

a rush of saltwater into the interior delta would damage this already fragile ecosystem, disrupt drinking water supplies, flood agricultural land, inundate towns, and damage roads, powerlines, and water infrastructure.

Establishing the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area will secure much needed Federal resources for delta communities. Our legislation recognizes the delta as a working landscape central to California life and seeks to further local projects already underway that promote environmental stewardship, heritage conservation, community revitalization, and economic development throughout the delta.

This legislation also seeks to fulfill the broadly supported 2009 California State law that called for a heritage area designation for the delta and the Delta Protection Commission's own feasibility report in 2012.

Our legislation is a small part of the commitment the Federal Government must make to the California delta. I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues at every level of government to restore the delta and its native species, upgrade California's water supply, safeguard against flood risk, improve water quality, and preserve delta communities' rich heritage and continued vibrancy.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 98—DESIGNATING THE FIRST WEEK OF APRIL 2017 AS “NATIONAL ASBESTOS AWARENESS WEEK”

Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. DAINES, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. LEAHY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 98

Whereas dangerous asbestos fibers are invisible and cannot be smelled or tasted;

Whereas the inhalation of airborne asbestos fibers can cause significant damage;

Whereas asbestos fibers can cause cancer (such as mesothelioma), asbestosis, and other health problems;

Whereas symptoms of asbestos-related diseases can take between 10 and 50 years to present themselves;

Whereas the projected life expectancy for an individual diagnosed with mesothelioma is between 6 and 24 months;

Whereas generally, little is known about late-stage treatment of asbestos-related diseases, and there is no cure for asbestos-related diseases;

Whereas early detection of asbestos-related diseases may give some patients increased treatment options and might improve the prognoses of those patients;

Whereas the United States has substantially reduced the consumption of asbestos in the United States, yet the United States continues to consume tons of the fibrous mineral each year for use in certain products throughout the United States;

Whereas asbestos-related diseases have killed thousands of people in the United States;

Whereas while exposure to asbestos continues, safety and prevention of asbestos exposure has significantly reduced the incidence of asbestos-related diseases and can further reduce the incidence of asbestos-related diseases;

Whereas thousands of workers in the United States face significant asbestos exposure, which has been a cause of occupational cancer;

Whereas thousands of people in the United States die from asbestos-related diseases every year;

Whereas a significant percentage of all asbestos-related disease victims were exposed to asbestos on naval ships and in shipyards;

Whereas asbestos was used in the construction of a significant number of office buildings and public facilities built before 1975;

Whereas people in the small community of Libby, Montana, suffer from asbestos-related diseases, including mesothelioma, at a significantly higher rate than people in the United States as a whole; and

Whereas the designation of a “National Asbestos Awareness Week” will raise public awareness about the prevalence of asbestos-related diseases and the dangers of asbestos exposure; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the first week of April 2017 as “National Asbestos Awareness Week”;

(2) urges the Surgeon General of the United States to warn and educate people about the public health issue of asbestos exposure, which may be hazardous to their health; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit a copy of this resolution to the Office of the Surgeon General.

SENATE RESOLUTION 99—RECOGNIZING THE 11 AFRICAN-AMERICAN SOLDIERS OF THE 333RD FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION WHO WERE MASSACRED IN WERETH, BELGIUM, DURING THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE IN DECEMBER 1944

Mr. MANCHIN (for himself and Mr. COTTON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

S. RES. 99

Whereas, in December 1944, during the Battle of the Bulge in Belgium, soldiers of the 333rd Field Artillery Battalion, an African-American unit of the Army, were operating in support of the 106th Infantry Division when the 106th Infantry Division and the soldiers from the 333rd Field Artillery Battalion were overrun;

Whereas, months after the Battle of the Bulge, the frozen bodies of 11 soldiers from the 333rd Field Artillery Battalion were found near the Belgian hamlet of Wereth;

Whereas the bodies of the 11 soldiers were—

(1) identified as James Stewart of West Virginia, Due Turner of Arkansas, Curtis Adams of South Carolina, Mager Bradley of Mississippi, George Davis, Jr. of Alabama, Thomas Forte of Mississippi, Robert Green of Georgia, James Leatherwood of Mississippi, Nathaniel Moss of Texas, George Motten of Texas, and William Pritchett of Alabama;

(2) examined by Army Medical Corps officials; and

(3) found to have been stabbed, shot, and struck by blunt force;

Whereas the massacre of the 11 African-American soldiers of the 333rd Field Artillery Battalion in Wereth remains unknown to the vast majority of the people of the United States;

Whereas, in 2004, a permanent monument in Wereth was dedicated to the 11 African-American soldiers of the 333rd Field Artillery Battalion who lost their lives in Wereth during the Battle of the Bulge in the effort to defeat fascism and defend freedom; and

Whereas the 11 patriots have become known as the “Wereth 11”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate, on behalf of the United States, recognizes the dedicated service and ultimate sacrifice of the 11 African-American soldiers of the 333rd Field Artillery Battalion who were massacred in Wereth, Belgium, during the Battle of the Bulge in December 1944.

SENATE RESOLUTION 100—CONDEMNING ILLEGAL RUSSIAN AGGRESSION IN UKRAINE ON THE THREE YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE ANNEXATION OF CRIMEA

Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. COONS, Mr. GARDNER, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. JOHNSON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 100

Whereas the illegal Russian military occupation of the Crimea region of Ukraine is an affront to international norms, an unprovoked aggression, and a threat to regional stability;

Whereas Russian President Vladimir V. Putin has a history of regional aggression, including the Russian invasion of the South Ossetia and Abkhazia regions of the Georgia in 2008 and intervention in favor of the breakaway region of Transnistria in Moldova in 1991-1992;

Whereas Article II of the Charter of the United Nations states that “all members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state”;

Whereas, in 1994, the United States, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and Ukraine signed the Budapest Memorandum, in which all parties pledged to respect and uphold Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity in exchange for Ukraine voluntarily giving up the world's third-largest nuclear arsenal, which it inherited following the collapse of the Soviet Union;

Whereas a failure of the United States to uphold the terms of the Budapest Memorandum would have significant consequences for the credibility of United States guarantees related to nuclear nonproliferation and undermine America's commitment to the principle of the inviolability of national borders;

Whereas an association agreement between Ukraine and the European Union was signed in 2014, a move which will strengthen ties with Europe and which President Poroshenko described as Ukraine's “most important day” since it secured its independence in 1991;

Whereas, on February 28, 2014, Russian forces in unmarked uniforms occupied strategic civil and military infrastructure in Crimea and provided support to pro-Russian militias and activists as part of a coordinated strategy to seize control of Crimea and create the illusion of an organic, local rebellion against oppressive Ukrainian authorities;