

Whereas in spite of these injustices, African Americans have made significant contributions to the economic, educational, political, artistic, literary, scientific, and technological advancements of the United States;

Whereas in the face of these injustices, United States citizens of all races distinguished themselves in their commitment to the ideals on which the United States was founded, and fought for the rights of African Americans;

Whereas the greatness of the United States is reflected in the contributions of African Americans in all walks of life throughout the history of the United States, including through—

(1) the writings of Booker T. Washington, James Baldwin, Ralph Ellison, and Alex Haley;

(2) the music of Mahalia Jackson, Billie Holiday, and Duke Ellington;

(3) the resolve of athletes such as Jackie Robinson, Jesse Owens, and Muhammed Ali;

(4) the vision of leaders such as Frederick Douglass, Thurgood Marshall, and Martin Luther King, Jr.; and

(5) the bravery of those who stood on the front lines in the battle against oppression, such as Sojourner Truth and Rosa Parks;

Whereas the United States of America was conceived, as stated in the Declaration of Independence, as a new country dedicated to the proposition that “all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness”;

Whereas United States citizens of all races demonstrate their commitment to that proposition through actions such as those of—

(1) Allan Pinkerton, Thomas Garrett, and the Rev. John Rankin, who served as conductors in the Underground Railroad;

(2) Harriet Beecher Stowe, who shined a light on the injustices of slavery;

(3) President Abraham Lincoln, who issued the Emancipation Proclamation, and Senator Lyman Trumbull, who introduced the 13th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States;

(4) President Lyndon B. Johnson, Chief Justice Earl Warren, Senator Mike Mansfield, and Senator Hubert Humphrey, who fought to end segregation and the denial of civil rights to African Americans; and

(5) Americans of all races who marched side-by-side with African Americans during the civil rights movement;

Whereas, since its founding, the United States has been an imperfect work in making progress towards those noble goals;

Whereas the history of the United States is the story of a people regularly affirming high ideals, striving to reach them but often failing, and then struggling to come to terms with the disappointment of that failure before recommitting themselves to trying again;

Whereas, from the beginning of our Nation, the most conspicuous and persistent failure of United States citizens to reach those noble goals has been the enslavement of African Americans and the resulting racism;

Whereas the crime of lynching succeeded slavery as the ultimate expression of racism in the United States following Reconstruction;

Whereas the Federal Government failed to put an end to slavery until the ratification of the 13th Amendment in 1865, repeatedly failed to enact a Federal anti-lynching law, and still struggles to deal with the evils of racism; and

Whereas the fact that 61 percent of African American 4th graders read at a below basic level and only 16 percent of native born Afri-

can Americans have earned a Bachelor's degree, 50 percent of all new HIV cases are reported in African Americans, and the leading cause of death for African American males ages 15 to 34 is homicide, demonstrates that the United States continues to struggle to reach the high ideal of equal opportunity for all citizens of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) acknowledges the tragedies of slavery, lynching, and segregation, and condemns them as an infringement on human liberty and equal opportunity so that they will stand forever as a reminder of what can happen when the citizens of the United States fail to live up to their noble goals;

(2) honors those United States citizens who—

(A) risked their lives during the time of slavery, lynching, and segregation in the Underground Railroad and in other efforts to assist fugitive slaves and other African Americans who might have been targets and victims of lynch mobs; and

(B) those who have stood beside African Americans in the fight for equal opportunity that continues to this day;

(3) reaffirms its commitment to the founding principles of the United States of America that “all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness”;

(4) commits itself to addressing those situations in which the African American community struggles with disparities in education, health care, and other areas where the Federal Government can help improve conditions for all citizens of the United States; and

(5) calls on the citizens of the United States to observe Black History Month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 381—DESIGNATING MARCH 1, 2006, AS NATIONAL SIBLING CONNECTION DAY

Mr. SALAZAR (for himself, Mr. ENSIGN, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KERRY, and Ms. CLINTON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 381

Whereas sibling relationships are among the longest lasting and most significant relationships in life;

Whereas brothers and sisters share history, memories, and traditions that bind them together as family;

Whereas it is estimated that over 65 percent of children in foster care have siblings, and are often separated when they are placed in the foster care system, adopted, or confronted with different kinship placements;

Whereas children in foster care have a greater risk of emotional disturbance, difficulties in school, and problems with relationships than their peers;

Whereas the separation of siblings as children causes additional grief and loss;

Whereas organizations and private volunteers advocate for the preservation of sibling relationships in foster care settings and provide siblings in foster care with the opportunity to reunite;

Whereas Camp to Belong, a nonprofit organization founded in 1995 by Lynn Price, heightens public awareness of the need to preserve sibling relationships in foster care

settings and gives siblings in foster care the opportunity to reunite; and

Whereas Camp to Belong has reunited over 2,000 separated siblings across the United States, the United States Virgin Islands, and Canada: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates March 1, 2006, as “Siblings Connection Day”;

(2) encourages the people of the United States to celebrate sibling relationships on this day; and

(3) supports efforts to respect and preserve those sibling relationships that are at risk of being disrupted due to the placement of children into the foster care system.

SENATE RESOLUTION 81—RECOGNIZING AND HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE SIGMA ALPHA EPSILON FRATERNITY

Mr. ISAKSON submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. CON. RES. 81

Whereas the Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity was founded on March 9, 1856, by 8 young men at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, in order to establish a band of brothers;

Whereas the founders of the fraternity believed in promoting the intellectual, moral, and spiritual welfare of their members;

Whereas the mission of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity is to promote the highest standards of friendship, scholarship, and service for its members;

Whereas the Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity adheres to its creed known as “The True Gentleman” and lives up to its ideals and aspirations for conduct with fellow man;

Whereas, for 150 years, the Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity has played an integral role in the positive development of the character and education of more than 280,000 men;

Whereas the brothers of Sigma Alpha Epsilon, being from different backgrounds, ethnic groups, and temperaments, have shared countless friendships and a common belief in the founding ideals of the fraternity;

Whereas tens of thousands of Sigma Alpha Epsilon men have served our nation's military and hundreds have given the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom;

Whereas alumni from Sigma Alpha Epsilon serve as leaders in their respective fields, including government, business, entertainment, science, and higher education;

Whereas the Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity has 190,000 living alumni from as many as 290 chapters at colleges and universities in 49 states and Canada, making it the largest social fraternity in the world; and

Whereas Sigma Alpha Epsilon continues to enrich the lives of its members who, in turn, give back to their families, communities, and other service groups: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) recognizes and honors the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity;

(2) commends its founding fathers and all Sigma Alpha Epsilon brothers, past and present, for their bond of friendship, common ideals and beliefs, and service to community; and

(3) expresses its best wishes to this most respected and cherished of national fraternities for continued success and growth.