

It urges the U.S. State Department to utilize all diplomatic channels to communicate worldwide, unwavering U.S. support for freedom of navigation and overflight of the South China Sea, and it urges the U.S. Department of Defense to routinely enforce freedom of navigation and overflight in East and South China Seas, which is critical to U.S. national security interests and peace and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region.

It is my sincere hope that instead of an escalation, China chooses the opposite track and abides by this ruling and immediately ceases its destabilizing activities. But should that not come to pass, the United States and our allies must be ready to lead and defend our allies, our values, and our principles.

The world is better served when those of us around the globe recognize rules of international behavior, international law, and that we can together reinforce responsible behavior. And we will know going forward from this ruling if China is going to be a responsible rising power that respects the rules of international law, or if the history books will later look back at this time period and show a nation that decides to ignore international law, to ignore the law that binds itself with its neighbors and, instead, acts out of self-gain and self-interests.

No matter what happens going forward, the United States must show leadership, resolve, and we must show our allies that we are committed to making sure that international law is respected and upheld.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

SENATE RESOLUTION 527—RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPENING OF THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

Mr. UDALL (for himself, Ms. MIKULSKI, and Mr. LEAHY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 527

Whereas March 17, 2016, marked the 75th anniversary of the opening of the National Gallery of Art (in this preamble referred to as the "Gallery");

Whereas the Gallery is the culmination of the dream of Andrew Mellon to endow a true national gallery in Washington, DC;

Whereas President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and the 75th Congress recognized the importance of this monumental gift to the people of the United States by quickly accepting the gift of Mr. Mellon on behalf of the United States;

Whereas the landmark buildings of the Gallery were given to the people of the United States as gifts by Andrew Mellon and his children, Paul Mellon and Ailsa Mellon Bruce;

Whereas the agreement to place the Gallery on the National Mall, side-by-side with the monuments most meaningful to the people of the United States, symbolized the importance of art in the life of the United States;

Whereas the extraordinary collection of Mr. Mellon of 153 works of art served as a

magnet to attract other gifts from across the United States and established the highest standard of quality for the works of art, resulting in one of the finest collections in the world, with more than 144,000 works;

Whereas the collections of the Gallery have grown entirely through private donations from generous individuals in service to all of the people of the United States;

Whereas the Gallery epitomizes the fruitful collaboration of the United States Government and the people of the United States in creating a great institution dedicated to art, education, and service;

Whereas all subsequent Presidents and Congresses have supported the Gallery by providing for the protection and care of the collection;

Whereas Federal support and donations of extraordinary art from generous individuals in the United States have resulted in the most successful public-private partnership in the United States, hosting more than 250,000,000 visitors from every State and from other countries to demonstrate the commitment of the United States to promoting the shared cultural heritage of all humanity;

Whereas the permanent collection of the Gallery comprises masterpieces of art from Europe and the United States from the Renaissance period to the present day;

Whereas some 1,200 temporary exhibitions have brought great art from throughout the world, from a wide range of cultures and time periods, to the people of the United States;

Whereas the Gallery has set a standard of generosity in lending works of art to museums throughout the United States and in sending those works as ambassadors of good will to countries throughout the world;

Whereas, for 75 years, the Gallery has served as both trustee of the fine arts collection of the United States and as an active and vigorous educational resource, serving hundreds of thousands of students who visit Washington, DC;

Whereas, since its founding, the Gallery has provided art education programs without charge to students in elementary and secondary schools and at institutions of higher learning in every State;

Whereas, through the support of Andrew Mellon and his son Paul, the Gallery serves as an international center for scholarship and research and is a leader in internationally published conservation and research;

Whereas the Gallery is home to a superb center for advanced studies in the visual arts that brings new insights to the humane heritage of mankind both nationally and internationally;

Whereas the Gallery has created a major art research library, housing a collection of more than 400,000 books, periodicals, and documents on the history, theory, and criticism of art and architecture, and an image collection of some 13,000,000 photographs, slides, negatives, and microform images of Western art and architecture;

Whereas, since 1942, the Gallery has sponsored more than 3,100 free Sunday concerts featuring the National Gallery Orchestra as well as musicians and ensembles from around the world for the enjoyment of more than 1,000,000 visitors, creating what is considered the oldest continuous series of free weekly concerts in Washington, DC;

Whereas, to facilitate learning, enrichment, enjoyment, and exploration, the Gallery has expanded its educational mission by providing free downloads of more than 45,000 digital images of works from its collection through its innovative web service, NGAImages; and

Whereas the Gallery provides permanence in an ever-changing world, maintaining a tangible record of human aspirations and

values for the people of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the 75th anniversary of the opening of the National Gallery of Art;

(2) acknowledges the contribution of the National Gallery of Art to the cultural life of the United States;

(3) applauds the work of the National Gallery of Art to collect and preserve art, educate people in the United States, and bring exciting exhibitions for all to enjoy;

(4) commends the work of the staff of the National Gallery of Art to ensure that all of the people of the United States have access to the highest quality art; and

(5) continues to support the National Gallery of Art, a great national treasure.

SENATE RESOLUTION 528—COMMENDING THE TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY ON THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT OF THE TENNESSEE RIVER SYSTEM

Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself, Mr. BURR, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. CORKER, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. KAINE, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. WICKER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 528

Whereas the Tennessee Valley Authority (in this preamble referred to as the "TVA") was created by Congress in 1933 to improve navigation along the Tennessee River, reduce the risk of floods and flood damage, provide low-cost electricity, and promote environmental stewardship and economic development in the region;

Whereas the TVA submitted a plan to Congress in March of 1936 to improve navigation of the Tennessee River and to help control flooding in the Tennessee Valley;

Whereas Norris Dam, the first dam constructed by the TVA, began to operate on July 28, 1936;

Whereas the integrated management of the Tennessee River system by the TVA provides a wide range of benefits that include electrical power, reducing floods, improving water quality and supply, enhancing recreation, and protecting public land;

Whereas the TVA has improved navigation of the Tennessee River system and facilitated freight transportation;

Whereas the TVA has reduced the risk of flood damage through the construction of locks, dams, and reservoirs throughout the Tennessee Valley;

Whereas the TVA provides reliable and affordable electricity and has stimulated economic growth;

Whereas the TVA continues to promote economic development by helping companies and communities attract investments that bring good jobs to the Tennessee Valley region; and

Whereas the TVA continues to serve more than 9,000,000 customers in Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, Mississippi, Kentucky, North Carolina, and Virginia: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the Tennessee Valley Authority on the 80th anniversary of the unified development of the Tennessee River system;

(2) recognizes the important role of Norris Dam, the first dam constructed by the Tennessee Valley Authority, which was completed on July 28, 1936;