

Whereas Stars and Stripes has continuously covered news “about the military, for the military” in conflicts from World War II to Korea to Vietnam to Bosnia and Kosovo to Iraq and Afghanistan; and

Whereas, while readership of newspapers has declined in recent years and technology has evolved, Stars and Stripes has innovated in finding new ways and products to deliver the “hometown news” to the broadest portion of the military community, and through internet versions of the newspaper, social media, and other products, Stars and Stripes is now reaching 1,300,000 readers each day: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate, on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the commencement of continuous operations of Stars and Stripes in the Pacific—

(1) commemorates this important milestone in the history of an important institution of the United States; and

(2) congratulates and honors the men and women of Stars and Stripes, past and present, who have so diligently served the United States military community.

SENATE RESOLUTION 637—COMMEMORATING THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF UNITED STATES BROADCASTING TO CUBA

Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 637

Whereas the Radio Broadcasting to Cuba Act (Public Law 98-111) passed by a wide margin in the House of Representatives on September 29, 1983, and passed unanimously by voice vote in the Senate on September 12, 1983;

Whereas, upon signing the Radio Broadcasting to Cuba Act into law on October 4, 1983, President Ronald Reagan said that the law “responds to an important foreign policy initiative of my administration: to break Fidel Castro’s monopoly on news and information within Cuba”, further explaining that the purpose of providing impartial news to the Cuban people was so that they “will be in a better position to make Cuba’s leaders accountable for their conduct in foreign policy, economic management, and human rights.”;

Whereas radio service into Cuba was named “Radio Marti” after renowned 19th century Cuban patriot Jose Marti;

Whereas, on May 20, 1985, the 83rd anniversary of Cuba’s Independence Day, Radio Marti began its first broadcast into Cuba;

Whereas, in 1990, Congress passed and President George H.W. Bush signed into law the Television Broadcasting to Cuba Act (Public Law 101-246), which expanded broadcasting to include television, and “Television Marti” commenced broadcasting later that year;

Whereas President William Jefferson Clinton signed into law the Omnibus Consolidated Rescissions and Appropriations Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-134), which required the relocation of the Office of Cuba Broadcasting from Washington, D.C., to South Florida;

Whereas the Office of Cuba Broadcasting was relocated to Miami, Florida in 1998, ahead of schedule and under budget;

Whereas United States broadcasts to Cuba were initiated to pierce the Castro regime’s information blockade and to provide timely, accurate, uncensored, and reliable information to the Cuban people;

Whereas the Office of Cuba Broadcasting at the United States Agency for Global Media

(USAGM) oversees Radio and Television Marti;

Whereas Radio and Television Marti are multimedia hubs of news, information, and analysis that provide the people of Cuba with interactive programs 7 days a week through satellite television, shortwave and AM radio, and digital platforms, including its website, flash drives, emails, DVDs, and SMS text;

Whereas Radio and Television Marti aim to inform and engage the people of Cuba by providing credible news and information rooted in respect for fundamental freedoms, democratic principles, and universal human rights;

Whereas the Office of Cuba Broadcasting facilitates critical technology services, allowing Cubans across provinces to connect, and linking Cuban pro-democracy activists with an expanding worldwide network of activists engaged in their own struggles for freedom and human rights in their respective countries;

Whereas, on July 14, 2011, independent journalist and former political prisoner Jose Daniel Ferrer said, “the particular stories, the news selected for *A Fondo* [a joint Voice of America and Radio Marti program], is what gives the show its quality, very professional. I listened to the show in prison on a daily basis.”;

Whereas Karen Caballero of Radio and Television Marti received the David Burke Award in 2012 for her inspired coverage of the “Lights of Liberty Flotilla”, a small group of boats with a mission to sail across the Florida Strait to bring attention to the solidarity between Cuban exiles and those on the island, and to the human rights abuses perpetrated by the regime in Cuba;

Whereas, on August 13, 2013, Afro-Cuban activist and former political prisoner Jorge Luis García-Pérez stated, “In the 17 years that I spent behind bars, Radio Marti was, at times, my ‘everything’. It was my lifeline.”; and

Whereas, in 2017, Television Marti’s “Alas de Libertad” (Wings of Freedom), which documented the activities of the Brigade 2506 Air Force division during the 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion, received the Suncoast Regional Emmy Award from The National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) celebrates the 35th anniversary of Radio Marti and the 30th anniversary of Television Marti;

(2) recognizes the vital role that independent broadcasting to Cuba has served in providing uncensored, reliable, and accurate information to the Cuban people for the past 35 years;

(3) honors the journalists, programming editors, technical support, and many other employees at Radio and Television Marti, administered through the Office of Cuba Broadcasting, who commit to high journalistic standards, tenacity, and providing unbiased, objective information to the Cuban people;

(4) remembers the deep and lasting contributions that the free flow of information, including broadcasting, to Cuba has provided to the Cuban people in bolstering Cuba’s democracy movement; and

(5) reaffirms the importance of the United States strengthening policies in support of promoting democracy, promoting freedom of the press, and supporting the transmission of external, reliable, objective information to some of the most repressed parts of the world.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 40—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT UNDUE RESTRICTIONS ON THE RIGHT OF LAW-ABIDING GUN OWNERS TO CARRY A FIREARM FOR SELF-DEFENSE OUTSIDE OF THE HOME VIOLATE THE SECOND AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES

Mrs. LOEFFLER submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. CON. RES. 40

Whereas the Second Amendment to the Constitution of the United States (referred to in this preamble as the “Second Amendment”) states, “[a] well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.”;

Whereas the right to “bear Arms”, in plain language, means the right to carry arms;

Whereas, based on this plain language, the Second Amendment clearly provides individual citizens with a right to carry arms for the purpose of self-defense;

Whereas the Supreme Court of the United States has held that the Second Amendment is incorporated under the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States and thereby protects the right of an individual under the Second Amendment from infringement by State and local governments;

Whereas several States have enacted laws that unduly inhibit and infringe upon the rights of a law-abiding individual to carry a firearm outside of the home, unless the individual can demonstrate a special need to carry the firearm;

Whereas these State laws are inconsistent with the plain meaning of the right to bear arms and the rights granted to individuals by the Second Amendment; and

Whereas established Federal processes and procedures regulating the right to purchase and possess a firearm are sufficient to provide for the interests of public safety: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that undue restrictions on the right of law-abiding gun owners to carry a firearm for self-defense outside of the home—

(1) violate both—

(A) the intent of the Founding Fathers, as expressed by James Madison in The Federalist No. 46; and

(B) the clear meaning of the Second Amendment to the Constitution of the United States “to keep and bear Arms”; and

(2) are unlawful infringements of the rights granted by the Second Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I have 5 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: