

homeless individuals in the last decade. If we take the statistics provided by this coalition and compare them to the available statistics currently being collected by the FBI under the Hate Crimes Statistics Act, the results are startling.

The number of hate crimes resulting in death among listed members, those in the statute, is lower than the known number of fatal attacks on homeless individuals. Between 1999 and 2007, there were 94 hate crime fatalities among the listed individuals, compared to 218 fatalities in the same period directed at homeless individuals. I am introducing this bill today in an effort to get uniform data collection on these attacks so that we have a uniform basis on which to know how serious the problem is.

There are approximately 3.5 million people a year who are likely to experience homelessness. They are mothers, fathers, and children, and they are among the most vulnerable members of our society. Veterans account for 20 percent of our homeless population. Families displaced because of domestic violence make up another 28 percent of the homeless population. With increased funding to provide housing for the homeless, the previous administration had seen a 20-percent drop in family homelessness. However, because of the current economic crisis, an increase in the homeless population has been reported.

The 2008 annual homeless assessment report to Congress revealed that the number of homeless families, particularly those in suburban and rural areas, has increased. The number of families seeking shelter has increased by 9 percent overall and by nearly 56 percent in suburban and rural areas. Our current economic crisis has reversed the progress that we made between 2005 and 2007. There is also evidence that when State and local budgets are cut, homeless services are affected. With an increase in the vulnerable population, with the government unable to provide funding, at a minimum we have a duty to report senseless violence against this risk population.

That is what I am asking, pure and simple, that we find out exactly how many homeless people are being victimized in a uniform way by having reliable data and information so that we, the policymakers, can make the right policy decisions.

Homeless people are part of America. Every day we see veterans, men, women, and families who have been forced by circumstances to live on the streets. We have walked by them on our way to work or to school. In an effort to monitor bias-motivated violence, the first step is to realize the scope of the situation by gathering the data.

I urge my colleagues to support this modest legislation so that we are better prepared to deal with this challenge.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 309—RECOGNIZING AND CELEBRATING THE 145TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ENTRY OF NEVADA INTO THE UNION AS THE 36TH STATE

Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. ENSIGN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 309

Whereas October 31, 2009, marks the 145th anniversary of President Abraham Lincoln's proclamation admitting Nevada into the Union as the 36th State;

Whereas Nevadans celebrate the anniversary of "Battle Born" statehood every year as Nevada Day;

Whereas Nevada's State motto is "All for Our Country", reflecting the patriotism and sense of duty demonstrated by countless Nevadans since the State's entrance into the Union;

Whereas Nevada's brave veterans and service members have made critical contributions to our Nation's security in times of war and of peace;

Whereas the Henderson magnesium mines and the Nevada Test Site played key roles in the United States' victories during World War II and the Cold War, respectively;

Whereas Nevada is honored to host our Nation's Armed Forces at Nellis Air Force Base, Creech Air Force Base, Naval Air Station Fallon, and the Hawthorne Army Depot, as well as National Guard Armories and Reserve Readiness Centers throughout the State;

Whereas Nevada is a premier destination for tourists, business travelers, family vacationers, and outdoor enthusiasts throughout the United States and around the globe;

Whereas Nevada's unique features attract vacationers and locals alike, including the pastoral Washoe Valley, the crags of the Ruby Mountains, the "Biggest Little City in the World", the Las Vegas Strip, the Hoover Dam, Lovers Lock Plaza, and the annual National Cowboy Poetry Gathering;

Whereas mining became an important industry to the Silver State with the 1859 discovery of the Comstock Lode, the most valuable deposit of silver in the Nation;

Whereas Nevada produces more gold than all other States combined and is one of the largest sources of gold in the world;

Whereas the entrepreneurial spirit of Nevadans is reflected in a versatile economy, from the world's largest gaming establishments to small businesses that make up the vast majority of Nevada's employers;

Whereas Nevada has a rich cultural heritage that draws from diverse populations, from multi-generational ranching families to new residents, from Hispanic Americans to Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, and from Basque communities to Mormon pioneers;

Whereas Nevada recognizes the language, culture, and generosity of Nevada's first dwellers, the Northern and Southern Paiutes, Shoshone, and Washoe peoples;

Whereas Nevada celebrates Thocmuntony, or Sarah Winnemucca, the first Native American woman to author a publication in English, whose statue graces Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center;

Whereas the snow-capped mountains of Nevada (pronounced Neváda) were the inspiration for the Spanish origin of its name;

Whereas Nevada offers beautiful outdoor settings ranging from vibrant desert landscapes to grand ski slopes, and from picturesque hiking trails to flowing river currents;

Whereas Lake Tahoe is one of the deepest and clearest alpine lakes in the world, and Lake Mead is the largest engineered reservoir in the United States;

Whereas Nevada is home to Great Basin National Park, 17 State parks, 2 national forests, and 3,400,000 acres of wilderness, including Sloan Canyon, Red Rock Canyon, and Black Rock Desert;

Whereas Nevada exemplifies the independence, opportunity, and pioneering spirit of the West; and

Whereas Nevada's delegation to the 111th Congress—Senator Harry Reid, Senator John Ensign, Representative Shelley Berkley, Representative Dean Heller, and Representative Dina Titus—invite all to join in the celebration of Nevada statehood: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate recognizes and celebrates the 145th anniversary of the entry of Nevada into the Union as the 36th State.

SENATE RESOLUTION 310—EX-PRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF OCTOBER 20, 2009, AS THE NATIONAL DAY ON WRITING

Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BROWN, Mr. FEINGOLD, and Mr. AKAKA) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 310

Whereas people in the 21st century are writing more than ever before for personal, professional, and civic purposes;

Whereas the social nature of writing invites people of every age, profession, and walk of life to create meaning through composing;

Whereas more and more people in every occupation deem writing as essential and influential in their work;

Whereas writers continue to learn how to write for different purposes, audiences, and occasions throughout their lifetimes;

Whereas developing digital technologies expand the possibilities for composing in multiple media at a faster pace than ever before;

Whereas young people are leading the way in developing new forms of composing by using different forms of digital media;

Whereas effective communication contributes to building a global economy and a global community;

Whereas the National Council of Teachers of English, in conjunction with its many national and local partners, honors and celebrates the importance of writing through the National Day on Writing;

Whereas the National Day on Writing celebrates the foundational place of writing in the personal, professional, and civic lives of Americans;

Whereas the National Day on Writing provides an opportunity for individuals across the United States to share and exhibit their written works through the National Gallery of Writing;

Whereas the National Day on Writing highlights the importance of writing instruction and practice at every educational level and in every subject area;

Whereas the National Day on Writing emphasizes the lifelong process of learning to write and compose for different audiences, purposes, and occasions;

Whereas the National Day on Writing honors the use of the full range of media for composing, from traditional tools like print, audio, and video, to Web 2.0 tools like blogs, wikis, and podcasts; and