

began the work of creating a true democratic government, a government that supports and protects inalienable rights and freedoms, including the freedom of religion;

Whereas the fervor and spirit of these revolutions have taken wing in other Arab nations such as Tunisia, Libya, and Syria;

Whereas, reminiscent of the 1968 “Prague Spring” in the former Czechoslovakia, many have called this revolutionary period an “Arab Spring”, where ordinary citizens have taken to the streets demanding an end to corruption, political cronyism, and government repression;

Whereas, in the midst of newly acquired freedoms, including those of speech, press, and assembly, it is extremely important that religious minorities in these countries be protected from violence and guaranteed the freedom to practice their religion and to express religious thought;

Whereas Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights recognizes that “[e]veryone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship, and observance”;

Whereas the freedom to worship by minority religious communities in Arab nations has come under repeated and deadly attack in recent months;

Whereas, on November 1, 2010, the deadliest ever recorded attack on Iraqi Christians occurred at the Sayidat al-Nejat Catholic Cathedral located in central Baghdad, where militants stormed the church and detonated 2 suicide vests filled with ball bearings, killing 58 and wounding 78 parishioners;

Whereas, on January 1, 2011, a suicide bomber blew himself up in front of the Saint George and Bishop Peter Church in Cairo, killing 21 Egyptian Coptic Christians, a Christian minority group that accounts for 9 percent of Egypt’s population of 80,000,000;

Whereas the freedom to proselytize by minority religious communities in Arab nations has also come under repeated and deadly attack in recent months through so-called blasphemy laws that are punishable by death;

Whereas, on January 4, 2011, Governor Salman Tasser, who courageously sought to release Aasia Bibi, a Christian woman and mother of 5 who was sentenced to death under Pakistan’s blasphemy laws, was gunned down by his own security guard because of his support for reforming the blasphemy laws;

Whereas, on March 2, 2011, Shahbaz Bhatti, Pakistan’s only Christian cabinet member and passionate supporter of interfaith tolerance and repeal of Pakistan’s blasphemy law, was assassinated by multiple gunmen, leaving his body and vehicle riddled with 80 bullets and anti-Christian pamphlets strewn over his body; and

Whereas, on February 21, 2013, Sherry Rehman, Pakistan’s Ambassador to the United States, and a vocal proponent of repealing Pakistan’s blasphemy law, was herself accused of blasphemy, and the Supreme Court of Pakistan ordered police in the central Pakistani city of Multan to investigate: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes, in this spirit of Arab Spring revolution, that religious minority freedoms and rights must be protected; and

(2) urges in the strongest terms that the United States Government lead the international effort to repeal existing blasphemy laws.

SENATE RESOLUTION 70—DESIGNATING THE LAST FULL WEEK OF JULY 2013 AS “NATIONAL MOTH WEEK”, RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF MOTHS IN THE UNITED STATES, AND RECOGNIZING THE VALUE OF NATIONAL MOTH WEEK FOR PROMOTING THE CONSERVATION OF MOTHS AND INCREASING THE AWARENESS, STUDY, AND APPRECIATION OF MOTHS, THEIR INCREDIBLE BIODIVERSITY, AND THEIR IMPORTANCE TO ECOSYSTEM HEALTH

Mr. MENENDEZ submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 70

Whereas moths are an incredibly diverse type of insect, with more than 12,000 species in the continental United States and Canada;

Whereas moths live everywhere and in every habitat, from inner cities to the most remote and wild places;

Whereas moths are important pollinators and are an essential part of the food web, providing food for a vast number of birds, bats, and other animals;

Whereas moths are indicators of a healthy environment, as habitats rich in moths are diverse in other insects and wildlife;

Whereas monitoring the diversity and distribution of moths can provide vital clues to changes in the environment;

Whereas knowledge about many moths and moth caterpillars is limited;

Whereas scientists believe that many moth species may be declining;

Whereas the lack of natural history information about many moth species provides an opportunity for an individual to potentially make a meaningful scientific contribution relating to moths;

Whereas National Moth Week, which was established in 2011 in East Brunswick, New Jersey by the Friends of the East Brunswick Environmental Commission, is a national and global collaboration of many individuals, environmental groups, and conservation organizations focusing much-needed attention on moths and their ecological, educational, and cultural significance;

Whereas participants National Moth Week events collect valuable information about moths and make that information available to naturalists, ecologists, and conservation scientists;

Whereas National Moth Week is intended to encourage everyone, especially citizen scientists, to help increase knowledge about moths through observation and study;

Whereas National Moth Week was celebrated from July 23 through July 29, 2012, in more than 300 participating locations in 49 States, Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia, and 28 countries;

Whereas National Moth Week is celebrated each summer during the last full week in July; and

Whereas the National Moth Week web site, www.nationalmothweek.org, is filled with information and resources relating to moths: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the last full week of July 2013 as “National Moth Week”; and

(2) recognizes the importance of moths in the United States and the value of National Moth Week for promoting the conservation of moths and increasing the awareness, study, and appreciation of moths, their incredible biodiversity, and their importance to ecosystem health;

(3) applauds National Moth Week and the efforts of participants to increase awareness about the important role of moths and build support for increasing the study, appreciation, and conservation of moths; and

(4) encourages the people of the United States to observe National Moth Week with appropriate activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 71—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF MARCH 4 THROUGH MARCH 8, 2013, AS “MILITARY AND VETERANS CAREGIVER WEEK”

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

S. RES. 71

Whereas more than 2,400,000 members of the Armed Forces have been deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan since October 2001, 6,640 have been killed in action, more than 50,000 have been wounded in action, and 1,715 have undergone an amputation for a battle-related injury;

Whereas the signature wounds of members of the Armed Forces who have served in Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation New Dawn are traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress disorder;

Whereas, between January 1, 2000, and August 20, 2012, 253,330 cases of traumatic brain injury were diagnosed among members of the Armed Forces, and approximately 6,500 cases were classified as severe or penetrating;

Whereas studies have shown that the prevalence of post-traumatic stress disorder among veterans who served in Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom ranges between 15 and 20 percent, and reports from the Department of Veterans Affairs show that 29 percent of veterans who served in Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom and sought health care during fiscal years 2002 through 2012 had post-traumatic stress disorder;

Whereas many of the members of the Armed Forces and veterans who served in Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom and suffered these injuries require assistance from a family caregiver to complete activities of daily living such as bathing, dressing, and feeding, or instrumental activities such as transportation, meal preparation, and health management;

Whereas as many as 1,000,000 spouses, parents, and children of veterans have served or are currently serving as family caregivers to veterans who served in Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom, according to a study of military caregivers conducted by the RAND Corporation;

Whereas section 1672 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Public Law 110-181; 10 U.S.C. 1071 note) introduced an expansion of medical care available to family caregivers, and the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-163) facilitated a new program for access to health insurance, mental health services, caregiver training, and respite care by family caregivers of veterans who served in Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom;

Whereas the program provided under the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-163) is limited to veterans enrolled in the Veterans Health Administration, who sustained a serious injury in the line of duty after September 11, 2001, and who require at least 6 months of personal care services because of an inability to perform activities of daily