

select the next Dalai Lama with the help of a law that grants the government authority over reincarnations. That is absurd. The identification and installation of Tibetan Buddhist religious leaders, including a future 15th Dalai Lama, is a matter that should be determined solely within the Tibetan Buddhist faith community.

We can foster closer, cooperative relations with China, but until China works with Tibetan leaders to pursue a new way forward, their reputation in the community of nations, and their ability to act as a global power, will remain deeply tarnished. I urge other Senators to join in support of this resolution, and to pass it before the important anniversary commemoration on March 10, 2018.

SENATE RESOLUTION 409—HONORING THE DEDICATION AND COURAGE OF THE BUFFALO SOLDIERS

Ms. HARRIS (for herself, Mr. WICKER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. COONS, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. SCOTT, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. CARPER, Mr. NELSON, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BENNET, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. PETERS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

S. RES. 409

Whereas by the Act of July 28, 1866 (14 Stat. 332, chapter 299), after the end of the Civil War, African American men were allowed to serve in segregated units of the United States Army;

Whereas the first Buffalo Soldiers were former slaves and former African American soldiers that fought in the Civil War;

Whereas the first Buffalo Soldiers comprised the 9th and 10th cavalry regiments and were the first African Americans to serve in the United States Army during peacetime;

Whereas, in the history of the United States, Buffalo Soldiers have made many significant military contributions and have fought to preserve and protect the United States;

Whereas Buffalo Soldiers fought shoulder-to-shoulder with white soldiers in many battles;

Whereas Buffalo Soldiers were instrumental in the exploration and settlement of land in the West;

Whereas Buffalo Soldiers participated in the tragic history of removing Native Americans from the land on which Native Americans lived;

Whereas Native Americans in the Midwest bestowed the nickname "Buffalo Soldiers" to the members of the 9th and 10th cavalry regiments for—

(1) the bravery and courage that the members exhibited; and

(2) the jackets of buffalo fur that the members wore during the cold winter months;

Whereas the Buffalo Soldiers rode alongside Theodore Roosevelt and the Rough Riders in Cuba during the Spanish-American War;

Whereas Buffalo Soldiers were among the first park rangers to serve in the newly cre-

ated National Park Service under President Theodore Roosevelt;

Whereas Buffalo Soldiers from the 9th, 10th, 24th, and 25th regiments served in Yosemite National Park and Sequoia National Park and helped arrest poachers, fight forest fires, and preserve the natural resources of the United States;

Whereas, serving nobly as park rangers, Buffalo Soldiers—

(1) constructed in Yosemite National Park one of the first arboretums in the United States;

(2) cleared miles of forest;

(3) built trail roads into national parks for the enjoyment of all people in the United States; and

(4) helped build the first trail to the summit of Mount Whitney in Sequoia National Park;

Whereas Buffalo Soldiers were subjected to racial prejudice but continued—

(1) to serve honorably and bravely in the United States Army; and

(2) to fulfill the duties conferred on them with pride and distinction;

Whereas, earning a reputation for being courageous and daring—

(1) more than 200,000 African Americans served in World War I; and

(2) more than 1,000,000 African Americans served in World War II;

Whereas during World War II, Buffalo Soldiers branched out and formed other famous units, including the famed Tuskegee Airmen and the Fighter "Red Tails" Group;

Whereas 23 Buffalo Soldiers have received the highest military distinction of the Congressional Medal of Honor;

Whereas, in 1948, President Harry Truman signed Executive Order 9981, which—

(1) stipulated equal treatment and opportunity for all African American service members; and

(2) brought an end to the Buffalo Soldiers;

Whereas Buffalo Soldiers have honorably answered the call to duty, serving with great valor and distinction in the armed forces of the United States;

Whereas the Buffalo Soldiers are a significant part of the history of the United States; and

Whereas there are currently over 20 chapters of the 9th and 10th Cavalry Association in the United States and 1 in Germany: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the dedication and courage of the Buffalo Soldiers;

(2) recognizes the legacy of the Buffalo Soldiers; and

(3) recognizes the contributions that the Buffalo Soldiers have made to the National Park System and to military history in the United States and throughout the world.

SENATE RESOLUTION 410—COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF LUIS ALEJANDRO "ALEX" VILLAMAYOR AND CALLING FOR JUSTICE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 410

Whereas United States citizen Luis Alejandro "Alex" Villamayor was born on July 3, 1998, to parents Puning Luk Villamayor and Luis Felipe Villamayor in Rockville, Maryland;

Whereas Alex Villamayor is remembered by his family as a smart, loving, and compassionate young man with a good sense of humor, who was committed to his parents, siblings, and friends;

Whereas Alex Villamayor moved with his family at the age of six to Paraguay, where he was a devoted member of his church and always had attention for those less fortunate;

Whereas Alex Villamayor graduated with honors from Paraguay's Pan American International School (PAIS) and was accepted to attend Montgomery College in Maryland in the Fall of 2015;

Whereas Alex Villamayor aspired to study business management and return to Paraguay to pursue a career that would help and support the Paraguayan people;

Whereas Alex Villamayor was murdered on June 27, 2015, in the City of Encarnación in Paraguay;

Whereas Alex Villamayor's death was wrongfully ruled a suicide by Paraguayan authorities before a comprehensive investigation was carried out;

Whereas, in the initial weeks of the investigation, Paraguayan authorities failed to collect blood and DNA samples from individuals present at the scene of the crime, conduct gunshot residue analysis on individuals present at the crime scene, and collect cellular phone records and data from individuals present at the crime scene;

Whereas, in August 2015, Alex Villamayor's body was exhumed for additional forensic examination, which found that he had been raped and physically assaulted prior to his death;

Whereas, in August 2015, Paraguayan prosecutor Olga Wilma Araujo Ayala was suspended from the investigation into and legal case related to Alex Villamayor's death due to mismanagement of the case;

Whereas, in September 2015, Mathias Wilbs, an employee at the property where Alex Villamayor was murdered, admitted in a public interview that he had removed the murder weapon from the crime scene and placed another firearm in Alex Villamayor's hand;

Whereas, in September 2015, Alex Villamayor's death was ruled a homicide and René Hofstetter and Mathias Wilbs were charged with crimes in relation to Alex Villamayor's murder;

Whereas, in October 2015, Paraguayan authorities opened a formal investigation of Alain Jacks Díaz de Bedoya for his role in Alex Villamayor's murder;

Whereas, in November 2016, Paraguayan authorities dropped the charges against Alain Jacks Díaz de Bedoya related to Alex Villamayor's murder;

Whereas Members of the United States Congress have urged the Government of Paraguay to invite the United States Federal Bureau of Investigation to provide technical assistance for the investigation into Alex Villamayor's death and the United States Embassy in Asunción, Paraguay has offered such assistance to Paraguayan authorities;

Whereas, to date, the Government of Paraguay has not invited the Federal Bureau of Investigation to provide technical assistance for the investigation into Alex Villamayor's death;

Whereas the United States embassy in Asunción, Paraguay, and the Department of State have not issued any formal public statements about Alex Villamayor's murder and the many irregularities in the investigation into his death;

Whereas, in February 2017, outgoing United States Ambassador Leslie A. Basset told media outlets that Alex Villamayor "died under dark circumstances" and that "the investigation and the handling of this case has been worrisome"; and

Whereas, as of February 15, 2018, those responsible for Alex Villamayor's murder have

yet to be brought to justice; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commemorates the life of United States citizen Luis Alejandro “Alex” Villamayor and offers condolences to his family and friends;

(2) expresses profound concern about the lack of justice achieved in Alex Villamayor’s case, more than two and one half years after his rape and murder;

(3) urges Paraguayan authorities to invite the Federal Bureau of Investigation to provide technical assistance for the investigation into Alex Villamayor’s death;

(4) calls on the Department of State to prioritize justice for Alex Villamayor in its diplomatic engagement with the Government of Paraguay; and

(5) calls on the Department of State to review its procedures for providing services to the families of United States citizens slain or assaulted abroad.

SENATE RESOLUTION 411—RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST 9-1-1 CALL IN THE UNITED STATES

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. BURR, and Mr. NELSON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 411

Whereas, prior to the 1960s, the United States did not have a single designated telephone number for the people of the United States to call for help in times of emergency;

Whereas, in late 1967 and early 1968, the Federal Communications Commission and the American Telephone and Telegraph Company developed a proposal to make the digits 9-1-1 the emergency code throughout the United States;

Whereas, on February 16, 1968, the first 9-1-1 call was placed in Haleyville, Alabama;

Whereas, in 1999, Congress passed the Wireless Communications and Public Safety Act of 1999 (47 U.S.C. 615 et seq.), designating 9-1-1 as the national emergency telephone number;

Whereas, by the end of the 20th century, nearly 93 percent of the population of the United States, and 96 percent of the land area of the United States, was covered by some type of 9-1-1 service;

Whereas the availability of 9-1-1 as a national emergency number has contributed to the saving of an untold number of lives in the United States;

Whereas the people of the United States are educated from a young age to rely upon the 9-1-1 systems of the United States to reach help in an emergency;

Whereas the takers of 9-1-1 calls, known as public safety telecommunicators, dedicate their lives to answering 9-1-1 calls and helping others;

Whereas those public safety telecommunicators are critical to ensuring the safety of the general public and first responders;

Whereas, every day, public safety telecommunicators—

(1) help to save and to protect lives;

(2) direct help to where it is needed most; and

(3) provide medical instruction, comfort, and reassurance; and

Whereas ongoing efforts to modernize 9-1-1 systems—

(1) will ensure the 9-1-1 infrastructure of the United States remains resilient, robust, and innovative; and

(2) will empower public safety telecommunicators to make increasingly critical con-

tributions to the safety and security of the general public, as well as first responders: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the 50th anniversary of the first 9-1-1 call and the establishment of 9-1-1 as the nationwide emergency number;

(2) praises public safety telecommunicators for their lifesaving work;

(3) recognizes the importance of the 9-1-1 systems of the United States and the need for robust and reliable access to those systems; and

(4) encourages the people of the United States to celebrate the 50th anniversary of 9-1-1 and the lifesaving contributions of public safety telecommunicators and first responders facilitated by 9-1-1 systems.

SENATE RESOLUTION 412—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE 6888TH CENTRAL POSTAL DIRECTORY BATTALION AND CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Mr. MORAN submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

S. RES. 412

Whereas, since 1976, the United States has celebrated Black History Month each February to seize the opportunity to honor the accomplishments of African Americans in every area of endeavor throughout the history of the United States;

Whereas the people of the United States honor the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion (referred to in this preamble as the “6888th”), which was the first and only African-American unit in the Women’s Army Corps to deploy overseas during World War II;

Whereas the 6888th served honorably during World War II from January 1945 to March 1946;

Whereas the 6888th trained at Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia, and deployed overseas to operate in Birmingham, England, Rouen, France, and Paris, France;

Whereas, while in Europe, the 6888th worked around-the-clock sorting millions of pieces of mail;

Whereas a new monument honoring the women of the 6888th will be erected in the Buffalo Soldier Memorial Park in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas;

Whereas the monument will—

(1) feature the commanding officer of the 6888th, Lieutenant Colonel Charity Adams Earley;

(2) list the names of more than 700 soldiers in the Women’s Army Corps assigned to the 6888th; and

(3) celebrate the deeds of and sacrifices made by those who served in the 6888th; and

Whereas Black History Month provides all individuals in the United States an opportunity to celebrate the contributions of African Americans, including the remarkable service of the 6888th: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses support for—

(A) the monument recognizing the service of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion; and

(B) the mission of the Buffalo Soldier Educational and Historical Committee;

(2) during Black History Month and throughout 2018, encourages all individuals in the United States to celebrate the history of the United States and the important accomplishments and contributions of African Americans; and

(3) appreciates the contributions of and sacrifices made by the soldiers of the Wom-

en’s Army Corps assigned to the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion during World War II, who served honorably and are members of the “Greatest Generation”.

SENATE RESOLUTION 413—CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. COCHRAN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. SCOTT, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. JONES, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. KAINE, Mr. NELSON, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. UDALL, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. PAUL, and Mr. ALEXANDER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 413

Whereas, in 1776, people envisioned the United States as a new nation dedicated to the proposition stated in the Declaration of Independence that “all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness . . .”;

Whereas Africans were first brought involuntarily to the shores of the United States as early as the 17th century;

Whereas African Americans suffered enslavement and subsequently faced the injustices of lynch mobs, segregation, and denial of the basic and fundamental rights of citizenship;

Whereas, in 2018, the vestiges of those injustices and inequalities remain evident in the society of the United States;

Whereas, in the face of injustices, people of good will and of all races in the United States have distinguished themselves with a commitment to the noble ideals on which the United States was founded and have fought courageously for the rights and freedom of African Americans and others;

Whereas African Americans, such as Lieutenant Colonel Allen Allensworth, Maya Angelou, Arthur Ashe, Jr., James Baldwin, James Beckwourth, Clara Brown, Blanche Bruce, Ralph Bunche, Shirley Chisholm, Holt Collier, Frederick Douglass, W. E. B. Du Bois, Ralph Ellison, Medgar Evers, Alex Haley, Dorothy Height, Jon Hendricks, Lena Horne, Charles Hamilton Houston, Mahalia Jackson, Stephanie Tubbs Jones, B.B. King, Martin Luther King, Jr., Coretta Scott King, Thurgood Marshall, Constance Baker Motley, Rosa Parks, Walter Payton, Bill Pickett, Homer Plessy, Bass Reeves, Hiram Revels, Amelia Platts Boynton Robinson, Jackie Robinson, Aaron Shirley, Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman, Booker T. Washington, the Greensboro Four, the Tuskegee Airmen, Prince Rogers Nelson, Recy Taylor, Fred Shuttlesworth, Duke Ellington, Langston Hughes, Muhammad Ali, Ella Fitzgerald, Mamie Till, and Edith Savage-Jennings, along with many others, worked against racism to achieve success and to make significant contributions to the economic, educational, political, artistic, athletic, literary, scientific, and technological advancement of the United States;

Whereas the contributions of African Americans from all walks of life throughout the history of the United States reflect the greatness of the United States;

Whereas many African Americans lived, toiled, and died in obscurity, never achieving the recognition those individuals deserved, and yet paved the way for future generations to succeed;