

Whereas the United States will host the Ninth Summit of the Americas for the first time since it hosted the inaugural Summit in Miami, Florida in 1994;

Whereas, since 1994, the Summit of the Americas is a valuable forum for democratically elected heads of state and governments of the Western Hemisphere to discuss common policy issues, affirm shared values, and commit to concerted actions at the national and regional level to address the novel and existing challenges facing the Americas;

Whereas the First and Second Summits of the Americas advanced commitments to lower trade barriers, improve transparency and market access, and facilitate economic integration, and, following those Summits, the United States has signed free trade agreements with 12 of the 35 countries in the region;

Whereas, since 2018, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Panama, Suriname, and Uruguay have signed Memorandums of Understanding with the United States under the America Crece Program to leverage private investment in energy and infrastructure projects and advance economic prosperity, security, and good governance;

Whereas, during the 2018 Summit of the Americas, the United States announced additional humanitarian assistance for Venezuelans who have fled their country as a result of the political, economic, and security crises created by the regime of Nicolás Maduro, including support for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) response to assist Venezuelan refugees in Colombia and Brazil;

Whereas Transnational Criminal Organizations (TCOs) and their involvement in money laundering and the trafficking of people, narcotics, and weapons in the region pose complex transnational threats to United States public health and national security, as well as the stability of the Americas, by undermining citizen security, basic human rights, the rule of law, good governance, and economic development;

Whereas the United States has sought to improve regional security through friendly and sustained relationships that build interoperability, readiness, and capability with regional security partners, including through programs such as Plan Colombia, the Merida Initiative, the Central America Regional Security Initiative (CARSI), and the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI);

Whereas the pandemic caused by coronavirus disease 2019 (commonly referred to as “COVID-19”) has had devastating health and socioeconomic consequences for the states and peoples of the Americas that have—

- (1) overwhelmed health systems;
- (2) led to the worsening of economic conditions and contraction of gross domestic product per capita;
- (3) led to an increase in unemployment, especially for individuals working in small- and medium-size businesses and large informal sectors across the region, and a rise in the number of people living in poverty; and
- (4) created conditions that have strengthened the illicit activities of criminal organizations;

Whereas the United States Government remains deeply concerned about the negative, often predatory effects of China’s growing political, economic, military, and technological influence throughout the region, including significant illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing activities in the Southern Atlantic Ocean and Eastern Pacific Ocean and opaque infrastructure investments that impose unsustainable financial

burdens on recipient countries, enable corruption, and undermine good governance;

Whereas the United States Government is deeply concerned about the Government of the Russian Federation’s employment of a wide array of diplomatic, military, intelligence, cyber, misinformation, and commercial tools to undermine democratic systems in the region, including through its deepening political, economic, and security support for the Maduro regime in Venezuela;

Whereas the United States Government is deeply concerned about efforts by the Government of Iran to expand its political, economic, and security presence in the region, including through its deepening ties with the Maduro regime in Venezuela;

Whereas the regimes of Nicolás Maduro in Venezuela, Miguel Díaz-Canel in Cuba, and Daniel Ortega in Nicaragua, have systematically eroded democratic institutions, commit widespread human rights violations, draw lessons from one another to sharpen state-sponsored repression and internal control mechanisms, and receive the support of malign state and non-state actors, which pose a challenge to United States national security and national interests;

Whereas entrenched corruption, linkages between transnational criminal organizations and political actors, and the harassment and murder of journalists, human rights defenders, environmental activists, and civil society leaders in Latin America and the Caribbean weaken citizens’ confidence in democracy and negatively affect United States national interests; and

Whereas weak rule of law, elevated levels of criminal violence, and systemic corruption in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras fuel irregular migration that affects regional stability: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commemorates the occasion of the United States hosting the Ninth Summit of the Americas;

(2) reaffirms the commitment of the United States to promote economic prosperity, security, and democratic governance throughout the Americas; and

(3) calls on the President to lead a strong and coordinated diplomatic effort during the Summit process to ensure the Ninth Summit of the Americas—

(A) strengthens democratic governance by building on the 2018 Lima Commitment to—

(i) reduce bureaucracy;

(ii) strengthen the independence of judiciaries;

(iii) increase transparency through the use of new technologies;

(iv) encourage private sector participation in the formulation of public anti-corruption policies;

(v) protect whistleblowers, journalists, and law enforcement officials;

(vi) work towards preventing regional financial systems from being used to transfer and conceal illicit funds; and

(vii) identify resources to strengthen hemispheric anticorruption mechanisms;

(B) strengthens post-COVID-19 pandemic economic recovery efforts by outlining specific commitments to deepen trade and investment integration throughout the Americas and pursuing effective nearshoring and reshoring initiatives;

(C) builds upon United States efforts to enhance the institutional capacity and technical capabilities of partner countries to strengthen the rule of law, civilian security, respect of human rights, and government transparency;

(D) builds upon United States efforts to enhance regional cooperation to disrupt, degrade, and dismantle malign state and non-state influences, including transnational or-

ganized criminal networks, and terrorist organizations;

(E) reinforces the capacity of member states to—

(i) implement actions and initiatives in support of peaceful and democratic efforts of the people of Cuba, Nicaragua, and Venezuela, who desire to hold free and fair elections and restore democratic order and the rule of law in their respective countries; and

(ii) support the people of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras as they strive to address weak democratic governance and the elevated levels of corruption, violence, and criminality that drive irregular migration; and

(F) explores a comprehensive approach to forced displacement and migration challenges in the Western Hemisphere, takes stock of humanitarian crises and flashpoints in the region, and mobilizes member state commitments to advocate for and support multilateral humanitarian and development responses.

SENATE RESOLUTION 121—HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF GEORGE DANIEL CROWE

Mr. BRAUN (for himself, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. BROWN, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. MARKEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 121

Whereas George Daniel Crowe (referred to in this preamble as “Mr. Crowe”)—

(1) was an extraordinary athlete;

(2) excelled at both basketball and baseball; and

(3) holds the rare status of having played both basketball and baseball at the professional level;

Whereas Mr. Crowe was born in Whiteland, Indiana, on March 22, 1921;

Whereas Mr. Crowe was raised in nearby Franklin, Indiana, where he was a standout on the football, baseball, and basketball teams;

Whereas Mr. Crowe led his basketball team to the 1939 Indiana State championship game, where, although his team lost to Frankfort High School, Mr. Crowe displayed his talents to a State-wide audience and became the first player to ever earn the prestigious distinction of Indiana Mr. Basketball;

Whereas Mr. Crowe earned an athletic scholarship to attend Indiana Central College, known today as the University of Indianapolis, where he played basketball, baseball, and ran track;

Whereas higher education was rare for an African American in the 1930s and 1940s, and Mr. Crowe took advantage of the opportunity to be a student athlete and graduated in 1943;

Whereas, after graduation, Mr. Crowe entered the Army during World War II and served the United States admirably until 1946;

Whereas, following his service to the United States in World War II, Mr. Crowe began playing professional basketball on a series of Negro League basketball teams between 1946 and 1953, including the Los Angeles Red Devils and the New York Renaissance (commonly known as the “Harlem Renaissance”);

Whereas, in 1947, Mr. Crowe joined the New York Black Yankees, which was a baseball team in the Negro Leagues;

Whereas, after joining the New York Black Yankees, Mr. Crowe played 2 professional sports simultaneously;

Whereas, in 1949, 2 years after Jackie Robinson integrated Major League baseball, Mr. Crowe was picked up by the Minor League Hartford Chiefs, where he won the batting title with a .353 average;

Whereas Mr. Crowe was called up by the Boston Braves in 1952 and played in the Major Leagues for 9 years on that team, the Cincinnati Redlegs, and the St. Louis Cardinals;

Whereas, during his Major League baseball career, Mr. Crowe played primarily as a first baseman and a pinch hitter;

Whereas, upon his retirement from Major League baseball, Mr. Crowe held the Major League record of 14 career pinch hit home runs and had a .990 fielding percentage;

Whereas the most successful period of Mr. Crowe's career in the Major Leagues was in 1957, when he hit 31 home runs, and 1958, when he was selected as a National League All Star;

Whereas Mr. Crowe also played winter baseball for the Santurce Crabbers in the Puerto Rico baseball league;

Whereas Mr. Crowe and his teammates on the Santurce Crabbers, who included Willie Mays and Roberto Clemente, won the Caribbean World Series;

Whereas Mr. Crowe was a pioneer in civil rights and quietly but firmly paved the way for wider opportunities in society in the United States by proving his ability as an athlete and student in college and as a professional athlete;

Whereas, in 1946, soon after his discharge from the Army, Mr. Crowe forced the integration of the movie theater in Franklin, Indiana, when he refused to leave his seat on the main floor and move to the designated Negro section in the back of the theater;

Whereas the prominence of Mr. Crowe in the Franklin, Indiana, community and his service in World War II, which was a war against fascism, led the movie theater to be permanently integrated 1 week after Mr. Crowe refused to leave his seat; and

Whereas, after his retirement from professional sports, Mr. Crowe began new careers as an insurance salesman and then a school teacher in New York: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) George Daniel Crowe—

(A) achieved a rarely matched record of athletic excellence at the high school, collegiate, and professional levels; and

(B) set an example for all Hoosiers and people of the United States—

(i) with his dogged determination and hard work;

(ii) by taking advantage of opportunities as they arose; and

(iii) by making the careers of countless people of the United States who followed him possible;

(2) the story of George Daniel Crowe is—

(A) the story of the United States in the 20th century;

(B) a story of overcoming oppression;

(C) a story of demanding what President Lincoln called the "Right to Rise";

(D) a story of developing talent and achieving greatness through hard work; and

(E) a story of trying to leave the world a better place than he found it; and

(3) on March 22, 2021, which is the 100th anniversary of his birth, the Senate recognizes George Daniel Crowe as—

(A) a great Hoosier;

(B) a man of respect and achievement; and

(C) a man whose example can help guide the people of the United States.

ment to the bill H.R. 1276, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish COVID-19 vaccines to certain individuals, and for other purposes.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1400. Mr. PADILLA (for Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. MORAN)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 1276, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish COVID-19 vaccines to certain individuals, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Strengthening and Amplifying Vaccination Efforts to Locally Immunize All Veterans and Every Spouse Act" or the "SAVE LIVES Act".

SEC. 2. AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO FURNISH COVID-19 VACCINE TO CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS NOT ENROLLED IN PATIENT ENROLLMENT SYSTEM OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may furnish a vaccine for COVID-19 to a covered individual during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

(b) PRIORITIZATION.—In furnishing vaccines for COVID-19 under the laws administered by the Secretary, the Secretary shall—

(1) prioritize the vaccination of veterans who are enrolled in the patient enrollment system, veterans who receive hospital care and medical services pursuant to subsection (c)(2) of section 1705 of title 38, United States Code, and accompanying caregivers of such veterans before the vaccination of covered individuals not otherwise described in this paragraph; and

(2) only furnish vaccines for COVID-19 to covered individuals under this section to the extent that such vaccines are available.

(c) TIMING OF VACCINES PROVIDED TO SPOUSES OF VETERANS.—The Secretary may determine the timing for offering a vaccine for COVID-19 to the spouse of a veteran from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(d) VACCINE ALLOCATION.—It is the sense of Congress that, to the extent practicable based on the current national supply chain, the Secretary of Health and Human Services should adjust the allocation for the Department of Veterans Affairs for the vaccine for COVID-19 based on the additional eligibility of covered individuals under this section.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ACCOMPANYING CAREGIVER.—The term "accompanying caregiver" means a caregiver described in subparagraph (D), (E), or (F) of paragraph (2) who is accompanying a veteran who is receiving a vaccine for COVID-19 furnished by the Department.

(2) COVERED INDIVIDUAL.—The term "covered individual" means any of the following individuals:

(A) A veteran who is not eligible to enroll in the patient enrollment system.

(B) A veteran who is eligible for care under section 1724 of title 38, United States Code.

(C) A beneficiary under section 1781 of such title.

(D) A family caregiver of a veteran participating in the program of comprehensive assistance for family caregivers under section 1720G(a) of such title.

(E) A caregiver of a veteran participating in the program of general caregiver support services under section 1720G(b) of such title.

(F) A caregiver of a veteran participating in the Medical Foster Home Program, Bowel and Bladder Program, Home Based Primary Care Program, or Veteran Directed Care Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(G) A spouse of a veteran.

(3) COVERED PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY.—The term "covered public health emergency" means an emergency with respect to COVID-19 declared by a Federal, State, or local authority.

(4) COVID-19.—The term "COVID-19" means the coronavirus disease 2019.

(5) PATIENT ENROLLMENT SYSTEM.—The term "patient enrollment system" means the system of annual patient enrollment of the Department of Veterans Affairs established and operated under section 1705(a) of title 38, United States Code.

(6) VETERAN.—The term "veteran" has the meaning given that term in section 101(2) of title 38, United States Code.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I have 8 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 COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 17, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 17, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 17, 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 Wednesday, March 17, 2021, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 17, 2021, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 17, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 17, 2021, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FISHERIES, WATER, AND WILDLIFE

The Subcommittee on Fisheries, Water, and Wildlife of the Committee

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1400. Mr. PADILLA (for Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. MORAN)) proposed an amend-