

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 168

Commemorating the 62nd anniversary of the Bay of Pigs operation and remembering the members of Brigada de Asalto 2506 (Assault Brigade 2506).

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 20, 2023

Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. CRUZ, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

RESOLUTION

Commemorating the 62nd anniversary of the Bay of Pigs operation and remembering the members of Brigada de Asalto 2506 (Assault Brigade 2506).

Whereas April 17, 2023, marks the 62nd anniversary of the first day of the Bay of Pigs operation, an event held dear in the hearts of many who long for the return of freedom, democracy, and justice to Cuba;

Whereas the Communist dictatorship in Cuba that resulted from the January 1, 1959, revolution in Cuba has systematically denied the Cuban people their most basic human rights and fundamental freedoms;

Whereas, from 1959 until his death in 2016, dictator Fidel Castro, who promised to implement a revolution against tyranny, systematically violated the human rights of the

Cuban people, curtailed freedom of the press, arbitrarily imprisoned and killed an untold number of members of the political opposition in Cuba, and confiscated the properties of citizens of Cuba and the United States;

Whereas Fidel Castro's dictatorship supported terrorism by providing safe haven and logistics to terrorist groups and fugitives throughout the world;

Whereas the men and women participating in the Bay of Pigs operation assumed the title of Brigada de Asalto 2506 (Assault Brigade 2506), which was named after the serial number (2506) of Carlos Rodriguez Santana, a founding member of the brigade who died during training exercises in September 1960;

Whereas Assault Brigade 2506 consisted of individuals, primarily Cuban exiles in the United States, from diverse backgrounds, including doctors, nurses, engineers, architects, priests, cooks, musicians, actors, business owners, barbers, bankers, construction workers, office clerks, students, pilots, and many other individuals representing different sectors in Cuba;

Whereas, on April 17, 1961, approximately 1,400 individuals selflessly volunteered to free the Cuban people from tyranny;

Whereas, in the ensuing days, and in the course of a battle against the Cuban military, which was superior in manpower and firepower, more than 100 men lost their lives;

Whereas the events of April 17 through April 20, 1961, ended with the capture and imprisonment of 1,204 members or more than 75 percent of Assault Brigade 2506;

Whereas a large number of the 1,204 captured members of Assault Brigade 2506 were imprisoned in deplorable con-

ditions for close to 18 months, subjected to harsh and inhumane treatment, and later sentenced without due process to 30 years of imprisonment;

Whereas, in September 1961, the Cuban regime executed 5 members of Assault Brigade 2506 who had been captured during the operation;

Whereas 67 members of Assault Brigade 2506 died in combat, including 4 American pilots and 10 Cuban pilots and navigators, 10 members died while trying to flee Cuba on a fishing boat that drifted in the Gulf of Mexico for almost 15 days, 10 members died while being transported to prison by their Cuban captors inside a sealed truck with limited oxygen, 9 members were executed by firing squads, and 3 members died while in prison due to lack of medical attention;

Whereas one of the most heinous acts relating to the operation was ordered by then Captain Osmany Cienfuegos, who forced nearly 100 male prisoners into a closed trailer in which they were transported for 8 hours with limited oxygen;

Whereas the Cuban regime is a party to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, which require the humane treatment of prisoners of war;

Whereas, in March 1962, as the trial of the captured fighters approached, the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) appealed to Cuban dictator Fidel Castro, asking that the provisions of Article 3 of the Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War, done at Geneva August 12, 1949, be fully applied, and for permission to visit the prisoners, but all the requests went unanswered;

Whereas the 1,113 members of Assault Brigade 2506 who finally returned to the United States after the operation have made significant and valuable contributions to the United States, while never forgetting their beloved homeland;

Whereas, on December 29, 1962, President John Fitzgerald Kennedy was presented with the banner of Assault Brigade 2506 that had reached the shores of Cuba during the operation, and the President pledged, “I can assure you that this flag will be returned to this brigade in a free Havana.”;

Whereas, on April 24, 1986, a joint resolution (Public Law 99–279; 100 Stat. 398) was approved “Commemorating the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Bay of Pigs invasion to liberate Cuba from Communist tyranny.”;

Whereas Cuba’s authoritarian regime continues to arbitrarily detain thousands of critics, activists, and opponents and continues to deny the people of Cuba the ability to vote in free, fair, multiparty elections with independent and opposition candidates;

Whereas Cuba’s authoritarian regime has actively fostered and supported anti-democratic parties and actors throughout the Western Hemisphere, including the regimes of Nicaragua and Venezuela;

Whereas Cuba is designated as a state sponsor of terrorism by the Department of State; and

Whereas the Cuban people continue to struggle and demand respect for democratic values, civil liberties, freedom, and justice: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

1 (1) remembers all the veterans of Brigada de
2 Asalto 2506 (Assault Brigade 2506), both living and
3 deceased;

4 (2) honors the courageous veterans of Assault
5 Brigade 2506 who fought for freedom, including
6 those who suffered torture or perished in the strug-
7 gle for a democratic Cuba;

8 (3) calls on the Government of the United
9 States to continue to support policies that promote
10 the respect for democratic principles, civil liberties,
11 freedom, and justice in Cuba, in a manner consistent
12 with the aspirations of the Cuban people;

13 (4) recognizes that individual members of As-
14 sault Brigade 2506 later joined the United States
15 Armed Forces and fought in the Vietnam war;

16 (5) calls for the international community to
17 support and express solidarity with the Cuban peo-
18 ple in their demands for freedom against the Com-
19 munist regime; and

20 (6) recognizes that many veterans of the Bay of
21 Pigs operation settled across the United States to
22 become productive members of the society of the
23 United States, including public officials and industry
24 leaders.

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