

SENATE RESOLUTION 81—COM-
MENDING THE MEMBERS OF THE
UNITED STATES MISSION IN THE
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA
FOR THEIR PERSISTENCE, DEVO-
TION TO DUTY, SACRIFICE, AND
SUCCESS IN OBTAINING THE
SAFE REPATRIATION TO THE
UNITED STATES OF THE CREW
OF THE NAVY EP-3E ARIES II
AIRCRAFT WHO HAD BEEN DE-
TAINED IN CHINA

Mr. HELMS (for himself, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. BIDEN, and Mr. KERRY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

S. RES. 81

Whereas, on March 31, 2001, two fighter aircraft of the People's Republic of China intercepted a United States Navy EP-3E ARIES II maritime patrol aircraft on a routine reconnaissance mission in international airspace over the China Sea;

Whereas one of the two Chinese aircraft collided with the United States aircraft, jeopardizing the lives of its 24 crewmembers, causing serious damage, and forcing the United States aircraft commander, Navy Lieutenant Shane Osborn, to issue a "MAY-DAY" distress call and perform an emergency landing at a Chinese airfield on Hainan Island;

Whereas, in violation of international norms, the Government of the People's Republic of China detained the United States aircrew for 11 days, initially refusing the requests of United States consular and military officials for access to the crew; and

Whereas the persistence and devotion to duty of the members of the United States mission in the People's Republic of China resulted in the release of all members of the United States aircrew on April 12, 2001: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate hereby commends the members of the United States mission in the People's Republic of China, and other responsible officials of the Departments of State and Defense, for their outstanding performance in obtaining the safe repatriation to the United States of the crew of the Navy EP-3E ARIES II aircraft.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLU-
TION 36—HONORING THE NA-
TIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
FOR 50 YEARS OF SERVICE TO
THE NATION

Mr. MCCAIN (for himself, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. BREAUX, Mr. BOND, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. JEFFORDS, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. LIEBERMAN, and Mr. KENNEDY) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. CON. RES. 36

Whereas Congress created the National Science Foundation in 1950 to promote the progress of science, to advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare, and to secure the national defense;

Whereas the National Science Foundation Act of 1950 was signed into law by President Harry S. Truman on May 10, 1950;

Whereas the National Science Foundation strengthens the economy and improves the quality of life in the United States as the Federal Government's only agency dedicated to the support of education and fundamental

research in all scientific and engineering disciplines;

Whereas the National Science Foundation has worked continuously and successfully to ensure that the United States maintains its leadership in discovery, learning, and innovation in the sciences, mathematics, and engineering;

Whereas the National Science Foundation has supported the research of more than half of the United States Nobel laureates in physics, chemistry, and economics;

Whereas the National Science Foundation has been the lead Federal agency in a number of national science initiatives, such as those in information technology and nanotechnology;

Whereas the National Science Foundation funds almost 20,000 research and education projects in science and engineering at over 2,000 colleges and universities, elementary and secondary schools, nonprofit organizations, and small businesses throughout our Nation;

Whereas the National Science Foundation's innovative education programs work to ensure that every American student receives a solid foundation in science, technology, and mathematics through support for the training and education of teachers, the public, and students of all ages and backgrounds, and by supporting research into new teaching tools, curricula, and methodologies;

Whereas the programs funded by the National Science Foundation are an exemplary demonstration of the value of scientific peer review in selecting the most innovative and technically excellent research activities using a network of over 50,000 scientists and engineers each year;

Whereas the National Science Foundation's international programs promote new partnerships and cooperative projects between United States scientists and engineers and their foreign colleagues, and such partnerships play a key role in establishing and strengthening diplomatic and economic ties; and

Whereas research supported by the National Science Foundation has led to discoveries, technologies, and products which affect our daily lives, including a greater understanding of bacteria, viruses, and the structure of DNA; medical diagnostic tools, such as Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI); the Internet, web browsers, and fiber optics, which have revolutionized global communication; polymer materials used in products ranging from clothing to automobiles; Doppler radar used for accurate weather forecasting; artificial skin that can help recovering burn victims; economic research in game and decision theory which has led to a greater understanding of economic cycles; and discoveries of new planets, black holes, and insights into the nature of the universe: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That the Congress—

(1) recognizes the significance of the anniversary of the founding of the National Science Foundation;

(2) acknowledges the completion of 50 years of achievement and service by the National Science Foundation to the United States; and

(3) reaffirms its commitment for the next 50 years to support research, education, and technological advancement and discovery through the National Science Foundation, the premier scientific agency in the Federal Government.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I would like to introduce this resolution to commemorate the National Science Foundation, (NSF)'s, fifty years of pub-

lic service. I am joined in this resolution by Senator HOLLINGS, Senator ALLEN, Senator BREAUX, Senator BOND, Senator ROCKEFELLER, Senator JEFFORDS, Senator MIKULSKI, Senator LIEBERMAN, and Senator KENNEDY. In addition, I would like to thank my colleague, Representative NICK SMITH, for his leadership on this issue. The NSF has played a crucial role in developing and maintaining the United States economic and scientific leadership, and it deserves the gratitude of the American people for its groundbreaking work.

Since its creation in 1950, the National Science Foundation has conducted "cutting-edge" research. More than half of the U.S. Nobel Laureates in physics, chemistry, and economics have had their research supported by NSF. The National Solar Observatory, and other NSF-sponsored programs, are finding new discoveries about the Sun, the planets, and other galaxies in our universe. The NSF also runs programs that study life here on Earth. The NSF Antarctic station, that has recently been in the news, studies the West Antarctic Ice Shelf to understand changes in global climate change. The recent news report on the Antarctic Station further highlights the risk, sacrifice, and dedication that many of our scientists and engineers take on a daily basis in our scientific research pursuits. A NSF-sponsored Multidisciplinary Center for Earthquake Engineering Research studies new construction techniques to prevent death and destruction from earthquakes. The NSF Plant Genome Project is mapping a model plant, the Arabidopsis thaliana, to find ways to develop crops resistant to insects, disease, and harsh environmental conditions. Most important, NSF plays an important role in working with America's schools to teach children math and science and train the scientists and engineers that are necessary to maintaining America's technological leadership.

It is important to point out that NSF-sponsored research continues to play an important role in every day American life. Research sponsored by NSF developed Magnetic Resonance Imaging, (MRI), artificial skin, and other medical breakthroughs that have saved the lives of millions of Americans. NSF research also developed the Doppler radar, which is used every day to warn Americans of impending hazardous weather. In addition, the NSF played a major role in developing the Internet, web browsers, and fiber optics, which have revolutionized our economy and culture. The NSF also helped to develop the American Sign Language Dictionary. Currently, the NSF is pursuing a number of new research initiatives, including nanotechnology and information technology. These new endeavors promise to foster new discoveries throughout the 21st century.

In conclusion, I urge my colleagues to join me in passing this resolution to express our gratitude and support for