

S. RES. 116

Whereas April 17, 2021, marks the 60th 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 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 conditions 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

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

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) remembers and pays tribute to the brave and courageous members of Brigada de Asalto 2506 (Assault Brigade 2506), both living and deceased;

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

(3) recognizes that individual members of Assault Brigade 2506 later joined the United States Armed Forces and fought in the Vietnam war; and

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

SENATE RESOLUTION 117—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GOOD FRIDAY AGREEMENT, OR THE BELFAST AGREEMENT, AND SUBSEQUENT AGREEMENTS AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR IMPLEMENTATION TO SUPPORT PEACE ON THE ISLAND OF IRELAND

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. COONS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. KAINE, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. REED) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 117

Whereas, on April 10, 1998, the Government of Ireland and the Government of the United Kingdom signed the Good Friday Agreement, also known as the "Belfast Agreement";

Whereas the goals of the Good Friday Agreement were to bring a new era of devolved government and democracy to Northern Ireland, end violence, and ensure peace for the people of the island of Ireland;

Whereas the successful negotiation of the Good Friday Agreement stands as a historic and groundbreaking success that has proven critical to the decades of relative peace that have followed;

Whereas the return to power sharing in 2020 after the collapse of power-sharing institutions in 2017 creates new opportunities for strengthening peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland;

Whereas the agreement between the United Kingdom and the European Union on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union, and the protocol to that agreement on Northern Ireland preserving an open border on the island of Ireland (in this preamble referred to as the "Northern Ireland Protocol"), are intended to protect the peace forged under the Good Friday Agreement;

Whereas, despite the historic progress of the Good Friday Agreement and subsequent agreements, including the Stormont House Agreement agreed to in December 2014, important issues remain unresolved in Northern Ireland, including the passage of a Bill of Rights, securing justice for all victims of violence, including state-sponsored violence, and reducing sectarian divisions and promoting reconciliation;

Whereas section 6 of the Good Friday Agreement ("Rights, Safeguards and Equality of Opportunity") recognizes "the importance of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to linguistic diversity" as part of "the cultural wealth of the island of Ireland" and declares the Government of the United Kingdom will seek ways to encourage the use of and education in the Irish language and provide opportunities for Irish language arts;

Whereas the reintroduction of barriers, checkpoints, or personnel on the island of Ireland, also known as a "hard border", including through the invocation of Article 16 of the Northern Ireland Protocol, would threaten the successes of the Good Friday Agreement;

Whereas the United States Congress played a prominent role in support of negotiations of the Good Friday Agreement and has taken a leading role in promoting peace on the island of Ireland more broadly; and

Whereas Congress greatly values the close relationships the United States shares with both the United Kingdom and Ireland and stands steadfastly committed to supporting the peaceful resolution of any and all political challenges in Northern Ireland: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) urges the United Kingdom and the European Union to support peace on the island of Ireland and the principles, objectives, and commitments of the Good Friday Agreement, also known as the "Belfast Agreement";

(2) expresses support for the full implementation of the Good Friday Agreement and subsequent agreements, including the Stormont House Agreement agreed to in December 2014, as well as the protocol on Northern Ireland to the agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union (in this resolution referred to as the "Northern Ireland Protocol");

(3) congratulates all parties in Northern Ireland for the return in January 2020 to a power-sharing agreement;

(4) urges all parties in Northern Ireland to work collectively to ensure the implementation of all commitments of the Good Friday Agreement and subsequent agreements so that all of the institutions of the Good Friday Agreement can operate successfully and sustainably and that ongoing political challenges can be overcome;

(5) calls for continuing attention and action to resolve the injustices of past violence, including state-sponsored violence;

(6) supports the passage of a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland and the right of all the people on the island of Ireland to self-determine their future as provided for in the Good Friday Agreement;

(7) encourages renewed attention to educational and cultural efforts that will ensure the rich language, literature, and arts of

Northern Ireland endure and are not diminished;

(8) expresses support for the Northern Ireland Protocol and its full implementation, which ensures through international agreement that no "hard border" will be reintroduced on the island of Ireland; and

(9) will insist that any new or amended trade agreements and other bilateral agreements between the Government of the United States and the Government of the United Kingdom take into account, as relevant, conditions requiring that obligations under the Good Friday Agreement be met.

SENATE RESOLUTION 118—HONORING ARMY CHAPLAIN EMIL J. KAPAUN

Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Mr. MORAN, Mr. BLUNT, and Mr. HAWLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 118

Whereas Chaplain (Captain) Emil J. Kapaun was born to parents of German-Bohemian ancestry in the rural farming community of Pilsen, Kansas on April 20, 1916;

Whereas Chaplain Kapaun studied classics and philosophy and graduated from Conception College in Conception, Missouri in June 1936 and Kenrick Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri in 1940;

Whereas Chaplain Kapaun was ordained a Catholic priest of the Diocese of Wichita in 1940;

Whereas Chaplain Kapaun was appointed auxiliary chaplain in 1943 at the Herington Army Airfield near Herington, Kansas;

Whereas, in 1944, Chaplain Kapaun entered the Army Chaplain Corps and, following Army Chaplaincy School at Fort Devens, Massachusetts, and a post at Camp Wheeler Georgia, Chaplain Kapaun served the troops in World War II in the Burma and India Theater until 1946;

Whereas, in 1948, Chaplain Kapaun returned to active duty in the Army Chaplain Corps;

Whereas Chaplain Kapaun mobilized in support of the Korean conflict in 1950, and served as a chaplain with the 1st Cavalry Division in Japan and Korea;

Whereas Chaplain Kapaun was taken as a prisoner of war by Chinese forces on November 2, 1950, during the Battle of Unsan;

Whereas during the fight, which started on November 1, 1950, Chaplain Kapaun moved repeatedly under enemy direct fire to rescue wounded soldiers outside the perimeter of his battalion and successfully—

(1) negotiated with the enemy for the safety of wounded soldiers of the United States;

(2) knocked aside the rifle of a Chinese soldier who was about to execute Staff Sergeant Herbert Miller; and

(3) rejected multiple opportunities for escape and instead volunteered to stay and care for the wounded;

Whereas, during the time Chaplain Kapaun spent in captivity, Chaplain Kapaun frequently risked his life by sneaking around the camp after dark, foraging for food, building fires, caring for the sick, and encouraging his fellow soldiers to sustain their faith and their humanity, and Chaplain Kapaun risked punishment by leading prayers and spiritual services for the other prisoners of war;

Whereas Chaplain Kapaun died of illness and maltreatment on May 23, 1951;

Whereas, in 1953, Chaplain Kapaun's surviving fellow prisoners of war were released and began to share stories of the role of Chaplain Kapaun in their survival;

Whereas, in 1956, Chaplain Kapaun Memorial High School (now known as Kapaun Mt.

Carmel Catholic High School) was opened and named after Chaplain Kapaun;

Whereas, in 1993, Pope John Paul II declared Chaplain Kapaun a Servant of God, the first stage on the path to canonization and the Holy See continues investigations into possible canonization;

Whereas, in 2013, President Barack Obama posthumously awarded Chaplain Kapaun the Medal of Honor;

Whereas, upon bestowing the highest award for valor in the United States military, President Obama stated that Chaplain Kapaun was "an American soldier who didn't fire a gun, but who wielded the mightiest weapon of all: the love for his brothers so powerful that he was willing to die so that they might live";

Whereas, in addition to the Medal of Honor, Chaplain Kapaun has been awarded the—

- (1) Distinguished Service Cross;
- (2) Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device;
- (3) Legion of Merit;
- (4) Prisoner of War Medal;
- (5) Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with 1 Bronze Service Star for Central Burma Campaign;
- (6) World War II Victory Medal;
- (7) Army of Occupation Medal with Japan Clasp;
- (8) Korean Service Medal with 2 Bronze Service Stars;
- (9) National Defense Service Medal; and
- (10) United Nations Service Medal;

Whereas there are more than 7,800 service members who served in the Korean War who remain unaccounted for;

Whereas, in 1956, 867 sets of unidentified remains were interred as Unknowns at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu, Hawaii;

Whereas, in 2019, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency began disinterring 652 sets of unknown Korean War remains at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific; and

Whereas, in 2021, the remains of Chaplain Kapaun were exhumed from the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific and identified using dental records and DNA: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors and recognizes Chaplain (Captain) Emil J. Kapaun for—

(A) his heroic service to the United States of America and the United States Army;

(B) his heroism, patriotism, and selfless service; and

(C) the extraordinary courage, conviction, and faith with which he provided comfort and reassurance to his fellow soldiers;

(2) expresses condolences to the family of Chaplain Emil Kapaun;

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the family of Chaplain Emil Kapaun; and

(4) will never cease in the task of recovering and remembering all prisoners of war and soldiers missing in action from World War II, the Korean conflict, the Vietnam era, hostilities during the Cold War, the Persian Gulf War, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation New Dawn, Operation Inherent Resolve, and other contingency operations taking place in the Middle East since September 11, 2001.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I have 6 requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on Tuesday, March 16, 2021, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 16, 2021, at 2 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 16, 2021, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 16, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 16, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on a nomination.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 16, 2021, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

HONORING ARMY CHAPLAIN EMIL J. KAPAUN

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 118, submitted earlier today.

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 118) honoring Army chaplain Emil J. Kapaun.

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

Mr. PETERS. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 118) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")