

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I rise to introduce the Everett Alvarez, Jr., Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2023. This bipartisan legislation would award a Congressional Gold Medal to Everett Alvarez, Jr., in recognition of his service to the Nation.

This legislation would honor Navy Commander Everett Alvarez, Jr., the second longest held POW in American history, with a Congressional Gold Medal.

On August 5, 1964, while flying Operation Pierce Arrow, Commander Alvarez's A-4 Skyhawk was shot down, and he became the first aviator captured in Vietnam. He spent 8 years and 6 months in captivity, becoming the second longest held prisoner of war in U.S. history. While being held in Vietnam, Alvarez crossed paths with the late Senator John McCain, who was also being held as a POW at the Hỏa Lò prison, Hanoi Hilton.

Despite facing torture, isolation, and starvation, he encouraged and inspired fellow POWs to "Return with Honor" by not cooperating with the enemy and remaining loyal to the United States. Following his release and hospitalization, Commander Alvarez resumed his naval service, completing a 20-year career with the Navy and retiring in June 1980.

Our bill would recognize his incredible sacrifice by awarding him with the highest award that Congress can bestow.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of Commander Alvarez's release from captivity in Vietnam. It is time that Congress recognizes the second longest held prisoner of war in American history for his enduring commitment to the United States.

I would like to thank my colead, Senator LUMMIS, for her support to ensure we properly recognize, on a bipartisan basis, the profound impact of Commander Alvarez's service and support for other prisoners of war. I also thank Representatives PANETTA and FALLON for introducing companion legislation in the House of Representatives.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to enact the Everett Alvarez, Jr. Congressional Gold Medal Act as quickly as possible.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 91—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE ON THE VALUE OF A TAX AGREEMENT WITH TAIWAN

Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. Kaine, Mr. Young, Mr. Coons, and Mr. Romney) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 91

Whereas Taiwan is a democratic success story, an economic success story, a key part of global technology supply chains, and a close security partner of the United States;

Whereas the United States has pursued a robust unofficial partnership with Taiwan within the context of the current one-China policy of the United States;

Whereas the Taiwan Relations Act (22 U.S.C. 3301 et seq.) has played an important role in promoting democracy and prosperity in Taiwan, peace and security in the Taiwan Strait, and close relations between the United States and Taiwan since 1979;

Whereas Taiwan is the eighth-largest trading partner of the United States, United States exports of goods and services to Taiwan support at least 188,000 American jobs, and Taiwan's cumulative investment in the United States is at least \$13,700,000,000;

Whereas the United States has ongoing economic dialogues with Taiwan that cover a range of trade, technology, and investment issues through the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement Council led by the United States Trade Representative, the U.S.-Taiwan Economic Prosperity Partnership Dialogue led by the Department of State, and the Technology, Trade, and Investment Collaboration framework led by the Department of Commerce;

Whereas the Biden Administration announced the "U.S.-Taiwan Initiative on 21st Century Trade" on June 1, 2022;

Whereas the United States has income tax treaties with 66 countries, including the People's Republic of China, and has agreements with other parties, including Taiwan, related to taxation, such as facilitating implementation of the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act;

Whereas Taiwan is the United States' largest trading partner with whom we do not have an income tax treaty;

Whereas Taiwan has income tax agreements with 34 countries, including countries that have trade agreements with the United States and do not maintain diplomatic relations with Taiwan;

Whereas the United States signed a transportation income tax agreement with Taiwan in 1988, under the auspices of the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT) and the Coordination Council for North American Affairs, which has since been renamed as the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office (TECRO);

Whereas an income tax agreement between the United States and Taiwan could boost bilateral trade and investment by reducing double taxation and increasing economic efficiency and integration; and

Whereas the American Chamber of Commerce in Taipei in its "2022 White Paper" called for the United States and Taiwan to continue exploring an income tax agreement: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the importance of Taiwan's security and prosperity to the United States' own security and prosperity;

(2) encourages the President to begin negotiations on an income tax agreement with Taiwan;

(3) encourages the President and the House of Representatives to work with the Senate on a congressional-executive agreement to establish an income tax agreement between the United States and Taiwan, consistent with United States commitments under the Taiwan Relations Act (22 U.S.C. 3301 et seq.); and

(4) encourages the President to proactively seek other ways to increase trade, technology, and investment ties between the United States and Taiwan.

SENATE RESOLUTION 92—EXPRESSING CONCERN THAT ILLEGAL, UNREGULATED, AND UNREPORTED FISHING THREATENS SECURITY, PROSPERITY, AND BIODIVERSITY IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN AND FACILITATES HUMAN TRAFFICKING, INCLUDING FORCED LABOR, AND OTHER INHUMANE AND CRIMINAL PRACTICES IN THE REGION

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. Risch, Mr. Cardin, Mr. Rubio, and Mr. Kaine) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 92

Whereas illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing (referred to in this preamble as "IUU fishing"), which are defined in paragraphs 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3 of the 2001 Food and Agriculture Organization International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter, and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing, includes fishing activities that—

(1) are in violation of applicable national, regional, or international laws, regulations, or obligations;

(2) are not reported or misrepresented to relevant authorities; and

(3) occur in areas or for fishing stocks for which there are no applicable conservation or management measures;

Whereas in 2020, the United States Coast Guard declared that IUU fishing has replaced piracy as the leading global maritime security threat;

Whereas the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime has expressed serious concerns about the fishing industry's vulnerability to several forms of transnational organized crime, including trafficking in persons, money laundering, and smuggling of drugs and weapons, which are often linked to IUU fishing;

Whereas, according to the International Labor Organization's 2022 Global Estimates of Modern Slavery, approximately 128,000 fishers are subjected to forced labor aboard fishing vessels around the world in conditions characterized by extreme isolation, hazardous working and living conditions, and gaps in regulatory oversight, and IUU fishing is closely linked to these and other forms of human trafficking;

Whereas IUU fishing threatens biodiversity and marine ecosystems, increases the risk of food insecurity, and creates unfair competition in the marketplace for lawful seafood industries;

Whereas approximately 600,000,000 people worldwide are partially dependent on fisheries and aquaculture for their lives and livelihoods, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration reports that IUU fishing deprives law-abiding fishermen and coastal communities of up to \$23,000,000,000 in seafood products annually;

Whereas, according to the United States Government's Global Food Security Strategy, the percentage of stocks fished at biologically unsustainable levels increased from 10 percent in 1974 to 34.2 percent in 2017, with IUU fishing being a key factor affecting the sustainability of fisheries;

Whereas, according to a 2017 report by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations—

(1) IUU fishing off of South America's Southeast Pacific coast and Southwest Atlantic Oceans contributes to the second highest proportions of biologically unsustainable fishing stock levels in the world; and

(2) transformative changes are needed to address growing threats to sustainable fisheries and food security globally;

Whereas large-scale operations of distant-water fishing fleets, particularly such fleets that are provided with billions of dollars in subsidies annually by the People's Republic of China, are primarily responsible for IUU fishing along the Pacific Coast of South America and the Southwest Atlantic Ocean, while small-scale artisanal fleets are primarily responsible for IUU fishing in the Caribbean, Mexico, and Central America;

Whereas Chinese industrial fishing in the South Pacific coast of South America increased 13-fold between 2009 and 2020, contributing to a significant rise in IUU fishing in that region;

Whereas, between July and August 2020, 350 Chinese distant-water fishing vessels disabled required tracking systems and engaged in 73,000 hours of fishing off the exclusive economic zone of the Galapagos archipelago, which is a United Nations World Heritage Site;

Whereas, in November 2020, the Governments of Ecuador, of Chile, of Colombia, and of Peru—

(1) jointly condemned IUU fishing perpetrated by large fleets of foreign vessels; and

(2) pledged to increase cooperation through regulatory bodies, such as the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific;

Whereas the United States, Canada, and 12 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean are parties to the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter, and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, Agreement, done at Rome November 22, 2009 (commonly known as the "Port State Measures Agreement"), which was facilitated by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization and entered into force in June 2016, setting standards for the reporting and inspection of fishing activities of foreign-flagged vessels at port;

Whereas governments in Latin America and the Caribbean often lack the capacity to effectively monitor and prosecute IUU fishing, with many countries in the region investing less than 10 percent of their fisheries budgets on monitoring and surveillance;

Whereas regional fisheries management organizations, such as the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization and the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism, establish conservation and management standards, but face difficulties in enforcing such standards and executing coordinated action to counter IUU fishing;

Whereas Uruguay is seeking to advance the creation of a regional fisheries management organization with Brazil and Argentina to combat IUU fishing in the Southwest Atlantic Ocean, which is the only sea area in the world without a fisheries management government structure;

Whereas the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, which was approved by Congress under section 101(a)(1) of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement Implementation Act (19 U.S.C. 4511(a))—

(1) prohibits subsidies for vessels or operators involved in IUU fishing;

(2) requires customs inspections for shipments at ports of entry;

(3) prohibits the importation of goods made by forced labor; and

(4) requires efforts to seek the elimination of forced labor;

Whereas similar provisions related to IUU fishing have not been enshrined in other free trade agreements in North America;

Whereas, at the 12th Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization in June 2022, member states reached a multilat-

eral agreement to prohibit certain harmful subsidies for fishing activities that threaten the sustainable use and conservation of marine resources, including subsidies to vessels engaged in IUU fishing;

Whereas, the Maritime SAFE Act (subtitle C of title XXXV of Public Law 116-92) established an interagency working group to develop a 5-year strategic plan to counter IUU fishing, which was released in October 2022, and has identified—

(1) Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, and Peru as Tier I priority regions at risk for IUU fishing; and

(2) the rest of Latin America and the Caribbean as Tier II priority regions at risk for IUU fishing; and

Whereas the United States Government has undertaken several initiatives to counter IUU fishing in Latin America and the Caribbean, including—

(1) conducting joint cooperation exercises in January 2021 involving the United States Southern Command, the United States Coast Guard, and partners in Brazil, Guyana, Portugal, and Uruguay;

(2) certifying countries based on their actions to curb the flow of IUU fishing through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, including issuing a negative certification in August 2021 for Mexico and a positive certification for Ecuador;

(3) issuing National Security Memorandum 11 on June 27, 2022, which directs Federal executive departments and agencies to coordinate with each other, foreign governments, multilateral organizations, and other public and private stakeholders to combat labor abuses and other crimes associated with IUU fishing;

(4) carrying out the first United States Coast Guard IUU fishing patrol under the auspices of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization, in August 2022 off the exclusive economic zone of the Galapagos archipelago, during which the Coast Guard conducted high seas boardings and inspections of vessels suspected of engaging in IUU fishing;

(5) issuing sanctions on December 9, 2022, against entities based in the People's Republic of China that are implicated in global activities related to IUU fishing, including activities in Latin America and the Caribbean; and

(6) proposing that Chinese flagged vessels suspected of engaging in IUU fishing that refuse to allow on sea boarding and inspection be included in the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management organization's IUU vessel list: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) underscores the urgency of combating IUU fishing and its associated crimes, including human trafficking, and protecting oceanic biodiversity, the livelihoods of coastal communities, regional licit economies, human rights, and hemispheric security from the People's Republic of China, other extra-regional actors, and transnational criminal organizations engaged in IUU fishing in Latin America and the Caribbean;

(2) calls on the United States Government and governments in Latin America and the Caribbean to incorporate concerns regarding human trafficking and violations of labor rights, when determining whether activities qualify as IUU fishing;

(3) encourages greater coordination among the Governments of Latin America and of the Caribbean to facilitate information sharing and law enforcement responses to IUU fishing, including by acceding to the Port State Measures Agreement, strengthening existing regional fisheries management organizations, and creating a regional fisheries

management organization for the Southwest Atlantic Ocean;

(4) encourages the Office of the United States Trade Representative, in coordination with the Department of State, to consider the implementation of IUU fishing provisions within current and future free trade agreements with countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to enhance accountability over such activities; and

(5) calls on the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development and the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, to counter IUU fishing by—

(A) undertaking public education initiatives in Latin America and the Caribbean to elevate awareness of the harms caused by IUU fishing and its associated crimes;

(B) assisting with the monitoring and dissemination of information regarding the activities of Chinese and other distant-water fishing fleets, and using multilateral fora, including regional fisheries management organizations, to address such concerns;

(C) limiting the importation and consumption of fish and seafood caught by IUU actors, and use the United States' role and influence in global markets to drive change in global seafood supply chains;

(D) using sanctions and visa restriction authorities to hold accountable entities that are credibly suspected of engaging in IUU fishing, including—

(i) distant water fishing fleets from the People's Republic of China;

(ii) other extra-regional actors; and

(iii) transnational criminal organizations; and

(E) utilizing available resources to support and assist the Office of the United States Trade Representative in reaching a final multilateral agreement under the World Trade Organization that—

(i) addresses the use of forced labor on IUU fishing vessels;

(ii) strengthens relevant reporting requirements; and

(iii) addresses harmful subsidies that contribute to fishing fleet overcapacity.

SENATE RESOLUTION 93—PROVIDING FOR MEMBERS ON THE PART OF THE SENATE OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON PRINTING AND THE JOINT COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS ON THE LIBRARY

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mrs. FISCHER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 93

Resolved, That the following named Members be, and they are hereby, elected members of the following joint committees of Congress:

JOINT COMMITTEE ON PRINTING: Ms. Klobuchar, Mr. Merkley, Mr. Padilla, Mrs. Fischer, and Mr. Hagerty.

JOINT COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS ON THE LIBRARY: Ms. Klobuchar, Mr. Warner, Mr. Ossoff, Mrs. Fischer, and Mrs. Hyde-Smith.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, I have three requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.