

Whereas a search and rescue effort was launched immediately following the explosion that involved dozens of courageous volunteers, first responders, and mine rescue teams who fearlessly risked their lives to rescue survivors and find lost miners;

Whereas Carl "Pee Wee" Acord, Jason Matthew Atkins, Christopher Lee Bell, Sr., Gregory Steven Brock, Kenneth A. Chapman, Sr., Robert Eugene Clark, Cory Davis, Charles Timothy Davis, Michael Lee Elswick, William Ildon Griffith, Steven J. "Smiley" Harrah, Edward "Dean" Jones, Richard Keith Lane, William Roosevelt Lynch, Joe Marcum, Ronald Lee Maynor, Nicolas D. McCroskey, James "Eddie" Moonney, Adam K. Morgan, Rex Lane Mullins, Joshua Scott Napper, Howard "Boone" Payne, Jr., Dillard Earl "Dewey" Persinger, Joel R. "Jody" Price, Gary Wayne Quarles, Edward Allan Scott, Grover Dale Skeens, Benny Ray Willingham, and Ricky L. Workman perished in the explosion at the Upper Big Branch Mine;

Whereas the terrible tragedy broke the hearts of the people of the United States;

Whereas since the beginning of 2010, 77 miners of coal and other resources have lost their lives on the job, and thousands more have been injured or diagnosed with occupational illnesses, such as Black Lung disease;

Whereas the families of the deceased continue to suffer, as do those miners who have become seriously injured or ill; and

Whereas Congress has long recognized the need to protect the safety and health of miners: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the coal miners who lost their lives in the explosion at the Upper Big Branch Mine in Montcoal, West Virginia, on April 5, 2010;

(2) extends its continued heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased, who are still looking for answers to the tragedy;

(3) recognizes the hardships faced by survivors of the tragedy and fellow miners who worked side-by-side with the deceased;

(4) acknowledges the risks faced by all miners, as well as the important and often overlooked contributions that miners make to the United States;

(5) expresses its appreciation for the volunteers, first responders, and mine rescue teams who fearlessly risk their lives to save miners after tragedies; and

(6) reaffirms its commitment to keep miners safe and healthy on the job.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

GOLD STAR WIVES DAY

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 130, which was submitted earlier today.

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

The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 130) designating April 5, 2011, as "Gold Star Wives Day."

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

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 130) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 130

Whereas the Senate honors the sacrifices made by the spouses and families of the fallen members of the Armed Forces of the United States;

Whereas the Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. represents the spouses and families of the members and veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States who have died on active duty or as a result of a service-connected disability;

Whereas the primary mission of the Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. is to provide services, support, and friendship to the spouses of the fallen members and veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States;

Whereas, in 1945, the Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. was organized with the help of Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt to assist the families left behind by the fallen members and veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States;

Whereas the first meeting of the Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. was held on April 5, 1945;

Whereas April 5, 2011, marks the 66th anniversary of the first meeting of the Gold Star Wives of America;

Whereas the members and veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States bear the burden of protecting freedom for the United States; and

Whereas the sacrifices of the families of the fallen members and veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States should never be forgotten: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates April 5, 2011, as "Gold Star Wives Day";

(2) honors and recognizes—

(A) the contributions of the members of the Gold Star Wives of America, Inc.; and

(B) the dedication of the members of the Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. to the members and veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe "Gold Star Wives Day" to promote awareness of—

(A) the contributions and dedication of the members of the Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. to the members and veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States; and

(B) the important role the Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. plays in the lives of the spouses and families of the fallen members and veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States.

TSUNAMI AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 131, submitted earlier today.

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

The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 131) designating April 2011 as "Tsunami Awareness Month."

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

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, today I rise in support of my resolution designating April 2011 as Tsunami Awareness Month.

The recent events in Japan serve as a reminder of the importance of tsunami preparedness and mitigation. As we recently saw, tsunamis can strike at any time, continue for hours, wash away homes, buildings, and roads, and claim thousands of lives. Deadly tsunamis have struck Hawaii, Alaska, California, Oregon, Washington, American Samoa, Puerto Rico, and the United States Virgin Islands within the last 150 years. All coastline communities in the United States are at risk of being impacted by tsunamis.

Sixty-five years ago, my home State of Hawaii experienced the most devastating and destructive tsunami in its history, which claimed the lives of 159 individuals. Hawaii's geographic location in the middle of the Pacific Ocean makes us extremely vulnerable to tsunamis because 80 percent of all tsunamis occur in the Pacific.

To encourage citizens to educate themselves on tsunami preparedness, President Obama has designated March 20–26, 2011, as Tsunami Awareness Week. For the month of April, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Weather Service in Hawaii will conduct activities to raise public awareness of the dangers of tsunamis and commemorate the lives lost to the April 1, 1946 tsunami. Additionally, Hawaii State and local officials have partnered with NOAA to develop a Tsunami Safety Booklet to educate school-aged children about the dangers of tsunamis, and they plan to distribute the booklets and other preparedness materials at sponsored events.

I encourage all citizens to observe Tsunami Awareness Month and prepare for tsunamis by finding out if their homes, schools, and workplaces are in areas likely to flood should a tsunami occur; identifying evacuation routes; and preparing portable disaster supply kits. Additional information about tsunami preparedness can be found at TsunamiReady (www.tsunamiready.noaa.gov).

As Congress continues debates about cuts to the Federal budget, I remind my colleagues of the importance of federal funding for tsunami programs.

Funding for NOAA tsunami program supports warning, mitigation, and research activities that are critical to our Nation's safety and security. The NOAA operates two tsunami warning centers, the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center at Ewa Beach, Hawaii, and the West Coast and Alaska Tsunami Warning Center at Palmer, Alaska. Through Deep-Ocean Assessment and Reporting of Tsunamis stations, these Centers monitor an extensive network of deep