Whereas the United States is home to over 12,000 recreational boating facilities that contribute substantially to their local communities by providing safe, reliable gateways to boating for members of their communities and welcomed guests; and
Whereas the President has designated the week beginning April 22, 2007 as “National Small Business Week”: Now, therefore, be it
Resolved, That the Senate—
(1) commemorates the marinas of the United States, and the role they play in promoting boating as a key part of the Nation’s economic vitality; (2) recognizes the importance of small business concerns to the well-being of the Nation; and
Whereas the President’s Cabinet.

SENATE RESOLUTION 174—HONORING THE ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT FOR SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS IN THE UNITED STATES DURING NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK BEGINNING APRIL 11, 2007

Mr. KERRY (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, Ms. LANDRIEU, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. BATH, Mr. VITTER, Mr. COLEMAN, Ms. LANDRIEU, Ms. SNOWE, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. BATH, Mr. VITTER, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. BROWNBACK (for himself, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. GAGEL, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. LOTT, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. VITTER, Mr. KYL, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. BUNNING, Ms. MURkowski, Ms. CANTPELL, Ms. BOXER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BAYH, Mr. HATCH, Mr. SMITH, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SPENCER, Mr. BIDEN, and Mr. MCCONNELL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. Res. 174

Whereas the 25,800,000 small business concerns in the United States are the driving force behind the Nation’s economy, creating more than 2/3 of all net new jobs and generating more than 50 percent of the Nation’s nonfarm gross domestic product; and
Whereas Israel is especially important in 2007 given the grave threats issued by, and the clear intentions of, the Government of Iran: Now, therefore, be it
Whereas the United States was one of the first countries to recognize the State of Israel, only 11 minutes after the creation of the State; and
Whereas the United States’ diplomatic and military relations with Israel are an important part of the United States’ strategic interests; and

SENATE RESOLUTION 175—RECOGNIZING THE 59TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL

Mr. BROWNBACK (for himself, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. GAGEL, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. LOTT, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. VITTER, Mr. KYL, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. BUNNING, Ms. MURkowski, Ms. CANTPELL, Ms. BOXER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BAYH, Mr. HATCH, Mr. SMITH, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SPENCER, Mr. BIDEN, and Mr. MCCONNELL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. Res. 175

Whereas Israel is home to many religious sites that are sacred to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam; and
Whereas Israel provided a refuge to Jews who survived the horrors of the Holocaust, who believe in the peoplehood of Israel and its State; and
Whereas the United States has provided a refuge for Jews who have experienced war, persecution, and the uprooting of their families; and

Whereas the Government of Israel has successfully worked with the neighboring governments of Egypt and Jordan to establish peaceful bilateral relations; and
Whereas, despite the deaths of over 1,000 innocent citizens of Israel at the hands of murderous suicide bombers and other terrorists since 2002, the people of Israel continue to seek peace with their Palestinian neighbors; and
Whereas several Israeli soldiers remain hostages of terrorist groups, and were unable to celebrate the Independence Day of Israel with their families and friends; and
Whereas successive leaders of Israel have sought peace in the Middle East; and
Whereas the United States and Israel enjoy a strategic partnership based on shared democratic values, friendship, and respect; and
Whereas the people of Israel and the United States share an affinity with the people of Israel and view Israel as a strong and trusted ally; and
Whereas Israel has made significant global contributions in the fields of science, medicine, and technology; and
Whereas the Independence Day of Israel on the Jewish calendar coincides this year with April 26, 2007; and
Whereas the recognition of the numerous achievements of the people and the State of Israel is especially important in 2007 given the grave threats issued by, and the clear intentions of, the Government of Iran: Now, therefore, be it
Resolved, That the Senate—
(1) recognizes the independence of the State of Israel as a significant event for providing refuge and a national homeland for the Jewish people; and
(2) strongly supports efforts to bring peace to the Middle East; and
(3) commends the bipartisan commitment of both Presidents and Congresses of the United States since 1948 that supported Israel and worked for the security and well-being of Israel; and

Whereas the Small Business Administration has helped small business concerns access critical lending opportunities, protected small business concerns from excessive Federal regulations, played a key role in ensuring full and open competition for Government contracts, and improved the economic environment in which small business concerns do business; and
Whereas for over 50 years, the Small Business Administration has helped millions of entrepreneurs achieve the American dream of owning a small business concern, and has played a key role in fostering economic growth; and
Whereas the Small Business Administration, such as the Small Business Administration and its resource partners on behalf of the Small Business Administration, such as small business development centers, women’s business centers, and the Service Corps of Retired Executives, are provided with Federal resources necessary to do their jobs; and
(5) urges that, as was the case in the President’s budget for fiscal year 2008, the Small Business Administration continues to be designated as a major agency in the President’s budget submitted pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, and that the Administrator of the Small Business Administration have an active role as a member of the President’s Cabinet.

Whereas the President has designated the week beginning April 22, 2007 as “National Small Business Week;” Now, therefore, be it
Resolved, That the Senate—
(1) the freedom of speech; and
(2) the freedom of religion; and
(3) the freedom of association; and
(4) the freedom of the press; and
(5) government by the consent of the governed; and
Whereas Israel continues to serve as a shining model of democratic values by—
(1) regularly holding free and fair elections; and
(2) promoting the free exchange of ideas; and

Whereas Israel has bravely defended itself from terrorist and military attacks repeated during May 14, 1948, the State of Israel declared its independence; and
Whereas the Government of Israel has successfully worked with the neighboring governments of Egypt and Jordan to establish peaceful bilateral relations; and
Whereas, despite the deaths of over 1,000 innocent citizens of Israel at the hands of murderous suicide bombers and other terrorists since 2002, the people of Israel continue to seek peace with their Palestinian neighbors; and
Whereas several Israeli soldiers remain hostages of terrorist groups, and were unable to celebrate the Independence Day of Israel with their families and friends; and
Whereas successive leaders of Israel have sought peace in the Middle East; and
Whereas the United States and Israel enjoy a strategic partnership based on shared democratic values, friendship, and respect; and
Whereas the people of Israel and the United States share an affinity with the people of Israel and view Israel as a strong and trusted ally; and
Whereas Israel has made significant global contributions in the fields of science, medicine, and technology; and
Whereas the Independence Day of Israel on the Jewish calendar coincides this year with April 26, 2007; and
Whereas the recognition of the numerous achievements of the people and the State of Israel is especially important in 2007 given the grave threats issued by, and the clear intentions of, the Government of Iran: Now, therefore, be it
Resolved, That the Senate—
(1) recognizes the independence of the State of Israel as a significant event for providing refuge and a national homeland for the Jewish people; and
(2) strongly supports efforts to bring peace to the Middle East; and
(3) commends the bipartisan commitment of both Presidents and Congresses of the United States since 1948 that supported Israel and worked for the security and well-being of Israel; and

Whereas the Small Business Administration has helped small business concerns access critical lending opportunities, protected small business concerns from excessive Federal regulations, played a key role in ensuring full and open competition for Government contracts, and improved the economic environment in which small business concerns do business; and
Whereas for over 50 years, the Small Business Administration has helped millions of entrepreneurs achieve the American dream of owning a small business concern, and has played a key role in fostering economic growth; and
Whereas the Small Business Administration has helped small business concerns access critical lending opportunities, protected small business concerns from excessive Federal regulations, played a key role in ensuring full and open competition for Government contracts, and improved the economic environment in which small business concerns do business; and
Whereas for over 50 years, the Small Business Administration has helped millions of entrepreneurs achieve the American dream of owning a small business concern, and has played a key role in fostering economic growth; and
Whereas the Small Business Administration has helped small business concerns access critical lending opportunities, protected small business concerns from excessive Federal regulations, played a key role in ensuring full and open competition for Government contracts, and improved the economic environment in which small business concerns do business; and
Whereas for over 50 years, the Small Business Administration has helped millions of entrepreneurs achieve the American dream of owning a small business concern, and has played a key role in fostering economic growth; and
Whereas the Small Business Administration has helped small business concerns access critical lending opportunities, protected small business concerns from excessive Federal regulations, played a key role in ensuring full and open competition for Government contracts, and improved the economic environment in which small business concerns do business; and
Whereas for over 50 years, the Small Business Administration has helped millions of entrepreneurs achieve the American dream of owning a small business concern, and has played a key role in fostering economic growth; and

Kansas City Monarchs, became the first African-American coach in the Major Leagues with the Chicago Cubs in 1962, served on the Veterans Committee of the National Baseball Hall of Fame, and worked tirelessly to promote the history of the Negro Leagues;

Whereas "Cool Papa" Bell played, coached, and managed in the Negro Leagues from 1922 to 1950, discovered, trained, and assisted numerous Negro League players into the Major Leagues, and was later inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame; 

Whereas Minnie Minoso played in the Negro Leagues for several years before being invited to the Major Leagues and, although he was denied admission to the Hall of Fame, because during his prime years, he was a victim of racial discrimination;

Whereas the talents of such players as Josh Gibson, James "Cool Papa" Bell, and Oscar Charleston earned them recognition in the Baseball Hall of Fame as well as the Sporting News List of Baseball Greatest Players, but they were denied admission to the Major Leagues due to the color of their skin;

Whereas Autozone Park in Memphis, Tennessee, hosted the inaugural Civil Rights Game between the defending World Champion St. Louis Cardinals and the Cleveland Indians in connection with the civil rights movement, on March 31, 2007; and

Whereas by achieving success on the baseball field, African-American baseball players helped break color barriers and integrate African-Americans into all aspects of society in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) recognizes the teams and players of the Negro Baseball Leagues for their achievements, dedication, sacrifices, and contributions to both baseball and our Nation; and

(2) encourages the observation of Negro Leaguers Recognition Day on May 20 of each year.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I, along with Senators REID, LEAHY, SPECKER, OBAMA, CLINTON, BROWNBACK, and MARTHINEZ, have proudly submitted a concurrent resolution recognizing Negro Leaguers Recognition Day May 20 of each year. My relationship with the Negro Leagues since my arrival in Congress has been strong and steady.

A number of time, I joined with Representative Albright to persuade Major League Baseball to give pension benefits to former players. In 2004, Major League Baseball agreed to put up $1 million for monthly payments to 27 former Negro Leaguers. Last year, I worked with the families of several of the most notable Negro Leaguers to pass a Senate resolution designating May 20, 2006—the date on which the Negro National League played its first game—as Negro Leaguers Recognition Day.

I am submitting a resolution honoring the Negro Leaguers again this year—in cooperation with Representative COHEN in the House—to demonstrate the support in both Chambers for recognizing Negro Leaguers Recognition Day each year. I hope that this will be a day when Negro Leaguers and their families will return to the ballpark to be honored for their historic contributions to the game of baseball and to bridging racial divisions in our country.

Since 1883, long before Major League Baseball was integrated in 1947, African-Americans organized their own professional leagues. These leagues did not receive the same level of prejudiced and lack of adequate financial backing. However, this changed dramatically with the inception of the first successful Negro league—the Negro National League. Its creation was the result of the efforts of an African-American player and manager named Andrew "Rube" Foster. Mr. Foster's success inspired the formation of other leagues.

As a result, on October 3, 1924, the first Negro League World Series game was played between the Kansas City Monarchs of the Negro National League and Hilldale of Philadelphia of the Eastern Colored League. This historic and exhaustive first series lasted 10 games, covered a span of almost 3 weeks, and was played in four different cities. In the end, Kansas City claimed the championship.

Some of the names we know and some we don't. Among them are Jackie Robinson, the first African-American to break the baseball color barrier; Satchel Paige, who was considered one of the greatest pitchers of all time; Josh Gibson, who was a prolific home run hitter; Larry Doby, the first African-American to play in the American League and Hilldale of Philadelphia of the Eastern Colored League. This historic and exhaustive first series lasted 10 games, covered a span of almost 3 weeks, and was played in four different cities. In the end, Kansas City claimed the championship.

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

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

MRS. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 26, 2007, at 9:30 a.m., in open session to receive testimony on legal issues regarding indemnification by the Department of Defense as unlawful enemy combatants.

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