

Whereas, on June 19, 1865, Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, arrived in Galveston, Texas, with news that the Civil War had ended and that the enslaved were free;

Whereas African-Americans who had been slaves in the Southwest celebrated June 19, commonly known as “Juneteenth Independence Day”, as inspiration and encouragement for future generations;

Whereas African-Americans from the Southwest have continued the tradition of observing Juneteenth Independence Day for over 150 years;

Whereas 45 States and the District of Columbia have designated Juneteenth Independence Day as a special day of observance in recognition of the emancipation of all slaves in the United States;

Whereas Juneteenth Independence Day celebrations have been held to honor African-American freedom while encouraging self-development and respect for all cultures;

Whereas the faith and strength of character demonstrated by former slaves and the descendants of former slaves remain an example for all people of the United States, regardless of background, religion, or race;

Whereas slavery was not officially abolished until the ratification of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States in December 1865; and

Whereas, over the course of its history, the United States has grown into a symbol of democracy and freedom around the world: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates June 19, 2016, as “Juneteenth Independence Day”;

(2) recognizes the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day to the United States;

(3) supports the continued nationwide celebration of Juneteenth Independence Day to provide an opportunity for the people of the United States to learn more about the past and to better understand the experiences that have shaped the United States; and

(4) recognizes that the observance of the end of slavery is part of the history and heritage of the United States.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 41—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS ON THE PESHMERGA OF THE KURDISTAN REGION OF IRAQ

Mrs. ERNST (for herself and Mrs. BOXER) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 41

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Peshmerga of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq have been one of the most effective fighting forces in the military campaign against the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS);

(2) the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham poses an acute threat to the Iraqi people and territorial integrity of Iraq, including the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, and the security and stability of the Middle East;

(3) the severe budget shortfalls faced by both the Government of Iraq and the Kurdistan Regional Government are hindering the stability of Iraq and have the potential to undermine long-term efforts to bring about the sustainable defeat of the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham;

(4) the \$415,000,000 pledged by the United States Government to the Kurdish

Peshmerga in April of 2016, in coordination with the Government of Iraq, in addition to the \$65,000,000 already provided from the Iraq Train and Equip Fund, should remain a priority for the United States as part of the continued support for Iraqi Security Forces, including the Peshmerga, in the fight against the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham;

(5) the Peshmerga should receive all weapons and equipment that the United States, in coordination with the Government of Iraq, agrees to provide in an expeditious and in a timely manner;

(6) the Peshmerga require equipment that will allow them to defend themselves and their coalition advisers against the increased use of vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices by the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham;

(7) the Peshmerga are vital partners in the fight against the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham; and

(8) in coordination with the Government of Iraq, the United States will endeavor to increase assistance to Iraqi Kurdish Forces to enhance their combat medicine and logistical capabilities, to defend internally displaced persons and refugees, and to defend the Peshmerga and their coalition advisers.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 4721. Mr. ROUNDS (for himself and Mr. THUNE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4685 proposed by Mr. SHELBY (for himself and Ms. MIKULSKI) to the bill H.R. 2578, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4722. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4685 proposed by Mr. SHELBY (for himself and Ms. MIKULSKI) to the bill H.R. 2578, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4723. Mr. CORNYN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4685 proposed by Mr. SHELBY (for himself and Ms. MIKULSKI) to the bill H.R. 2578, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4724. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4685 proposed by Mr. SHELBY (for himself and Ms. MIKULSKI) to the bill H.R. 2578, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4725. Mrs. MURRAY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2578, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4726. Mrs. MURRAY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2578, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4727. Mr. CORNYN (for Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. LEAHY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. LANKFORD)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2577, to protect crime victims' rights, to eliminate the substantial backlog of DNA and other forensic evidence samples to improve and expand the forensic science testing capacity of Federal, State, and local crime laboratories, to increase research and development of new testing technologies, to develop new training programs regarding the collection and use of forensic evidence, to provide post-conviction testing of DNA evidence to exonerate the innocent, to support accreditation efforts of forensic science laboratories and medical examiner offices, to address training and equipment needs, to improve the performance of

counsel in State capital cases, and for other purposes.

SA 4728. Mr. KIRK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2578, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4729. Ms. HIRONO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2578, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4730. Ms. HIRONO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4685 proposed by Mr. SHELBY (for himself and Ms. MIKULSKI) to the bill H.R. 2578, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4731. Ms. HIRONO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4685 proposed by Mr. SHELBY (for himself and Ms. MIKULSKI) to the bill H.R. 2578, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4732. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2578, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4733. Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. LEE, Mr. LANKFORD, and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4685 proposed by Mr. SHELBY (for himself and Ms. MIKULSKI) to the bill H.R. 2578, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4734. Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. LEE, and Mr. LANKFORD) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4685 proposed by Mr. SHELBY (for himself and Ms. MIKULSKI) to the bill H.R. 2578, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4735. Mr. JOHNSON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2578, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4736. Mr. GRASSLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4685 proposed by Mr. SHELBY (for himself and Ms. MIKULSKI) to the bill H.R. 2578, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4737. Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4685 proposed by Mr. SHELBY (for himself and Ms. MIKULSKI) to the bill H.R. 2578, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4738. Mr. LANKFORD (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. LEE, Mr. HATCH, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. INHOFE, and Mr. JOHNSON) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4685 proposed by Mr. SHELBY (for himself and Ms. MIKULSKI) to the bill H.R. 2578, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4739. Mr. LANKFORD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4685 proposed by Mr. SHELBY (for himself and Ms. MIKULSKI) to the bill H.R. 2578, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4740. Mr. TOOMEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2578, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4741. Mr. HELLER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4685 proposed by Mr. SHELBY (for himself and Ms. MIKULSKI) to the bill H.R. 2578, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4742. Mr. CORNYN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4685 proposed by Mr. SHELBY (for himself and Ms. MIKULSKI) to the bill H.R. 2578, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4743. Mr. HATCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment