

Whereas the 175th anniversary of the birth of Mark Twain is an historic occasion: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate commemorates the 175th anniversary of the birth of Mark Twain on November 30, 2010, and his enduring legacy as one of our Nation's greatest authors and humorists.

PERMITTING USE OF SENATE BUILDINGS

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 691, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 691) to permit the collection of clothing, toys, food, and housewares during the holiday season for charitable purposes in Senate buildings.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements related to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 691) was agreed to, as follows:

S. RES. 691

SECTION 1. COLLECTION OF CLOTHING, TOYS, FOOD, AND HOUSEWARES DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON FOR CHARITABLE PURPOSES IN SENATE BUILDINGS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of the rules or regulations of the Senate—

(1) a Senator, officer, or employee of the Senate may collect from another Senator, officer, or employee of the Senate within Senate buildings nonmonetary donations of clothing, toys, food, and housewares for charitable purposes related to serving those in need or members of the Armed Services and their families during the holiday season, if the charitable purposes do not otherwise violate any rule or regulation of the Senate or of Federal law; and

(2) a Senator, officer, or employee of the Senate may work with a nonprofit organization with respect to the delivery of donations described in paragraph (1).

(b) EXPIRATION.—The authority provided by this resolution shall expire at the end of the 2nd session of the 111th Congress.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. HAGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

LANCE CORPORAL BRANDON W. PEARSON

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to

honor the life and heroic service of LCpl Brandon W. Pearson. Lance Corporal Pearson, who was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team-2, I Marine Expeditionary Force Forward, 1st Marine Division, out of Camp Pendleton, CA, died on November 4, 2010, from wounds he received while supporting combat operations in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. He was 21 years old.

A native of Colorado, Lance Corporal Pearson graduated from Ralston Valley High School in Arvada. He was serving his second tour of duty. Although this was his first tour in Afghanistan, his battalion was assigned to one of the most dangerous districts in Helmand Province.

During his 3 years of service, Lance Corporal Pearson distinguished himself through his courage, dedication to duty, and willingness to take on any job. He was given numerous awards and medals, including the Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and the National Defense Service Medal.

Lance Corporal Pearson worked on the front lines of battle, serving in the most dangerous areas of Afghanistan. He is remembered by those who knew him as a consummate professional with an unending commitment to excellence. Friends and loved ones remember Lance Corporal Pearson's dedication to friends and family. He was always there when someone was in a tight spot. His decision to serve influenced a close friend to join the Marines as well. All remember his unwavering bravery.

Mark Twain once said, "The fear of death follows from the fear of life. A man who lives fully is prepared to die at any time." Lance Corporal Pearson's service was in keeping with this sentiment by selflessly putting country first, he lived life to the fullest. He lived with a sense of the highest honorable purpose.

At substantial personal risk, he braved the chaos of combat zones throughout Afghanistan. And though his fate on the battlefield was uncertain, he pushed forward, protecting America's citizens, her safety, and the freedoms we hold dear. For his service and the lives he touched, Lance Corporal Pearson will forever be remembered as one of our country's bravest.

To Lance Corporal Pearson's entire family—I cannot imagine the sorrow you must be feeling. I hope that, in time, the pain of your loss will be eased by your pride in Brandon's service and by your knowledge that his country will never forget him. We are humbled by his service and his sacrifice.

UNITED STATES-KOREA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, as our economy struggles to recover from the worst recession since the Great Depression, we must look at all ways to cre-

ate jobs here at home. One obvious way to create jobs is to sell more products to overseas markets. That's why President Obama has announced the goal of doubling U.S. exports by the year 2015. That is an admirable goal and one that I support.

To achieve that goal we have to examine our trade policies and change them when they are not working. That is surely what we need to do when it comes to the so-called U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement and automotive trade.

This agreement, still being negotiated, would perpetuate an unlevel playing field that unfairly disadvantages U.S. automotive exports. One of the reasons the agreement has not been brought before the U.S. Congress for approval is because the agreement is skewed in favor of Korean automakers.

The Bush administration made a major error in how it approached the growing field of electric vehicles during treaty negotiations. The agreement would allow for a 10 year phase-out of the 8 percent Korean tariff on hybrid electric passenger vehicles and the 2.5 percent U.S. tariff. This is not a fair deal for U.S. electric car exports. It's bad enough that the current Korean electric car tariff is more than three times the U.S. tariff. This agreement would lock in place for 10 years Korea's electric car tariff advantage as it is phased out. Why in the world would we agree to that?

It is as if you beat me up eight times a day and I beat you up two times a day and you expect me to be happy when you reduce that beating to seven times per day—that is still not much of a deal for me.

It is a stubborn thing this image some people have of free trade. It is like a blind faith belief that any trade agreement is automatically good for the United States. This seems to hold true no matter how many American jobs may have been lost as a result of unfair trading practices by our trading partners and no matter how bad a deal a specific free trade agreement might be for certain sectors in the United States. The response always seems to be the same for those that criticize an unbalanced free trade agreement: they call the critics protectionists.

The protectionism enmeshed in the U.S.-Korea trade relationship is protectionism by Korea. Until 1989 Korea did not even allow imported autos into its market. Once it did officially allow imported vehicles into its market, Korea found other, less visible ways of keeping them out, including maintaining tariff and nontariff barriers, such as discriminatory taxes based on engine size, unique standards, inadequate regulatory transparency, and inadequate ability of stakeholders to provide input at an early stage into the development of regulations and standards.

When it comes to automotive trade with Korea, the numbers tell the story. Korea has free unfettered access to the U.S. market and we have extremely limited access into Korea's market.