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

RECOGNIZING THE HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE "JAMES H. MEREDITH MARCH AGAINST FEAR"

Mr. WICKER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 488, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 488) recognizing the historical significance and the 50th anniversary of the "James H. Meredith March Against Fear," a 220-mile walk down Highway 51 from Memphis, Tennessee, to Jackson, Mississippi.

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

Mr. WICKER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 488) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

Mr. WICKER. Madam President, I think this is a very appropriate time to recognize the Meredith March Against Fear. On June 5, 1966, 4 years after becoming the first African-American student to enroll at the University of Mississippi, James Meredith began his historic Meredith March Against Fear. The march began at the Peabody Hotel in downtown Memphis and would conclude some 3 weeks later at the Mississippi State Capitol in Jackson.

On June 6, Mr. Meredith and his small band of supporters encountered gunshots about 1 mile south of Hernando, MS. James Meredith was shot three times on that day and was taken to a hospital. Although he would recover, Meredith was unable to complete his March Against Fear, and the leadership was taken over by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Floyd McKissick, and Stokely Carmichael. By the time the march reached the city limits of Canton, the number of marchers had doubled to 250. By the time it concluded in Jackson, there were 15,000 people in attendance. This overwhelming turnout made it the largest civil rights demonstration in the history of the State of Mississippi. More than 4,000 African Americans were registered to vote from rallies and drives during the march along U.S. Highway 51.

Mr. Meredith still lives in Jackson, where he is frequently seen wearing his Ole Miss cap and attending Ole Miss

athletic events in Oxford. He will turn 83 1 day before the 50th anniversary of the march's conclusion.

Today, the Senate recognizes the courageous leadership of James Meredith. I think it is appropriate that this resolution is sponsored by the three current Members of the Senate who are graduates of the University of Mississippi—Senator COCHRAN, Senator SHAHEEN, and this Senator.

I commend the Senate on its recognition of this important individual and this significant milestone in the history of the civil rights movement.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCAIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017—Continued

Mr. MCCAIN. Madam President, as we move forward with cloture, I wish to make a clarification for the record.

There has been a lot of conversation about this issue of the role of women as far as Selective Service is concerned. At the time the amendments were filed, there was no amendment, except one, from the Senator from Utah, who is on the floor.

As soon as we began consideration of the bill, I said to the Senator from Utah: When do you want to do your amendment on women in the Selective Service?

His response was that he wanted to do another amendment first.

I said: Look, the way things work, you may have great difficulty getting that up. Nor has the Senator from Utah or anyone else raised the amendment for a vote.

So I am sorry to say that out there, there seems to be some conversation that Senator MCCAIN was blocking a vote on women in the Selective Service. I am not. Right now, if it were germane—and I don't know if it is germane or not—I have repeatedly said that if that amendment is up for consideration, I would be glad to have that amendment considered and to have it voted on.

So I want to clarify that for the record. I did not block any amendment concerning women being eligible for Selective Service. I want the record to be very clear.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COTTON. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. COTTON. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS GALYON

Mr. COTTON. Madam President, today I recognize Thomas Galyon of Rogers, AR, as this week's Arkansan of the Week for his advocacy work with the Arkansas chapter of the national ALS Association.

Tom was diagnosed with ALS in 2014 and has been a tireless advocate ever since. Tom isn't one to let ALS hold him back. In fact, after spending 33 successful years in the tourism industry, Tom decided retirement wasn't for him and went back to work as the property manager for the Center for Nonprofits at St. Mary's in northwest Arkansas. As luck would have it, the ALS Association is headquartered in the very building Tom manages, making his commitment to their organization that much stronger.

Recently I had the opportunity to meet with Tom when he came to Washington to advocate on behalf of the ALS Association. We had a long discussion, where I learned about Tom's story and the struggle of nearly 20,000 other Americans who are currently living with ALS. During our meeting, Tom asked me to address the problem that persons with ALS face when seeking disability insurance.

I was proud to work with my colleague Senator WHITEHOUSE to become the lead Republican sponsor of the ALS Disability Insurance Access Act, a bill that would waive the 5-month waiting period to receive disability insurance program benefits for those living with ALS. While the waiting period may be prudent in many cases, for ALS it consumes a lot of the remaining life expectancy once you get a diagnosis of ALS.

We now have nine sponsors. As we gain more support, I am hopeful this bill will move forward and eventually become law.

In a testimony about his journey with ALS, Tom writes: "Until there is a treatment or a cure for ALS I will continue to be an avid advocate for change in government policies and procedures that affect all ALS patients in a negative way."

I encourage all Arkansans to take a lesson from Tom's words: Advocacy works. If there is a bill or regulatory matter that impacts your life, I want to hear about it. To become an advocate, contact my office and tell me your story. It is part of my job to represent you in the Senate.

Tom's journey is a remarkable one. He has not let the unexpected discourage him. In fact, he has used his diagnosis to teach others about ALS and