

other end of the line to offer hope and counseling. Last Congress, I was able to work with my former colleague Senator Gardner, and Senators BALDWIN and MORAN on legislation to designate the Lifeline as an easy to remember, three-digit number, 988. This common-sense law will make it easier for people across the country to access the Lifeline when they really need it. I am glad that the bill was signed into law last year, paving the way for every state to implement the switch to 9-8-8 by July 2022. This upcoming deadline, however, makes it all the more important that we provide more funding for the Lifeline.

I am pleased to once again have the opportunity to partner with Senator MORAN on suicide prevention efforts. I look forward to working together with our colleagues, as well as stakeholders supporting these efforts, to pass this critical legislation.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 309—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. BRAUN (for himself, Mr. BARASSO, Mr. MARSHALL, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. RISCH, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. HAGERTY, and Mr. ROUNDS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 309

Whereas the United States was founded on principles of religious freedom by the Founders, many of whom were deeply religious;

Whereas the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States embodies principles intended to guarantee freedom of religion through the free exercise thereof and by prohibiting the Government from establishing a religion;

Whereas the Pledge of Allegiance was written by Francis Bellamy, a Baptist minister, and first published in the September 8, 1892, issue of *The Youth's Companion*;

Whereas, in 1954, Congress added the words "under God" to the Pledge of Allegiance;

Whereas, for more than 60 years, the Pledge of Allegiance has included references to the United States flag, to the United States having been established as a union "under God", and to the United States being dedicated to securing "liberty and justice for all";

Whereas, in 1954, Congress believed it was acting constitutionally when it revised the Pledge of Allegiance;

Whereas the Senate of the 117th Congress believes that the Pledge of Allegiance is a constitutional expression of patriotism;

Whereas patriotic songs, engravings on United States legal tender, and engravings on Federal buildings also contain general references to "God";

Whereas, in *Elk Grove Unified School District v. Newdow*, 542 U.S. 1 (2004), the Supreme Court of the United States overturned the decision of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in *Newdow v. U.S. Congress*, 328 F.3d 466 (9th Cir. 2003), a case in which the Ninth Circuit concluded that recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance

by a public school teacher violated the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States;

Whereas the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit subsequently concluded that—

(1) the previous opinion of that court in *Newdow v. U.S. Congress*, 328 F.3d 466 (9th Cir. 2003) was no longer binding precedent;

(2) case law from the Supreme Court of the United States concerning the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States had subsequently changed after the decision in *Elk Grove Unified School District v. Newdow*, 542 U.S. 1 (2004); and

(3) Congress, in passing the new version of the Pledge of Allegiance, had established a secular purpose for the use of the term "under God"; and

Whereas, in light of those conclusions, the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit upheld the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance by public school teachers: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the Pledge of Allegiance has been a valuable part of life for the people of the United States for generations; and

(2) the Senate strongly defends the constitutionality of the Pledge of Allegiance.

SENATE RESOLUTION 310—EXPRESSING SOLIDARITY WITH CUBAN CITIZENS DEMONSTRATING PEACEFULLY FOR FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS, CONDEMNING THE CUBAN REGIME'S ACTS OF REPRESSION, AND CALLING FOR THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF ARBITRARILY DETAINED CUBAN CITIZENS

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. KAINE, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. COONS, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. BROWN, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WARNER, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. WARNOCK, and Mr. LUJÁN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 310

Whereas on July 11, 2021, thousands of Cuban citizens took to the streets to peacefully protest and to call for respect for basic human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the end of the dictatorship in Cuba;

Whereas the demonstrations were the largest protests witnessed on the island in 25 years, with courageous Cuban men, women, and youth taking to the streets in at least 50 different cities and towns across every province to affirm a deep aspiration for democratic change and to denounce the regime's corruption;

Whereas the nationwide protests represent the full diversity of Cuban society, with demonstrators proudly proclaiming "*Patria y Vida*!" (Homeland and Life!) and calling for "*libertad*" (liberty);

Whereas the demonstrations in Cuba follow months of severe shortages of food and basic medicine, frequent power outages, record high rates of transmission of COVID-19, and the Cuban regime's ineffective response, in addition to the Cuban regime's continued repression and arbitrary imprisonment of citizens, peaceful activists, and artists;

Whereas despite the authoritarian regime's blocking of internet service to prevent the spread of information about the demonstrations, Cubans witnessed examples of their

compatriots demanding change in their country and courageously joined the growing protests;

Whereas despite the peaceful nature of the demonstrations, Miguel Díaz-Canel incited violence among Cubans and encouraged his supporters to attack peaceful protestors, declaring in a televised address, "the order to fight has been given – into the streets" and pledged his supporters' lives: "Over our dead bodies. We are prepared to do anything";

Whereas Díaz-Canel has sought to delegitimize peaceful protestors, crudely stating they constitute a small group of "vulgar criminals" that are "paid" to be disruptive;

Whereas Díaz-Canel sought to blame the endemic problems causing so much human suffering by the Cuban people on outside forces instead of on the Cuban regime's longstanding corruption, mismanagement, and theft of public resources;

Whereas the Cuban regime's domestic security apparatus, including military and police, were recorded on video violently repressing peaceful Cuban citizens, including by using live ammunition and attacking journalists;

Whereas numerous reports indicate deaths of and injuries to Cuban protestors at the hands of the regime's security forces, including instances of police firing live ammunition into crowds and at least one documented police beating that led to a civilian death;

Whereas independent Cuban civil society groups have reported that hundreds of individuals have been arrested, detained, or are missing;

Whereas defying regime repression, continued internet shutdowns, and illegal searches of the homes of activists and protestors, Cuban men, women, and youth continued to peacefully protest throughout the island on Monday, July 12, using social media to organize themselves and document acts of regime repression;

Whereas international human rights groups, including Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, have long condemned the Cuban regime for violating human rights and fundamental freedoms;

Whereas for years the Cuban regime has exported its authoritarian methods to Venezuela, sending intelligence personnel to assist Venezuelan security forces as they repressed similar peaceful protests calling for democratic change;

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses its strong solidarity with the people of Cuba in their desire to live in a free and democratic country with uncensored access to information, justice, and economic prosperity;

(2) condemns the violence ordered by Miguel Díaz-Canel against peaceful protestors as violations of internationally recognized human rights that does nothing to address Cuba's challenges;

(3) calls on Cuban forces—

(A) to respect the Cuban people's exercise of freedom of assembly, freedom of expression, and other universal human rights;

(B) to refrain from restricting internet access and connectivity in the country; and

(C) to permit Cuban citizens to freely communicate on digital platforms, as is their fundamental right;

(4) calls for the immediate and unconditional release of all arbitrarily detained Cuban citizens and all Cuban political prisoners;

(5) calls on members of the Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces, the Cuban Ministry of

the Interior, and Cuba's National Revolutionary Police Force to refrain from violently repressing peaceful protesters and committing other human rights violations; and

(6) urges democratic governments and legislatures in Europe, Latin America, and the Caribbean—

(A) to pledge their support for freedom and democracy in Cuba; and

(B) to speak out against the repression of demonstrators in Cuba.

SENATE RESOLUTION 311—CONGRATULATING THE 2021 SCRIPPS NATIONAL SPELLING BEE CHAMPION ZAILA AVANT-GARDE

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

S. RES. 311

Whereas Miss Zaila Avant-garde is a 14-year-old from Harvey, Louisiana;

Whereas Miss Avant-garde is the first winner of the Scripps National Spelling Bee from the State of Louisiana;

Whereas the Scripps National Spelling Bee is the largest and longest-running educational promotion in the United States and is administered by the E.W. Scripps Company and local sponsors, most of whom publish daily and weekly newspapers;

Whereas the 2021 Scripps National Spelling Bee began with competitors from across the United States, American Samoa, the Bahamas, Canada, Europe, Guam, Jamaica, New Zealand, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands, and each competitor had qualified for the contest by winning locally sponsored spelling bees;

Whereas Miss Avant-garde is the first African American to win the Scripps National Spelling Bee;

Whereas Miss Avant-garde has spent most of her days spelling around 13,000 words per day, yet has still found time to become an accomplished basketball player and holds 3 Guinness World Records;

Whereas Miss Avant-garde survived several rounds of fierce competition this year and won the 2021 Scripps National Spelling Bee by correctly spelling “murraya”; and

Whereas the achievement of Miss Avant-garde brings an immense sense of pride to her hometown of Harvey and the entire State of Louisiana: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate congratulates the 2021 Scripps National Spelling Bee champion Zaila Avant-garde.

SENATE RESOLUTION 312—CONGRATULATING THE TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING ON WINNING THE 2021 STANLEY CUP FINAL

Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 312

Whereas, on July 7, 2021, the Tampa Bay Lightning (referred to in this preamble as the “Lightning”) won the 2021 National Hockey League Stanley Cup Final;

Whereas the 2021 Stanley Cup Final is the third Stanley Cup Final won by the Lightning in the 30 years that the franchise has competed in the National Hockey League;

Whereas the 2021 Stanley Cup Final directly follows the victory of the Lightning in the 2020 Stanley Cup Final;

Whereas, en route to the 2021 Stanley Cup Final, the Lightning won the Prince of Wales

Trophy for the fourth time in franchise history by defeating the Florida Panthers, the Carolina Hurricanes, and the New York Islanders;

Whereas the Lightning defeated the 2021 Clarence S. Campbell Bowl champions, the Montreal Canadiens, in the Stanley Cup Final, clinching the series with 4 wins and only 1 loss;

Whereas millions of fans watched the Lightning during the 2021 Stanley Cup playoffs as the franchise won the Stanley Cup Final for the third time;

Whereas Lightning goaltender Andrei Vasilevsky—

(1) led all goaltenders in the 2021 Stanley Cup playoffs with 5 shutouts; and

(2) won the Conn Smythe Trophy, awarded to the most valuable player in the Stanley Cup playoffs;

Whereas Lightning right winger Nikita Kucherov was the leader in points and assists in the 2021 Stanley Cup playoffs; and

Whereas the following entire Lightning roster contributed to the Stanley Cup victory: Alex Barre-Boulet, Erik Cernak, Anthony Cirelli, Fredrik Claesson, Blake Coleman, Ross Colton, Callan Foote, Christopher Gibson, Barclay Goodrow, Yanni Gourde, Victor Hedman, Tyler Johnson, Mathieu Joseph, Boris Katchouk, Alex Killorn, Nikita Kucherov, Patrick Maroon, Ryan McDonagh, Curtis McElhinney, Ondrej Palat, Brayden Point, Jan Rutta, David Savard, Luke Schenn, Mikhail Sergachev, Gemel Smith, Steven Stamkos, Mitchell Stephens, Ben Thomas, Andrei Vasilevsky, and Daniel Walcott: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the Tampa Bay Lightning (referred to in this resolution as the “Lightning”), and the loyal fans of the Lightning, on becoming the 2021 National Hockey League Stanley Cup champions; and

(2) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) the Chairman and Governor of the Lightning, Jeff Vinik;

(B) the Vice President and General Manager of the Lightning, Julien BriseBois; and

(C) the head coach of the Lightning, Jon Cooper.

SENATE RESOLUTION 313—COMMEMORATING THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOURIS RIVER FLOOD IN MINOT, NORTH DAKOTA

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

S. RES. 313

Whereas, in late June 2011, the city of Minot, North Dakota, and surrounding communities were inundated by widespread flooding;

Whereas high soil moisture content, above-average snow pack, and persistent spring and summer precipitation produced record-level flooding throughout the Souris River Basin;

Whereas, in June 2011, the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority informed communities downstream that “reservoirs [had] no capacity to store further inflows”;

Whereas, on June 22, 2011, following continued releases from upstream reservoirs, water began to overtop levees in the city of Minot, resulting in a mandatory evacuation and the displacement of 11,000 Minot residents;

Whereas nearly 11,500 acres in Ward County were covered in 2 to 15 feet of water, impacting nearly 4,800 structures;

Whereas the river's flow peaked at 27,000 cubic feet per second, resulting in almost as

much water moving through Minot in June 2011 as in the entire year of 1976, which was the previous all-time annual flow record;

Whereas, on June 26, 2011, the river crested at 1,561.72 feet above sea level, a Minot record;

Whereas the floodwater destroyed 4,100 homes, 250 businesses, and numerous schools, parks, churches, and other public infrastructure at a cost of as much as \$1,000,000,000;

Whereas floodwater created national security concerns by temporarily blocking access to some intercontinental ballistic missile facilities operated by personnel at Minot Air Force Base;

Whereas the Federal Emergency Management Agency provided more than 1,500 temporary housing units to address the agency's third largest housing mission in its history to date;

Whereas the people of Minot and surrounding communities demonstrated resilience and worked together to help their fellow neighbors in a time of need;

Whereas Federal, State, and local officials and agencies coordinated to provide immediate recovery assistance;

Whereas Congress provided hundreds of millions of dollars in disaster relief and recovery funding to assist the city of Minot and the surrounding region;

Whereas the people of Minot and surrounding communities continue to deal with the effects of the flood, including efforts to construct permanent flood protection in the Minot area; and

Whereas 2021 marks the tenth anniversary of the Souris River flood in Minot, North Dakota: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commemorates the tenth anniversary of the Souris River flood in Minot, North Dakota;

(2) expresses sympathy to people in the Souris River Basin and condolences to the families who lost their homes or businesses;

(3) commends the resilience of the people in the Souris River Basin and their commitment to recovery and rebuilding; and

(4) expresses gratitude and appreciation to State and local leaders, first responders, and the North Dakota National Guard for protecting the people of the Souris River Basin.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I have 9 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 S(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 Wednesday, July 21, 2021, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 21, 2021, at 2:30 p.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, July