

Comptroller General shall submit to Congress a report containing the results of the study conducted under subsection (a), together with recommendations for such legislation and administrative action as the Comptroller General determines appropriate.

## SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

### SENATE RESOLUTION 357—HONORING MISSOURIANS WHO MADE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE IN AFGHANISTAN

Mr. HAWLEY (for himself and Mr. BLUNT) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

S. RES. 357

Whereas Marine Corps Lance Corporal Jared Schmitz of Wentzville, Missouri, was a dear and loving son, brother, and friend, who sought constantly to lift those around him and care for others in need;

Whereas Lance Corporal Schmitz was a devoted patriot who knew that he wanted to serve in the Marine Corps by his sophomore year of high school and trained relentlessly on his own initiative so that he might one day wear the Eagle, Globe, and Anchor;

Whereas Lance Corporal Schmitz enlisted in the Marine Corps before his 18th birthday and went on to serve with gallantry as a Marine Corps infantryman, upholding the standards and traditions of all the brave service members from the State of Missouri who came before him;

Whereas Lance Corporal Schmitz went to Kabul, Afghanistan, in August 2021 and, despite the risks, demonstrated heroic commitment to supporting the evacuation of citizens of the United States, allies of the United States, partners of the United States, and innocent civilians;

Whereas, on August 26, 2021, at just 20 years of age, while serving alongside his fellow citizens to provide safe passage to those in need, Lance Corporal Schmitz made the ultimate sacrifice at the international airport in Kabul, giving his life so that others might live; and

Whereas Lance Corporal Schmitz was the last of the 56 Missourians who made the ultimate sacrifice as part of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Freedom's Sentinel and whose names shall not be forgotten, including—

- (1) Christopher Michael Allgaier;
- (2) Michael Chad Bailey;
- (3) Michael Joe Beckerman;
- (4) Brian Jay Bradbury;
- (5) Paul Douglas Carron;
- (6) Jacob Russell Carver;
- (7) Joseph Brian Cemper;
- (8) Robert Keith Charlton;
- (9) Richard Michael Crane;
- (10) Robert Wayne Crow, Jr.;
- (11) Justin Eric Culbreth;
- (12) Robert Gene Davis;
- (13) Edward Fred Dixon III;
- (14) Jason David Fingar;
- (15) James Matthew Finley;
- (16) Zachary Michael Fisher;
- (17) Jacob Rudeloff Fleischer;
- (18) Blake Wade Hall;
- (19) Nicholas Joel Hand;
- (20) James Warren Harrison, Jr.;
- (21) Jonathon Michael Dean Hostetter;
- (22) James Roger Ide V.;
- (23) Issac Brandon Jackson;
- (24) Christopher M. Katzenberger;
- (25) Jeremy Andrew Katzenberger;
- (26) William Jo Kerwood;
- (27) Daniel Leon Kisling, Jr.;

- (28) Denis Deleon Kisseloff;
- (29) Donald Matthew Marler;
- (30) Matthew David Mason;
- (31) Richard Lewis McNulty III;
- (32) Bradley Louis Melton;
- (33) James Douglas Mowris;
- (34) Michael Robert Patton;
- (35) Joseph Michael Peters;
- (36) Robert Wayne Pharris;
- (37) Ricky Linn Richardson, Jr.;
- (38) Charles Montague Sadell;
- (39) Charles Ray Sanders, Jr.;
- (40) Ronald Wayne Sawyer;
- (41) Patrick Wayne Schimmel;
- (42) Jared Marcus Schmitz;
- (43) Roslyn Littman Schulte;
- (44) Billy Joe Siercks;
- (45) Adam Olin Smith;
- (46) Tyler James Smith;
- (47) Christopher Glenn Stark;
- (48) Sean Patrick Sullivan;
- (49) Philip James Svitak;
- (50) Phillip David Vinnedge;
- (51) Matthew Herbert Walker;
- (52) Jeffrey Lee White, Jr.;
- (53) Matthew Willard Wilson;
- (54) Vincent Cortez Winston, Jr.;
- (55) Sterling William Wyatt; and
- (56) Gunnar William Zwilling: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

- (1) Marine Corps Lance Corporal Jared Schmitz and his fellow Missourians who made the ultimate sacrifice during the war in Afghanistan represent the very best of the State of Missouri and the United States; and
- (2) the United States honors those brave service members and their families and shall never forget the services they rendered and sacrifices they made in the defense of their grateful Nation.

### SENATE RESOLUTION 358—HONORING MR. STEVE VERETT FOR MORE THAN 24 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE COTTON INDUSTRY AND TO PLAINS COTTON GROWERS, INC.

Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. CRUZ) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 358

Whereas the Texas High Plains region is one of the largest cotton-producing regions in the world, and the sale of cotton brings more than \$2.2 billion annually to the Texas economy;

Whereas, since 1956, Plains Cotton Growers, Inc., has provided premier service and support to the cotton industry in the High Plains region on matters including research, market development, and public policy at both the State and Federal levels;

Whereas Steve Verett has served as the chief executive officer since 1997, being only the third person to hold this role since Plains Cotton Growers, Inc.'s formation in 1956;

Whereas throughout his 24 years of service, Steve Verett's leadership has established an environment that encourages organizational staff and volunteer leaders to continually find ways to improve the organization in order to meet the unique challenges that face the region's cotton economy; and

Whereas Steve Verett has been a dedicated policy advocate for Plains Cotton Growers, Inc., and the cotton industry, working on countless legislative and regulatory efforts, including the development of four farm bills, Federal crop insurance reform, and numerous ad hoc assistance programs, and one of

the most notable efforts where he played a central role was getting cotton back into title I of the 2018 Farm Bill: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) commends Steve Verett for his lifelong dedication and service to the cotton industry and to Plains Cotton Growers, Inc.;

(2) recognizes Steve Verett for his considerable achievements during his tenure as chief executive officer over the last 24 years with Plains Cotton Growers, Inc.; and

(3) congratulates Steve Verett on his retirement and extends to him best wishes in all his future endeavors.

### SENATE RESOLUTION 359—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE SHOULD DESIGNATE THE AFGHAN TALIBAN AS A FOREIGN TERRORIST ORGANIZATION, FREEZE ALL ASSETS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF AFGHANISTAN HELD IN THE UNITED STATES, AND USE ALL AUTHORITY AND INFLUENCE OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO PROHIBIT THE DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS TO THE AFGHAN TALIBAN BY OTHER COUNTRIES AND INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Mr. GRAHAM (for himself and Mr. BURR) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 359

Whereas the designation of an organization as a Foreign Terrorist Organization "play[s] a critical role in our fight against terrorism and [is] an effective means of curtailing support for terrorist activities", according to the Department of State;

Whereas, under section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189), the Secretary of State may designate an organization as a Foreign Terrorist Organization if the organization is a foreign organization, the organization engages in terrorist activity or retains the capability and intent to engage in terrorist activity or terrorism, and the terrorist activity or terrorism of the organization threatens the security of United States nationals or the national security of the United States;

Whereas, as of August 2021, there are 72 designated Foreign Terrorist Organizations, including radical Islamic terror groups such as Al-Qaida, which was designated as a Foreign Terrorist Organization in 1999;

Whereas, prior to the September 11, 2001, attacks on the United States, the Afghan Taliban provided a safe haven for Al-Qaida to plan, train, and operate freely;

Whereas, following those attacks on the United States, which killed almost 3,000 people, the Afghan Taliban continued to support Al-Qaida;

Whereas Al-Qaida first pledged allegiance to the Afghan Taliban in the 1990s and have reaffirmed their loyalty to the Afghan Taliban repeatedly since 2001;

Whereas, since the early 1990s, the Afghan Taliban have been responsible for the deaths of countless innocent civilians in Afghanistan, terrorizing the countryside and the cities alike;

Whereas the United Nations report of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team released in June 2021 stated that "the [Afghan] Taliban and Al-Qaida remain closely aligned and show no indication

of breaking ties", and "Al-Qaida is resident in at least 15 Afghan provinces";

Whereas, according to the Afghanistan Study Group, "the [Afghan] Taliban have fallen short of their commitments: they have failed to fulfill their guarantee that they will not 'cooperate with groups or individuals threatening the security of the United States and its allies' and will 'prevent them from recruiting, training, and fundraising and will not host them'";

Whereas the Afghan Taliban have continued their terrorist actions through targeted assassinations of former Afghan leaders, prominent civilian leaders, judges, journalists, and human rights advocates;

Whereas an Afghanistan under Afghan Taliban control will result in further oppression of the Afghan people, including women and girls, and the creation of a safe haven for radical Islamic terror groups, which will result in the United States homeland being less safe;

Whereas the threat to the United States homeland has greatly increased now that the Afghan Taliban have taken control of Afghanistan;

Whereas, on September 13, 2021, Secretary of State Antony Blinken testified before the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives that "the [Afghan] Taliban has been designated as a terrorist organization";

Whereas it is critical that all elements of United States national power be used to prohibit the Afghan Taliban from using Afghanistan as a base from which radical Islamic terror organizations can strike the United States homeland, as they did on September 11, 2001;

Whereas the Afghan Taliban share an ideology and interact closely with designated Foreign Terrorist Organizations, including Al-Qaida in the Indian Subcontinent, the Haqqani Network, and Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan;

Whereas the newly formed Afghan Taliban Government includes in its senior ranks individuals subject to sanctions imposed by the United Nations and leaders of the Haqqani Network, all of whom are hostile to the United States;

Whereas Sirajuddin Haqqani, the leader of the Haqqani Network, which has targeted and killed United States citizens, has been named as the acting Interior Minister of Afghanistan;

Whereas Sirajuddin Haqqani is listed on the Most Wanted list of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Rewards for Justice program of the Department of State is offering a reward of up to \$10,000,000 for information leading to his arrest;

Whereas Khalil al-Rahman Haqqani, the uncle of Sirajuddin Haqqani and a specially designated global terrorist under Executive Order 13224 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to blocking property and prohibiting transactions with persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism) for whom the Rewards for Justice program of the Department of State is offering a reward of \$5,000,000 for information leading to his arrest, has been named acting Minister of Refugees of Afghanistan;

Whereas the United States Government must do everything possible to limit the influence of the Afghan Taliban regime, including denying the regime access to all money held by the United States Government, and should pressure other countries to do the same;

Whereas the Biden administration should use all authority and influence to prohibit international institutions and organizations from distributing funds within the jurisdiction of those institutions and organizations to the Afghan Taliban regime; and

Whereas the Biden administration should designate the takeover of Afghanistan by the Afghan Taliban as a coup d'état, and all foreign assistance to Afghanistan, including funds administered by United States Agency for International Development, should be withheld: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) stands with the Afghan people who are now living under the brutal Afghan Taliban regime;

(2) calls upon the Secretary of State to designate the Afghan Taliban as a Foreign Terrorist Organization;

(3) declares that the takeover of Afghanistan by the Afghan Taliban should be designated as a coup d'état;

(4) states that the United States Government must deny the Afghan Taliban regime access to funds held by the United States Government and work to ensure other countries do the same; and

(5) calls upon the United States Government to use all authority and influence to encourage international institutions and organizations to deny the Afghan Taliban regime access to funds held within the jurisdiction of those institutions and organizations.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 360—CELEBRATING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF UKRAINE FROM THE FORMER SOVIET UNION

Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. JOHNSON, and Mr. DURBIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

##### S. RES. 360

Whereas, on January 21, 1990, more than 300,000 Ukrainians called for unity and independence from the Soviet Union by forming a human chain between the cities of Kyiv and Ivano-Frankivsk;

Whereas, on August 24, 1991, the elected Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine declared the independence of Ukraine from the Soviet Union with an overwhelming majority of the vote;

Whereas, on December 1, 1991, more than 90 percent of Ukrainian citizens voted in a national referendum in support of independence, with majorities in every region;

Whereas, on February 8, 1994, Ukraine was the first member state of the Commonwealth of Independent States to join the Partnership for Peace program of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and has since deepened its relationship with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, recognized as an Enhanced Opportunities Partner;

Whereas, on November 22, 2004, Ukrainians peacefully took to the streets in protest of a fraudulent presidential election, beginning the Orange Revolution and resulting in new elections under free and fair conditions,

Whereas, on November 21, 2013, the Euromaidan protests began, resulting in the Revolution of Dignity and the removal of President Viktor Yanukovich by the Verkhovna Rada;

Whereas, on February 20, 2014, the Russian Federation invaded the independent state of Ukraine, and Ukraine continues to confront malign Russian activity, including the ongoing occupation of the Crimea region, conflict in the Donbas region, and threats to freedom of navigation in the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov;

Whereas Ukraine has made significant progress on defense reforms and has deployed in numerous conflicts with the North Atlan-

tic Treaty Organization in support of allied and coalition operations;

Whereas the United States-Ukraine Trade and Investment Council continues its mission of reducing trade barriers in the bilateral relationship, and Ukraine continues to seek economic alignment with Europe and the West; and

Whereas Ukraine has continued to progress on a path toward democracy and has prioritized closer engagement with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the European Union: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the courage and resolve shown by the Ukrainian people in their pursuit of sovereignty and democracy;

(2) remembers the Euromaidan demonstrations of November 2013 as a major step forward in the journey of Ukraine toward democracy;

(3) condemns the illegal military invasion and occupation of Crimea by the Russian Federation in 2014 and the violence fomented by Russian proxies in eastern Ukraine, two active conflicts that continue in 2021;

(4) affirms the Crimea Declaration issued and announced by the Department of State on July 24, 2018, which rejects the illegal annexation of Crimea by the Russian Federation and pledges to maintain that position until the territorial integrity of Ukraine is restored;

(5) applauds the progress that the Government of Ukraine has made in aligning with Euro-Atlantic norms and standards and improving military combat readiness and interoperability with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization;

(6) encourages the Government of Ukraine to continue implementing crucial reforms to fight corruption, build strong and free markets, and strengthen democracy and the rule of law;

(7) affirms the unwavering commitment of the United States Government to support the continuing efforts of the Government of Ukraine to restore Ukraine's territorial integrity by providing consistent political and diplomatic support and additional lethal and non-lethal security assistance to strengthen the defense capabilities of Ukraine on land and sea and in the air;

(8) condemns the ongoing malign activities carried out by the Russian Federation against Ukraine and continues to call upon the Government of the Russian Federation to immediately cease all activity that seeks to undermine Ukraine and destabilize Europe;

(9) calls upon the United States Government and its international allies and partners to increase sanctions pressure against the Russian Federation until the Russian Federation upholds its international obligations to respect the territorial integrity of Ukraine, including obligations under the Memorandum on security assurances in connection with Ukraine's accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, signed at Budapest December 5, 1994, and the Minsk agreements agreed to in 2014 and 2015;

(10) congratulates the people of Ukraine on the announcement on January 6, 2019, of autocephaly for an independent Orthodox Church of Ukraine, which marked an important milestone in Ukraine's pursuit of its own future free from Kremlin influence;

(11) celebrates 3 decades of Ukrainian independence and the strong partnership between the peoples and Governments of the United States and Ukraine; and

(12) welcomes the September 1, 2021, visit to Washington, D.C., by President of Ukraine Volodymyr Oleksandrovych Zelensky at the invitation of President Joseph R. Biden to