

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 521—COM-
MENDING THE PEOPLE OF ALBA-
NIA ON THE 61ST ANNIVERSARY
OF THE LIBERATION OF THE
JEWS FROM THE NAZI DEATH
CAMPS, FOR PROTECTING AND
SAVING THE LIVES OF ALL
JEWS WHO LIVED IN ALBANIA,
OR SOUGHT ASYLUM THERE
DURING THE HOLOCAUST

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

S. RES. 521

Whereas at the start of World War II, approximately 200 Jews lived in the Republic of Albania, and approximately 1800 Jews escaped to Albania from Western Europe and the former Yugoslavia;

Whereas in 1934, United States Ambassador to Albania Herman Bernstein wrote that, "There is no trace of any discrimination against Jews in Albania, because Albania happens to be one of the rare lands in Europe today where religious prejudice and hate do not exist, even though Albanians themselves are divided into three faiths.";

Whereas based on their unique history of religious tolerance, Albanians sheltered and protected Jews, even at the risk of Albanian lives, beginning with the invasion and occupation of Albania by Mussolini's Italian fascists in 1939;

Whereas after Germany occupied Albania in 1943 and the Gestapo ordered Jewish refugees in the Albanian capital of Tirana to register, Albanian leaders refused to provide a list of Jews living in Albania, and Albanian clerks issued false identity papers to protect all Jews who traveled to and hid in Tirana;

Whereas Albanians considered it a matter of national pride and tradition to help Jews during the Holocaust, and due to the actions of many individual Albanians, virtually the entire native and refugee Jewish community in Albania during World War II survived the Holocaust;

Whereas Albania had more Jewish residents after World War II than before World War II;

Whereas in June 1990, Jewish-American Congressman Tom Lantos and former Albanian-American Congressman Joe DioGuardi were the first United States officials to enter Albania in 50 years and received from the Communist Party leader and Albanian President Ramiz Alia a thick file from the Communist archives containing the records of the unpublicized heroic deeds of hundreds of Albanians who rescued Jews during World War II;

Whereas Joe DioGuardi, upon returning to the United States, sent the file for authentication to Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Museum in Jerusalem, Israel;

Whereas Yad Vashem has thus far designated 63 Albanians as "Righteous Persons" and Albania as one of the "Righteous Among the Nations";

Whereas in February 1995, Congressmen Tom Lantos, Benjamin Gilman, and Jerrold Nadler and former Congressman Joe DioGuardi spoke at a ceremony at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC, commemorating the addition of Albania to the museum's "Righteous Among the Nations" installation;

Whereas based on the information authenticated by Yad Vashem, Jewish-American author and philanthropist Harvey Sarnar

published "Rescue in Albania" in 1997, to call international attention to the unique role of the Albanian people in saving Jews from the Nazi Holocaust;

Whereas in October 1997, the Albanian American Civic League and Foundation began the distribution of 10,000 copies of "Rescue in Albania" with forewords by Congressmen Lantos and Gilman to bring to the attention of the Jewish people and their leaders in particular the plight of Albanians living under Slobodan Milosevic in order to forestall another genocide;

Whereas on May 15, 2005, Jews and Albanians gathered in New York City in a "Salute to Albanian Tolerance, Resistance, and Hope: Remembering Besa and the Holocaust" on the occasion for the 60th anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi death camps; and

Whereas in a statement presented at the ceremony Dr. Mordechai Paldi, Director of the Department for the Righteous at Yad Vashem, commemorated the heroism of Albanians as "the only ones among rescuers in other countries who not only went out of their way to save Jews, but vied and competed with each other for the privilege of being a rescuer, thanks to besa", the code of honor that requires Albanians to save the life of anyone seeking refuge, even if it means sacrificing his own life: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the people of Albania for protecting and saving the lives of all Jews, both native and refugee, living in Albania during the Holocaust;

(2) commends Yad Vashem in Israel and encourages others to recognize Albanians who took action to protect Jews during the Holocaust for their great courage and heroism; and

(3) takes this occasion to reaffirm its support for close ties between the United States and Albania.

SENATE RESOLUTION 522—CELE-
BRATING THE 150TH ANNIVER-
SARY OF THE CITIES OF BRIS-
TOL, TENNESSEE AND BRISTOL,
VIRGINIA

Mr. FRIST (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. ALLEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 522

Whereas the twin cities of Bristol, Tennessee and Bristol, Virginia were officially chartered in 1856, celebrated the Bristol Centennial in 1956, and have organized to celebrate the Bristol Sesquicentennial in 2006;

Whereas the Bristol Sesquicentennial theme, "Celebrating 150 Years of heritage and harmony" underscores the duality of Bristol as a cohesion of 2 separate cities with 1 communal spirit;

Whereas the "Bristol Sign", listed in the National Register of Historic Places, serves to exemplify the communal spirit of Bristol, bridge the States of Tennessee and Virginia over the cooperatively named "State Street", and declare Bristol "A Good Place to Live";

Whereas the people of Bristol continue to work to preserve structures of historical significance, including the Paramount theatre, the Old Customs House, and the historic train station;

Whereas the phonographic recordings known as the Bristol Sessions launched the country music careers of the Carter Family, the Stonemans, and Jimmie Rogers, and prompted historians to describe Bristol as the "Big Bang" of modern country music;

Whereas country music is a central part of the history of Bristol, which Congress recognized as the "Birthplace of Country Music";

Whereas the history and economic development of Bristol is intimately tied to commercial transportation and Bristol continues to serve as an important commercial hub for the surrounding region; and

Whereas automotive racing is integral to the identity of Bristol and the "World's Fastest Half-Mile" at the Bristol Motor Speedway continues to offer exciting events to scores of racing fans: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) acknowledges the cultural and historic achievements of the people of Bristol, Tennessee and Bristol, Virginia; and

(2) congratulates the twin cities of Bristol on their sesquicentennial.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I am pleased to join Senators FRIST, WARNER, and ALLEN in offering a Senate resolution that celebrates the 150th anniversary of the twin cities of Bristol, TN, and Bristol, VA.

Hanging on the wall of my Washington office near my desk is a painting of Bristol by George Smith called "State Street at Seventh Avenue." This painting, which was completed around 1890, depicts the shared road that links the twin cities of Bristol and which serves as the State line between Tennessee and Virginia. State Street Church can be seen on the left side of the painting, the First Presbyterian Church is in the distance on the right, and the city saloon appears at the bottom. Thanks to continuing efforts in Bristol to preserve structures of historical significance, some of these buildings and many like them can still be seen there today.

The twin cities were incorporated in 1856, the same year the Virginia and Tennessee Railroads reached Bristol. A second railroad arrived four years later. From that point on, the population grew steadily as Bristol emerged as an important transportation and commercial hub.

Today, Bristol is known for a different type of transportation. Since 1961, the Bristol Motor Speedway has been host to NASCAR races and its fans. The Speedway, which began as drawings scratched on the back of envelopes and brown paper bags, can now seat over 160,000 fans at its races. The "World's Fastest Half-Mile" is acclaimed worldwide, and I have enjoyed visiting the Speedway myself.

But Bristol is more than just a transportation hub. It is the birthplace of country music—as declared by Congress in 1998.

The roots of country music in Bristol can be traced to the influences of Scotch-Irish immigrants in the mountain regions of Tennessee and Virginia—including my own ancestors—coupled with the unique hymns of Negro spirituals and work songs. A number of early Appalachian instruments that helped spawn this new American form of music can be found on the walls of my Washington office.

In 1927, Ralph Sylvester Peer arrived in Bristol hoping to produce a commercial recording of these unique mountain sounds. That's how the recordings