

the Director of National Intelligence to serve as the head of the intelligence community and to ensure that national intelligence be timely, objective, independent of political considerations, and based upon all sources available;

Whereas Congress has previously passed joint resolutions, signed by the President, to designate Peace Officers Memorial Day on May 15, Patriot Day on September 11, and other commemorative occasions, to honor the sacrifices of law enforcement officers and of those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001;

Whereas the United States has increasingly relied upon the men and women of the intelligence community to protect and defend the security of the United States in the years since the attacks of September 11, 2001;

Whereas the men and women of the intelligence community, both civilian and military, have been increasingly called upon to deploy to theaters of war in Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere since September 11, 2001;

Whereas numerous intelligence officers of the elements of the intelligence community have been injured or killed in the line of duty;

Whereas intelligence officers of the United States are routinely called upon to accept personal hardship and sacrifice in the furtherance of their mission to protect the United States, to undertake dangerous assignments in the defense of the interests of the United States, to collect reliable information within prescribed legal authorities upon which the leaders of the United States rely in life-and-death situations, and to “speak truth to power” by providing their best assessments to decision makers, regardless of political and policy considerations;

Whereas the men and women of the intelligence community have on numerous occasions succeeded in preventing attacks upon the United States and allies of the United States, saving numerous innocent lives; and

Whereas intelligence officers of the United States must of necessity often remain unknown and unrecognized for their substantial achievements and successes: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates July 26, 2017, as “United States Intelligence Professionals Day”;

(2) acknowledges the courage, fidelity, sacrifice, and professionalism of the men and women of the intelligence community of the United States; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 223—HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF LIU XIAOBO FOR HIS STEADFAST COMMITMENT TO THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, POLITICAL FREEDOMS, FREE MARKETS, DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS, GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY, AND PEACEFUL CHANGE IN THE PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. GARDNER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 223

Whereas Liu Xiaobo was born on December 28, 1955, in Changchun, People’s Republic of China;

Whereas Liu Xiaobo received his bachelor’s degree in literature from Jilin University in

1982, his master’s degree at Beijing Normal University in 1984, and his doctorate degree in 1988 in literature, after publishing several best-selling books over the course of pursuing his doctorate degree;

Whereas Liu Xiaobo began his work as a visiting lecturer at universities across the world, including Columbia University in New York, New York;

Whereas over the tenure of his career, Liu Xiaobo authored 18 major publications;

Whereas Liu Xiaobo was active in the Tiananmen Square protests, where he initiated the Tiananmen Four Gentlemen Hunger Strike, which lasted 3 days;

Whereas Liu Xiaobo has been credited for saving many students’ lives by helping to negotiate their evacuation from Tiananmen Square;

Whereas Liu Xiaobo was detained and jailed in 1989 through 1991 for his role in the protests, and then jailed again in 1996 through 1999 for advocating that the Government of the People’s Republic of China redress its wrongdoings in the student protest;

Whereas Liu Xiaobo married Liu Xia in 1996, who has stood bravely by his side as a partner and fellow activist;

Whereas, on December 9, 2008, a diverse group of more than 300 Chinese scholars, writers, lawyers, and activists issued Charter 08, a manifesto calling on the Communist Party of China to abandon authoritarian rule in favor of democracy, the guarantee of human rights, and the rule of law;

Whereas Liu Xiaobo was 1 of the original drafters of Charter 08 and was taken into custody just days before the manifesto was released;

Whereas in December 2009, a court in Beijing sentenced Liu Xiaobo to 11 years in prison for “inciting subversion of state power” for his involvement in drafting Charter 08;

Whereas Liu Xiaobo was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize on October 8, 2010, “for his long and non-violent struggle for fundamental human rights in China”;

Whereas Liu Xiaobo’s wife, Liu Xia, has been held in extra-legal home confinement since October 2010, 2 weeks after her husband’s Nobel Peace Prize award was announced, and has reportedly suffered severe health problems over the years that required hospitalization;

Whereas in May 2011, the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention issued opinions declaring that the imprisonment of Liu Xiaobo and the detention of Liu Xia by the Government of the People’s Republic of China contravened the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

Whereas Liu Xiaobo has also received more than a dozen awards and honors from several international groups for his work as a defender of the press, an outstanding democratic activist, and a defender of human rights;

Whereas Liu Xiaobo was diagnosed with terminal liver cancer in May 2017;

Whereas Liu Xiaobo died on July 13, 2017, while serving his 11-year prison sentence; and

Whereas Liu Xiaobo dedicated his life to human rights, not only in his own country, but across the globe: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the life and accomplishments of Liu Xiaobo; and

(2) calls for the Government of the People’s Republic of China to release Liu Xiaobo’s wife, Liu Xia, from house arrest, and allow her to settle in a place or country of her own choosing.

SENATE RESOLUTION 224—RECOGNIZING THE 5TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF OSWALDO PAYÁ SARDIÑAS, AND COMMEMORATING HIS LEGACY AND COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRATIC VALUES AND PRINCIPLES

Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. NELSON, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. CRUZ, and Mr. MERKLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 224

Whereas Oswaldo Payá Sardiñas was born in Havana, Cuba, in 1952 and became a non-violent critic of the communist government as a teenager, resulting in 3 years of imprisonment in 1969 at a work camp in Cuba, formerly known as “Isla de Pinos”;

Whereas, in 1987, Oswaldo Payá Sardiñas founded the Christian Liberation Movement that called for peaceful civil disobedience against the rule of the Communist Party of Cuba and advocated for civil liberties;

Whereas, in 1992 and 1997, attempts by Oswaldo Payá Sardiñas to run as a candidate for the National Assembly of People’s Power were rejected by Cuban authorities;

Whereas, in 1998, Oswaldo Payá Sardiñas and other leaders of the Christian Liberation Movement established the Varela Project in order to circulate a legal proposal to advocate for democratic political reforms within Cuba, including the establishment of freedom of association, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, free elections, freedom to start private businesses, and amnesty for political prisoners;

Whereas, in 2002, the Varela Project delivered a petition to the National Assembly of People’s Power with 11,020 signatures from Cuban citizens calling for a referendum on safeguarding basic freedoms, an end to one-party rule, and citing Article 88 of the Constitution of Cuba that allows Cuban citizens to propose laws if the proposal is made by at least 10,000 Cuban citizens who are eligible to vote;

Whereas, in 2003, Oswaldo Payá Sardiñas redelivered the petition to the National Assembly of People’s Power with an additional 14,384 signatures, establishing the biggest nonviolent campaign to oppose the Communist Party of Cuba;

Whereas, in March 2003, the crackdown on Cuban dissidents by the Government of Cuba, referred to as the “Black Spring”, led to the imprisonment of 75 individuals, including 25 members of the Varela Project and 40 members of the Christian Liberation Movement, and the formation of the Ladies in White movement by the wives of the imprisoned activists;

Whereas, in 2007, Oswaldo Payá Sardiñas called on the National Assembly of People’s Power to grant amnesty to nonviolent political prisoners and to allow Cubans to travel freely without a government permit;

Whereas, in 2009, Oswaldo Payá Sardiñas developed a Call for the National Dialogue;

Whereas petitions and calls by Oswaldo Payá Sardiñas to the National Assembly of People’s Power were repeatedly dismissed and disparaged by the Government of Cuba;

Whereas Oswaldo Payá Sardiñas, his family, and friends endured years of harassment and intimidation for the peaceful political activism of Oswaldo Payá Sardiñas;

Whereas Oswaldo Payá Sardiñas has been formally recognized in the past for his dedication to the promotion of human rights and democracy, including by receiving the Homo Homini Award in 1999, the Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought in 2002, the W. Averell Harriman Democracy Award from the

United States National Democratic Institute for International Affairs in 2003, and being nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize by Václav Havel, the former president of the Czech Republic, in 2005;

Whereas, on July 22, 2012, Oswaldo Payá Sardiñas and Harold Cepero, a fellow pro-democracy activist, died in a troubling car crash in Granma Province, Cuba after being followed by government agents;

Whereas the Government of Cuba has failed to conduct a credible investigation into the car crash that led to the death of Oswaldo Payá Sardiñas;

Whereas the trial and conviction of Ángel Carromero, a youth leader of the People's Party who was visiting Cuba and driving the car at the time of the crash, did not include testimony from key witnesses, and did not resolve questions about whether another car was involved or whether Mr. Carromero was coerced by the Government of Cuba into signing a false statement of guilt;

Whereas, in 2012, the United States Senate unanimously passed Senate Resolution 525, 112th Congress, agreed to July 24, 2012, honoring the life and legacy of Oswaldo Payá Sardiñas;

Whereas, in 2013, a number of United States Senators and the United States Department of State called for an impartial, third-party investigation by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the Organization of American States into the circumstances surrounding the death of Oswaldo Payá Sardiñas;

Whereas, in 2013, Ángel Carromero spoke in detail during an interview with The Washington Post about being hit by another car during the crash, being mistreated and coerced by Cuban authorities following the crash, and being made the "scapegoat" by the Government of Cuba for the death of Oswaldo Payá Sardiñas;

Whereas the dissidents of the "Black Spring" have been released from prison, but many political prisoners remain imprisoned in Cuba despite trails that failed to meet international due process standards; and

Whereas the 2016 Human Rights Report on Cuba by the United States Department of State cited ongoing human rights abuses by the Government of Cuba, namely "the abridgement of the ability of citizens to choose their government; the use of government threats, physical assault, intimidation, and violent government-organized counter protests against peaceful dissent; and harassment and detentions to prevent free expression and peaceful assembly." Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes and commemorates the legacy of Oswaldo Payá Sardiñas on the 5th anniversary of his death on July 22, 2017;

(2) honors the commitment of Oswaldo Payá Sardiñas to democratic values and principles;

(3) calls on the Government of Cuba to allow an impartial, third-party investigation into the circumstances surrounding the death of Oswaldo Payá Sardiñas;

(4) urges the United States to continue to support policies and programs that promote respect for human rights and democratic principles in Cuba in a manner that is consistent with the aspirations of the Cuban people;

(5) urges the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the Organization of American States to continue reporting on human rights issues in Cuba, and to request a visit to Cuba in order to investigate the circumstances surrounding the death of Oswaldo Payá Sardiñas; and

(6) calls on the Government of Cuba to cease violating human rights and to begin providing democratic political freedoms to

Cuban citizens, including freedom of association, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, free elections, freedom to start private businesses, and amnesty for political prisoners.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I have two requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to Rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to hold a meeting during the session of the Senate on Wednesday July 19, 2017, at 10 a.m. in room G50 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to hold a "Nominations Hearing."

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

That the Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 19, 2017, at 10 a.m., in room 406 of the Dirksen Senate Office building, to conduct a hearing entitled, "Legislative Hearing on S. 1514, the Hunting Heritage and Environmental Legacy Preservation (HELP) for Wildlife Act."

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 19, 2017 at 2 p.m., to hold a hearing entitled "Nominations."

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet in executive session during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 19, at 10 a.m. in SD-430. We will be considering the following: Nomination of Marvin Kaplan to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board Nomination of William Emanuel to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 19, 2017, at 10 a.m. for a business meeting to consider pending committee business.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 19, 2017, upon conclusion of the preceding business meeting, in order to conduct a hearing titled "The Postal Service's Actions During the 2016 Campaign Season: Implications for the Hatch Act."

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 19, 2017, at 1:30 p.m., in SR-418, to conduct a hearing on pending nominations.

COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the 115th Congress of the U.S. Senate on Wednesday, July 19, 2017 from 9 a.m. in room SH-216 of the Senate Hart Office Building to hold an open hearing entitled "Open Hearing on the Nomination of Susan Gordon to be Principal Deputy Director of National Intelligence at the Office of the Director of National Intelligence preceded by Robert P. Storch to be Inspector General of the National Security Agency, and Isabela Patelunas to be Assistant Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis at the Department of the Treasury."

COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence authorized to meet during the session of the 115th Congress of the U.S. Senate on Wednesday, July 19, 2017 from 2 p.m. in room SH-219 of the Senate Hart Office Building to hold a Closed Hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS

The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources; Subcommittee on National Parks is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate in order to hold a hearing on Wednesday, July 19, 2017 at 10:15 a.m. in Room 366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON WESTERN HEMISPHERE, TRANSNATIONAL CRIME; CIVILIAN SECURITY, DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS AND GLOBAL WOMEN'S ISSUES

The Committee on Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, Transnational Crime; Civilian Security, Democracy, Human Rights and Global Women's Issues is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 19, 2017 at 4:15 p.m., to hold a hearing entitled "The Collapse of the Rule of Law in Venezuela: What the United States and the International Community Can Do to Restore Democracy."

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that my intern, Janine Kritschgau, be granted privileges of the floor for the remainder of the day.

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

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 9355(a), appoints the following Senator to the Board of Visitors of the U. S. Air Force Academy: the Honorable STEVE DAINES of