

Chauncey Spencer and Dale White from Chicago to Washington, DC, to campaign for an end to racial segregation in aviation;

Whereas the Tuskegee Army Airfield, after which the Tuskegee Airmen were named, became a vital center for Black American servicemembers to train as mechanics, control tower operators, and pilots of military aircrafts, launching the careers of many notable Black aviators, including General Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., Amelia Jones, Linkwood Williams, Lieutenant Colonel Lee A. Archer, Major Charles Hall, Brigadier General Charles McGee, and many others;

Whereas the “Red Tails” of the 99th Fighter Squadron, and later the 332d Fighter Group known as the “Tuskegee Airmen”, made pioneering contributions to the United States war effort during World War II and the subsequent drive to end racial segregation in the United States Armed Forces;

Whereas, in 1958, Ruth Carol Taylor became the first Black regional flight attendant in the United States;

Whereas, in 1956, Patricia Banks-Edmiston filed, and, in 1960, ultimately won a discrimination case against Capital Airlines, paving the way for her to become the first Black commercial flight attendant in the United States;

Whereas these historic firsts opened the skies for Black flight attendants, including Joan Dorsey, Diane Hunter, Patricia Grace Murphy, Undra Mays, Sheila Nutt, and Margaret Grant;

Whereas Oscar Wayman Holmes was the first Black air traffic controller and served as the first Black aircraft pilot and Black commissioned officer in the United States Navy, and, in 1971, Eleanor Williams became the first Black woman air traffic controller;

Whereas Black scientists have played an integral role in the United States, reaching the stars through the brilliance and fortitude of historically overlooked and unappreciated figures, including Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughn, and Mary Jackson, whose contributions in astrophysics allowed the United States to send individuals into space;

Whereas Black Americans finally soared amongst the stars when Guion “Guy” Bluford and Mae Jemison became the first Black American man and woman, respectively, to venture into space;

Whereas the research of Black Americans like physician Vance H. Marchbanks and psychophysicist Patricia Cowings made it safer for astronauts to travel to space;

Whereas Black American inventors helped revolutionize air and space travel, including Charles W. Chappelle designing a long-distance airplane, Gladys West contributing to the development of the Global Positioning System (GPS), George Robert Carruthers creating technology that allowed for photography in space, and Lonnie Johnson creating the power source for the Galileo mission to Jupiter for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration;

Whereas, on February 12, 2009, on a flight from Atlanta to Nashville, Captain Rachelle Jones Kerr, First Officer Stephanie Grant, and flight attendants Robin Rogers and Diana Galloway, made history as the first all-female, all-Black American flight crew;

Whereas Casey Grant, an author, an aviator, and a pioneer in her own right as 1 of the earliest Black flight attendants, has made it her mission to honor the legacy and contributions of Black pioneers in aviation through her books, entitled “Stars in the Sky” and “Stars and Beyond”, and her efforts to introduce a new generation of young Black individuals across the United States and in Ghana to the field of aviation;

Whereas organizations, including the Organization of Black Aerospace Professionals,

the Black Aviation Airline Pioneers, the Sisters of the Skies, the Bessie Coleman Aviation All-Stars, the Black Flight Attendants of America, Inc., and more continue to preserve the legacy of Black Americans in aviation;

Whereas Black Americans have long served in every aspect of aviation, from skycaps, who greet travelers arriving at the airport, and ticketing agents, who ensure the itineraries of travelers are in order, to ground crew, mechanics, and many others, who make the aviation industry safe and reliable;

Whereas the Federal Aviation Administration provides opportunities to eligible students from historically underrepresented backgrounds in the fields of aviation and aeronautics, and science, technology, engineering, and math (referred to in this preamble as “STEM”) through the STEM Aviation and Space Education Program by recruiting candidates from historically Black colleges and universities for programs such as the Minority Serving Institutions Intern Program; and

Whereas public and private sector efforts to recruit, retain, and promote talented Black Americans through increased emphasis on intentional diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives, programs, and commitments, as well as investments in programs that expose underrepresented groups to careers in aviation, will ultimately help diversify the workforce for decades to come: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates February 16, 2023, as “International Black Aviation Professionals Day”;

(2) encourages the observation of “International Black Aviation Professionals Day” through the recognition and celebration of the contributions of Black aviation professionals; and

(3) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States—

(A) to recognize the stories and contributions of Black American aviation professionals who broke barriers, innovated, and took aviation to greater heights;

(B) to provide an enhanced curriculum in schools, libraries, and other places of learning to educate all individuals of the United States with respect to the contributions of Black aviation pioneers; and

(C) to support greater opportunities for Black Americans in all areas of aviation.

SENATE RESOLUTION 74—CON- DEMNING THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN’S STATE-SPONSORED PER- SECUTION OF THE BAHÁ’Í MIN- ORITY AND ITS CONTINUED VIOLATION OF THE INTER- NATIONAL COVENANTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. KELLY, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. KAINE, Mr. COONS, Mr. WELCH, Mr. BRAUN, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 74

Whereas, in 1982, 1984, 1988, 1990, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1996, 2000, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2009, 2012, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2020, and 2022, Congress

declared that it deplored the religious persecution by the Government of Iran of the Baha’i community and would hold the Government of Iran responsible for upholding the rights of all Iranian nationals, including members of the Baha’i faith;

Whereas, since 1979, Iranian authorities have killed or executed more than 200 Baha’i leaders, and more than 10,000 Baha’is have been dismissed from government and university jobs;

Whereas, on December 15, 2022, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution (A/C.3/77/L.34) criticizing Iran for human rights abuses and calling on Iran to carry out wide-ranging reforms, including—

(1) to end its “continuing disregard for protections under Iranian law or internationally recognized safeguards relating to the imposition of the death penalty” and “to commute the sentences for child offenders on death row”;

(2) “to ensure, in law and in practice, that no one is subjected to torture or other cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment”;

(3) “to cease the widespread and systematic use of arbitrary arrests and detention”;

(4) “to release persons detained for the exercise of their human rights and fundamental freedoms”;

(5) “to address the poor conditions of prisons”;

(6) “to eliminate, in law and in practice, all forms of systemic discrimination and other human rights violations against women and girls”;

(7) to cease “the increased harassment, intimidation, persecution, arbitrary arrest and detention of, and incitement to hatred that leads to violence against, persons belonging to recognized and unrecognized religious minorities, including Christians (particularly converts from Islam), Gonabadi Dervishes, Jews, Sufi Muslims, Sunni Muslims, Yarsanis, Zoroastrians, and, in particular, Baha’is, who have been subjected to a sudden increase in persecution, who have faced increasing restrictions and systemic persecution by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran on account of their faith and have been reportedly subjected to mass arrests and lengthy prison sentences, as well as the arrest of prominent members and increased confiscation and destruction of property”;

(8) “to release all religious practitioners imprisoned for their membership in or activities on behalf of a minority religious group, to cease the desecration of cemeteries and to ensure that everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief”;

Whereas, in the 2022 Annual Report of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom issued in April 2022, it is reported that—

(1) the Government of Iran “arrested scores of Baha’is across Iran”, many of whom “were held incommunicado or taken to undisclosed locations”;

(2) “Iranian universities continued to deny education to Baha’is on account of their faith”;

(3) government agents “closed six Baha’i businesses”;

(4) government officials “demolished the homes of three Baha’is without warning”;

and

(5) the Government of Iran “announced the auction of thirteen Baha’i farms”;

Whereas the Iran section of the Department of State’s 2021 Report on International Religious Freedom issued in June 2022 provides, in part—

(1) “Authorities continued to confiscate Baha’i properties as part of an ongoing state-led campaign of economic persecution against Baha’is.”;

(2) “Authorities reportedly continued to deny the Baha’i, Sabean-Mandaean, and Yarsani religious communities, as well as members of other unrecognized religious minorities, access to education and government employment unless they declared themselves as belonging to one of the country’s recognized religions on their application forms.”; and

(3) “Government officials continued to disseminate anti-Baha’i and antisemitic messages using traditional and social media.”;

Whereas, in response to a surge in persecution in June and July 2022, involving the subjection of over 100 Baha’is to arrests, ar-raignments, sentencing, and raids on their homes and businesses across Iran, including the sentencing in June of 26 individuals in the city of Shiraz to a combined total of 85 years in prison, the Department of State’s Office of International Religious Freedom issued a statement on August 2, 2022, indicating that “[a]mid a continued rise in arrests, sentences, and imprisonments, the U.S. urges Iran to halt its ongoing oppression of the Baha’i community and honor its international obligations to respect the right of all Iranians to freedom of religion or belief”;

Whereas, on November 21, 2022, Mahvash Sabet and Fariba Kamalabadi, 2 former members of the informal 7-person leadership group of the Baha’is of Iran, who each served 10-year sentences from 2008 to 2018 and have been detained since July 31, 2022, in Evin prison, were sentenced to 10 years in prison each after a summary trial lasting 1 hour;

Whereas, on December 11, 2022, the Baha’i International Community organization stated that “Dr. Shirin Ebadi, the Nobel laureate and defence lawyer for Mahvash and Fariba during their first trial, said in 2008 that ‘not a shred of evidence’ was offered to prove the national security charges or other allegations. Nor was any new evidence forthcoming at this latest trial”;

Whereas, on December 11, 2022, the Baha’i International Community organization reported, “More than 320 Baha’is have been affected by individual acts of persecution since the arrest of Mahvash and Fariba. Dozens were arrested at various points in Shiraz, across Mazandaran province, and elsewhere throughout the country. Homes owned by Baha’is in the village of Roshankouh were demolished. Government plans to tar the Baha’is through hate speech and propaganda were also exposed. And at least 90 Baha’is are currently in prison or subject to degrading ankle-band monitoring.”;

Whereas Iran is a member of the United Nations and a signatory to both the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, among other international human rights treaties, without reservation;

Whereas section 105 of the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 (22 U.S.C. 8514) authorizes the President to impose sanctions on individuals who are “responsible for or complicit in, or responsible for ordering, controlling, or otherwise directing, the commission of serious human rights abuses against citizens of Iran or their family members on or after June 12, 2009”; and

Whereas the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-158) amends and expands the authorities established under the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-195) to sanction Iranian human rights abusers: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the Government of Iran’s state-sponsored persecution of the Baha’i minority in Iran and the continued violation of

the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

(2) calls on the Government of Iran—

(A) to immediately release the imprisoned or detained Baha’is and all other prisoners held solely on account of their religion;

(B) to end its state-sponsored campaign of hate propaganda against the Baha’is; and

(C) to reverse state-imposed policies denying Baha’is and members of other religious minorities equal opportunities to higher education, earning a livelihood, due process under the law, and the free exercise of religious practices;

(3) calls on the President and the Secretary of State, in cooperation with responsible nations, to immediately condemn the Government of Iran’s continued violation of human rights, and demand the immediate release of prisoners held solely on account of their religion; and

(4) urges the President and the Secretary of State to utilize available authorities to impose sanctions on officials of the Government of Iran and other individuals directly responsible for serious human rights abuses, including abuses against the Baha’i community of Iran.

SENATE RESOLUTION 75—RE-AFFIRMING THE STATE OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH AS INDIAN TERRITORY AND CON-DEMNING THE PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF CHINA’S PROVOCATIONS IN SOUTH ASIA

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. HAGERTY, and Mr. CORNYN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 75

Whereas, since the Sino-Indian war of 1962, the United States has recognized the McMahon Line as the international boundary between the People’s Republic of China and the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh;

Whereas the United States recognizes the state of Arunachal Pradesh not as disputed territory but as an integral part of the Republic of India, and this recognition is not qualified in any way;

Whereas the Government of the People’s Republic of China claims Arunachal Pradesh as its own territory, which it calls “South Tibet”, and has invoked these claims as part of its increasingly aggressive and expansionist policies;

Whereas, in December 2021, the People’s Republic of China’s Ministry of Civil Affairs published a detailed map of the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh which assigned Mandarin-language names to 15 geographic features, including eight residential settlements, four mountain peaks, two rivers, and one mountain pass, as well as the names of the administrative regions where each of these are located;

Whereas, in December 2022, People’s Republic of China and Indian troops engaged in a skirmish in Arunachal Pradesh along the Line of Actual Control, the biggest clash in the Eastern Sector in six years;

Whereas the People’s Liberation Army engaged in provocative moves in the Western Sector along the Line of Actual Control starting in April 2020, including increasing troop deployments, building new infrastructure in contested areas, and harassing Indian patrols, particularly around the Dapsang Plains, Galwan Valley, Hot Springs, and Pangong Lake;

Whereas these provocations by the People’s Republic of China upended then-im-

proving India-China relations and ultimately led to the Galwan Valley clash in June 2020, which resulted in the death of 20 Indian soldiers;

Whereas the People’s Republic of China has constructed two Chinese villages close to the Line of Actual Control near Arunachal Pradesh and expanded its territorial claims in Bhutanese territory in the Eastern Sector;

Whereas Arunachal Pradesh contains the Buddhist town of Tawang, home to the revered Tawang Monastery and is the birthplace of the sixth Dalai Lama, Tsangyang Gyatso;

Whereas the People’s Republic of China has raised diplomatic objections to visits to Arunachal Pradesh by the Dalai Lama and other leaders and has refused to grant residents of the Indian state visas for travel to China;

Whereas the provocations by the People’s Republic of China impede poverty alleviation and economic development in Arunachal Pradesh, where nearly 25 percent of the population lives in multidimensional poverty according to India’s 2021 National Multidimensional Poverty Index, leading many international donors to be cautious of providing assistance due to the state’s perceived status as disputed territory;

Whereas the Government of India has increased its funding for border infrastructure to improve accessibility in Arunachal Pradesh, as well as for village infrastructure, housing, tourist centers, road connectivity, and decentralized renewable energy production through India’s Vibrant Villages program;

Whereas the Government of India has taken steps to defend itself from aggression and security threats from the People’s Republic of China, including through securing its telecommunications infrastructure and conducting investment screening;

Whereas it is in the interest of the United States to work both bilaterally with India through our Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership, as well as multilaterally through the Quad with Japan and Australia, and through the I2U2 with Israel and the United Arab Emirates;

Whereas there is significant and continuing progress in the U.S.-India Major Defense Partnership, including ambitions for building an advanced and comprehensive defense partnership in which the armed forces of the United States and India coordinate across all domains; and

Whereas the Government of India is playing a significant leadership role on the global stage, including as part of its G20 presidency in 2023: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) unequivocally recognizes the state of Arunachal Pradesh as an integral part of the Republic of India and supports the country’s sovereignty and territorial integrity;

(2) condemns the People’s Republic of China’s use of military force to change the status quo along the Line of Actual Control, as well as additional provocations including the construction of villages in contested areas, expansion of territorial claims in Bhutan, and publication of maps assigning Mandarin-language names to cities and features in the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh;

(3) commends the Government of India for taking steps to defend itself against aggression and security threats from the People’s Republic of China, including through securing its telecommunications infrastructure, examining its procurement processes and supply chains, implementing investment screening standards, and expanding its cooperation with Taiwan in public health and other sectors;