

These terrorism victims were denied an opportunity to even make their case for 4 years by the Department of State, and when finally referred to the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission, they were forced to wait another 3 years for a preliminary ruling and another 2 years for a final decision, by which point the Commission had already awarded claims that essentially exhausted the settlement funds provided by Libya. That simply is not fair, and I believe these Mainers and other Americans deserve a quick and fair process to compensate them for their losses.

I urge my colleagues to join me in working toward justice for all of the victims of the Lockerbie bombing perpetrated by Libya.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 685—HONORING THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES AND VETERANS AND CONDEMNING THE DISGRACEFUL DENIGRATION BY PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP OF MILITARY SERVICE, PRISONERS OF WAR, AND GOLD STAR FAMILIES

Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Mr. REED, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. JONES, Mr. CARPER, Mr. HIRONO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. TESTER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. WARREN, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. COONS, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. KAINE, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BROWN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. BENNET, Ms. ROSEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. WARNER, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. UDALL, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. LEAHY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MERKLEY, and Ms. HARRIS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

S. RES. 685

Whereas the Nation owes an unmeasurable debt to all those individuals who have served in the United States Armed Forces, often shouldering the burden of long periods away from home, difficult and frequently dangerous training and deployments, and inherent physical, mental, and emotional risks;

Whereas the families, communities, and loved ones of members of the Armed Forces support them in countless ways, frequently making sacrifices of their own, especially Gold Star families;

Whereas many who love this country have served in conflicts throughout the Nation's history, whether volunteering so another would not have to go or answering the call when drafted, or out of a profound and selfless sense of duty, some never returning home, some still missing, and some who suffered immense hardship as prisoners of war;

Whereas one of the highest honors and solemn responsibilities of serving as President of the United States is to be Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces;

Whereas faithful execution of this constitutional duty requires, at a minimum,

that the Commander in Chief forcefully defend the safety of members of the Armed Forces against foreign adversaries, such as President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin;

Whereas the Commander in Chief has a duty to uphold good order and discipline in the Armed Forces by refusing to issue unconstitutional orders, refusing to pardon and excuse those in uniform who commit crimes, and refusing to use rhetoric that seeks to divide military personnel from their senior leaders;

Whereas the Nation honors the service and sacrifice of members of the Armed Forces and veterans who placed the mission first and refused to leave a fallen comrade, never asking what was in it for them, but, rather, setting aside selfish interests in defense of the Nation;

Whereas a lack of respect for individuals who served in uniform is a disqualifying characteristic for service as President;

Whereas President Trump repeatedly disrespected members of the Armed Forces, and demonstrated a fundamental ignorance of the ethos of military service—

(1) when President Trump dehumanized members in saying of such members that “[w]e train our boys to be killing machines, then prosecute them when they kill!”;

(2) when President Trump pardoned members convicted of actions that violate the laws of war, thereby valorizing war crimes and contempt for the rule of law and unethical warfighting, and undermining good order and discipline;

(3) when President Trump dismissed traumatic brain injury as “headaches” and described an incident of members suffering traumatic brain injuries as a result of missile strikes as “not very serious”;

(4) when President Trump denigrated the military service of the late Senator John McCain by claiming that “[h]e’s not a war hero. He’s a war hero because he was captured. I like people who weren’t captured”;

(5) when President Trump failed to speak of Gold Star parents with honor and respect;

(6) when President Trump sought to humiliate a decorated military officer, who was awarded the Purple Heart, by forcing White House security to escort the officer off the property when removing him from the National Security Council; and

(7) when President Trump failed to honor the solemn responsibility of the Commander in Chief to offer comfort to the families of members killed in action on his watch; and

Whereas President Trump has failed to publicly condemn, warn, or even criticize President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, following public reports that Russia offered bounties for the killing of members of the Armed Forces: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the denigration by President Donald Trump of members of the United States Armed Forces and veterans;

(2) affirms that the service and sacrifice of individuals who serve the Nation in uniform, refuse to leave a fallen comrade behind and never retreat in the face of grave danger, as exemplified by the United States Marines who demonstrated bravery, grit, and valor in prevailing in the fierce Battle of Belleau Wood during World War I, reflect the true character of our country that makes America great;

(3) will honor and never forget the sacrifices and bravery of members of the Armed Forces who became prisoners of war or went missing in action;

(4) will respect, honor, and care for the service-disabled veterans who have borne the battle in defense of the Nation, recognizing that wounds of war are earned by those who set aside selfish interests; and

(5) demands that President Donald Trump uphold his oath of office and constitutional duty as Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces to defend members of the Armed Forces against hostile actions by leaders and military forces of the Russian Federation.

SENATE RESOLUTION 686—HONORING THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES, VETERANS, PRISONERS OF WAR, AND GOLD STAR FAMILIES

Mrs. LOEFFLER submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

S. RES. 686

Whereas the Nation owes an unmeasurable debt to those individuals who have served in the United States Armed Forces, often shouldering the burden of long periods away from home, difficult and frequently dangerous training and deployments, and inherent physical, mental, and emotional risks;

Whereas the families, communities, and loved ones of members of the Armed Forces support them in countless ways, frequently making sacrifices of their own, especially Gold Star families;

Whereas many who love this country have served in conflicts throughout the Nation's history, whether volunteering so another would not have to go or answering the call when drafted, or out of a profound and selfless sense of duty, some never returning home, some still missing, and some who suffered immense hardship as prisoners of war;

Whereas the Armed Forces defend the Nation against external threats, underpin the increasing safety, security, and prosperity created by a United States-led international order, and constantly contribute to the daily lives of Americans;

Whereas it is a constitutional duty of the first order for the President and the Senate to provide for America's common defense, foremost by supporting our unique All-Volunteer Force and their families;

Whereas the President has requested, and the Senate has voted for, 3 consecutive pay raises for members of the Armed Forces after several years of shrinking military salaries;

Whereas the Senate has passed, and the President has signed into law, landmark military private housing reform to protect military families in their homes;

Whereas the Senate has passed, and the President has signed into law, a historic repeal of the Widow's Tax to recognize the tremendous burden borne by the families of those who made the ultimate sacrifice;

Whereas the Senate has passed, and the President has signed into law, significant improvements to military spouse licensing to vastly increase opportunities for military spouses and strengthen military families;

Whereas the Senate has passed, and the President has signed into law, repeated expansions of military childcare and improvements to the military moving process;

Whereas the Senate has passed, and the President has signed into law, honorary promotions for members of the Armed Forces who served heroically in World War II, Vietnam, and Afghanistan, as well as instituted reviews of valor medals for personnel who served in World War I;

Whereas the Senate has passed, and the President has signed into law, billions of dollars of support for United States allies and partners, including lethal assistance to Ukraine against the aggression of the Russian Federation;

Whereas the Senate has passed, and the President has signed into law, defense budgets that reverse the destructive effects of sequestration, restore the readiness of our combat forces, and give members of the Armed Forces the tools they need to defend America;

Whereas the President authorized the successful military operation on January 3, 2020, that killed Qasem Soleimani of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps of Iran, who was responsible for the deaths of hundreds of members of the Armed Forces and civilians;

Whereas the President authorized the successful military operation on October 26, 2019, that killed Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, who was responsible for direct attacks on members of the Armed Forces and the death or displacement of untold numbers of Iraqis, Syrians, and Kurds;

Whereas the President authorized the successful military operation on February 7, 2018, against Russian military contractors in Syria that threatened the Armed Forces and aided and abetted the murderous regime of Bashar al-Assad; and

Whereas the President was nominated for the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize for his successful efforts to create peace between Israel and the United Arab Emirates: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) will always honor and venerate the service and sacrifice of members of the United States Armed Forces who put the security and safety of the American people ahead of their own self-interest, from those who served in World Wars I and II, Korea, to Vietnam, from the Gulf War and the Balkan conflicts to Iraq and Afghanistan, and from the frontlines of deterring China and Russia and combating terrorism to supporting American communities here at home when natural disasters strike;

(2) continues to advocate for resources to ensure the Armed Forces will maintain its position as the dominant force for freedom and prosperity in the world; and

(3) expresses the deepest gratitude to the Gold Star families who have suffered the loss of their loved ones in service to the Nation.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I have 8 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 BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 9, 2020, at 10 a.m. in open session for a hearing entitled "The Status of the Federal Reserve Emergency Lending Facilities."

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 9, 2020, at 10 a.m., in room 106 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled "Successful State Stewardship: A legislative hearing to examine S. 614, the Grizzly Bear State Management Act."

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 9, 2020 at 11 a.m., to hold a classified briefing titled "Update on Eastern Europe."

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 9, 2020, at 10 a.m. in room 430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in order to conduct a hearing entitled "Vaccines: Saving Lives, Ensuring Confidence, and Protecting Public Health."

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, September 9, at 3:30 p.m. in order to conduct a hearing on the nominations of John Gibbs to be Director, Office of Personnel Management, and the Honorable John M. Barger, the Honorable Christopher B. Burnham, and Frank Dunlevy to be Members, Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 9, 2020, at 10 a.m. in room 226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled "Nominations."

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 9, 2020, at 3:30 p.m. in SD-106 to conduct a hearing titled "S. 785: Leading the Way to Comprehensive Mental Health Care and Suicide Prevention for Veterans."

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 9, 2020, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. in room SD-G50 in the Dirksen Senate Office Building to hold an open hearing on "Declassification Policy and Prospects for Reform."

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2020

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Thursday, September 10; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; and further, that following leader remarks, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Jarbou nomination under the previous order.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:41 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, September 10, 2020, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate September 9, 2020:

THE JUDICIARY

BRETT H. LUDWIG, OF WISCONSIN, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN.

CHRISTY CRISWELL WIEGAND, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA.