

States Marine Corps, resulted in more than 26,000 casualties for the United States, more than 6,800 of whom were killed;

Whereas the Battle of Iwo Jima led to 22 members of the United States Marine Corps and 5 members of the United States Navy receiving the Medal of Honor, representing—

(1) the most members of the United States Marine Corps ever to receive the highest military decoration in the United States for a single battle; and

(2) more than $\frac{1}{4}$ of all members of the United States Marine Corps to receive the decoration during World War II;

Whereas the secured airfields on Iwo Jima became emergency landing locations for 2,251 B-29 Bombers, saving the lives of an estimated 24,761 crewmen;

Whereas 160 days after the end and victory of the pivotal Battle of Iwo Jima the United States received the unconditional surrender of Japan on September 2, 1945;

Whereas the world owes a debt of gratitude to the members of the United States Marine Corps who selflessly led the fight for the strategic island of Iwo Jima in the middle of the Pacific theater; and

Whereas the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima will be marked by commemorative events on the island of Iwo Jima, in Washington, D.C., and internationally, organized by the people of the United States and Japan: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the 80th anniversary of the amphibious landing on the Japanese island of Iwo Jima that began on February 19, 1945, and ended on March 26, 1945;

(2) commemorates the iconic and historic raisings of the flag of the United States on Mount Suribachi that occurred on February 23, 1945;

(3) honors the Marines, Sailors, Soldiers, Army Air Crew, and Coast Guardsmen who fought bravely on Iwo Jima, including the thousands of Japanese soldiers who tenaciously defended the island;

(4) remembers and venerates the service members who gave their last full measure of devotion on the battlefield;

(5) recognizes the Allied victory at the Battle of Iwo Jima, which—

(A) was led by the United States Marine Corps; and

(B) made the defeat of the Empire of Japan in World War II possible;

(6) affirms the immortal words of Admiral Chester Nimitz, who stated that “uncommon valor was a common virtue” among the service members of the United States who fought on Iwo Jima;

(7) reaffirms the bonds of friendship and shared values between the United States and Japan, whose strong and resilient alliance demonstrates the power of reconciliation between former adversaries;

(8) encourages the people of the United States to honor the veterans of the Battle of Iwo Jima with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities;

(9) honors the service and sacrifice of the men and women who serve the United States today, carrying on the proud tradition of the individuals who came before them; and

(10) salutes the 250th year since the founding of the United States Marine Corps and the United States Navy.

SENATE RESOLUTION 54—EXPRESSING THE VITAL IMPORTANCE OF THE PANAMA CANAL TO THE UNITED STATES

Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. TUBERVILLE, and Mrs. BLACKBURN) submitted the following

resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 54

Whereas early efforts of the Colombian government and French investors to construct a canal across Panama were unsuccessful and resulted in bankruptcy by 1889;

Whereas, as a condition of United States Government support for Panama's independence from Colombia, including the positioning of United States troops in the then-territory of Panama, the United States was to be assured access to construct and control a canal in perpetuity, an agreement that culminated in the Hay-Bunau-Varilla Treaty, signed at Washington November 18, 1903;

Whereas the Panama Canal was never initiated, engineered, or built by the Panamanian government;

Whereas the United States Government funded, pioneered, and built the Panama Canal over a 10-year period from 1904 to 1914, at a cost of \$375,000,000 and 10,000 lives, and raised the canal above sea level through construction of a lock system;

Whereas, historically, the Panama Canal has been distinct from the sovereign territory of Panama;

Whereas the Panama Canal serves as a vital connection between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, connecting the east and west coasts of the United States and providing passage for more than 14,000 vessels in 2023;

Whereas approximately 72 percent of vessels traveling through the Panama Canal are traveling to or from United States ports;

Whereas, without the Panama Canal, vessels would have to pass through the notoriously dangerous Cape Horn, extending transit by nearly 8,000 miles;

Whereas, in 1977, President Carter surrendered United States control over the Panama Canal in a series of treaties with Panama known as the “Torrijos-Carter Treaties”;

Whereas one of those treaties, the Treaty Concerning the Permanent Neutrality and Operation of the Panama Canal, signed at Washington September 7, 1977, otherwise known as the “Neutrality Treaty”, reserved the right of the United States to use armed force to defend the permanent neutrality of the Panama Canal;

Whereas, for nearly a decade, the People's Republic of China has steadily increased its footprint in the Panama Canal;

Whereas, in 2016, Panama ceded control of Margarita Island, the Panama Canal's largest Atlantic port, to the People's Republic of China-affiliated Landbridge Group in a \$900,000,000 agreement;

Whereas, in 2018, Panama entered into a \$1,400,000,000 agreement for the China Communications Construction Company and the China Harbor Engineering Company to construct the fourth bridge across the Panama Canal;

Whereas CK Hutchison Holdings, based in Hong Kong, manages two of the Panama Canal's five ports, including the Balboa port along the Pacific and Cristobal port along the Atlantic;

Whereas the rapid acceleration of Chinese influence in the Panama Canal poses a high risk of intelligence-gathering and surveillance by the People's Republic of China;

Whereas Chinese law requires the assets of civilian firms to be made available to support the armed forces of the People's Republic of China;

Whereas the Panama Canal would serve as a logistics point between the east and west coasts of the United States in the event of a conflict involving United States Armed Forces, cementing its value to homeland and hemispheric defense; and

Whereas the ability of the People's Republic of China to control major entry and exit

points of the Panama Canal would provide the People's Republic of China with a significant military advantage relevant to United States Armed Forces in the event of a conflict: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the ingenuity and labor of Americans that made the Panama Canal possible for future generations, with special regard for those Americans who lost their lives in pursuit of the Panama Canal project;

(2) expresses that the Panama Canal is vital to United States regional security, hemispheric hegemony, and economic interests;

(3) assesses that a pattern of Chinese-backed investment in port infrastructure and canal operations in Panama constitutes a violation of the Neutrality Treaty; and

(4) urges the Trump administration to ensure that the canal remains neutral and to take all appropriate measures to enforce the Neutrality Treaty.

SENATE RESOLUTION 55—RECOGNIZING JANUARY 2025 AS “NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH”

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. BLUNT ROCH-ESTER, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. COONS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. REED, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WYDEN and Mr. BOOZMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 55

Whereas the goals of National Mentoring Month are to raise awareness of and celebrate the powerful impact of mentoring relationships, recruit new mentors, and encourage institutions to integrate quality mentoring into their policies, practices, and programs;

Whereas quality mentoring fosters positive life and social skills, promotes self-esteem, bolsters academic achievement and college access, supports career exploration, and nurtures youth leadership development;

Whereas mentoring happens in many settings, including community-based programs, elementary and secondary schools, colleges, government agencies, religious institutions, and the workplace, and in various ways, including formal mentoring matches and informal relationships with teachers, coaches, neighbors, faith leaders, and others;

Whereas effective mentoring of underserved and vulnerable populations helps individuals confront challenges and display improved mental health and social-emotional well-being;

Whereas studies have shown that incorporating culture and heritage into mentoring programs can improve academic outcomes and increase community engagement, especially for Alaska Native and American Indian youth;

Whereas mentoring encourages positive youth development and smart daily behaviors, such as finishing homework and having healthy social interactions, and has a positive impact on the growth and success of a young person;

Whereas mentors help young people set career goals and can help connect mentees to industry professionals to train for and find jobs;

Whereas mentoring programs generally have a significant, positive impact on youth

academic achievement, school connectedness and engagement, and educational success, which lead to outcomes such as improved attendance, grades and test scores, and classroom behavior;

Whereas research has found that young people facing risk of not completing high school but who had a mentor were, compared with their peers, more likely to enroll in college, to participate regularly in sports or extracurricular activities, to hold a leadership position in a club or sports team, and to volunteer regularly, and less likely to start using drugs;

Whereas mentoring has long been a staple of juvenile justice and violence prevention efforts and can offer comprehensive support to youth at risk for committing violence or victimization, as mentoring can address many risk factors at once;

Whereas mentoring relationships for youth facing risk, such as foster youth, can have a positive impact on a wide range of factors, including mental health, educational functioning and attainment, peer relationships, employment, and housing stability;

Whereas mentoring programs have been found to have a meaningful positive impact on mental health symptoms across a variety of outcomes, including internalizing and externalizing mental health symptoms, interpersonal relationships, and reducing parental stress;

Whereas mentoring is an innovative, evidence-based practice and, uniquely, is both a prevention and intervention strategy that can support young people of all demographics and backgrounds in all aspects of their lives;

Whereas each of the benefits of mentors described in this preamble serves to link youth to economic and social opportunity while also strengthening communities in the United States;

Whereas, despite the benefits of mentoring, 1 out of every 3 young persons is growing up without a mentor, which means a third of the youth of the United States are growing up without someone outside of the home to offer real life guidance and support; and

Whereas this “mentoring gap” demonstrates the need for collaboration between the private, public, and nonprofit sectors to increase resources for relationship-centric supports for youth in communities, schools, and workplaces: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes January 2025 as “National Mentoring Month”;

(2) recognizes the caring adults who serve as staff and volunteers at quality mentoring programs and help the young people of the United States find inner strength and reach their full potential;

(3) acknowledges that mentoring is beneficial because it supports educational achievement, engagement, and self-confidence, supports young people in setting career goals and expanding social capital, reduces juvenile delinquency, and strengthens communities;

(4) promotes the establishment and expansion of quality mentoring programs across the United States to equip young people with the tools needed to lead healthy and productive lives; and

(5) supports initiatives to close the “mentoring gap” that exists for the many young people in the United States who do not have meaningful connections with adults outside the home.

SENATE RESOLUTION 56—CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT MEN’S SOCCER TEAM ON WINNING THE 2024 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION DIVISION I MEN’S SOCCER NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

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

S. RES. 56

Whereas, on December 16th, 2024, the University of Vermont men’s soccer team (referred to in this preamble as the “Catamounts”), after a golden goal with 5 minutes and 6 seconds left in overtime, pulled off an historic comeback against Marshall University to win the 2024 National Collegiate Athletic Association (referred to in this preamble as “NCAA”) Division I men’s soccer national championship, with a final score of 2 goals to 1;

Whereas the 2024 NCAA Division I men’s soccer national championship victory for the Catamounts is the first-ever NCAA Division I national championship in the history of the Catamounts;

Whereas the 2024 NCAA Division I men’s soccer national championship game was a game for the record books, with many notable moments including—

(1) a perfectly timed goal by Marcell Papp, which gave the Catamounts a golden opportunity in overtime; and

(2) the game winning goal by Maximilian Kissel, his 11th goal of the season, which will be remembered by the Catamounts for all time;

Whereas the coaching staff of the Catamounts led the team with grit and determination;

Whereas the support staff of the Catamounts played critical roles in supporting the Catamounts throughout the 2024 season;

Whereas, to the casual observer, the Catamounts may have been the underdogs or the “Cinderella story” of the entire 2024 NCAA Division I men’s soccer national championship tournament;

Whereas, during the 2024 season, the Catamounts scored 22 goals in the 76th minute or later, including the championship equalizing goal, earning the Catamounts the nickname “Cardiac Cats”;

Whereas last-minute victories were a habit for the Catamounts during the 2024 NCAA Division I men’s soccer national championship tournament, including—

(1) beating San Diego University in overtime in the third round match; and

(2) tying the University of Denver in the final minutes of the semifinal match to push the game into penalty kicks, where a save from Catamounts goalkeeper Niklas Herceg ended up securing the Catamounts a ticket to the championship match;

Whereas Vermonters and fans of the Catamounts congratulate the Catamounts for their well-deserved 2024 NCAA Division I men’s soccer national championship win;

Whereas the Catamounts are champions, not underdogs; and

Whereas the Catamounts made the people and State of Vermont very proud and showed the United States that the State of Vermont is, in fact, a soccer State: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the University of Vermont men’s soccer team on winning the 2024 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I men’s soccer national championship; and

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

(A) the interim president of the University of Vermont, Patricia A. Prelock;

(B) the director of athletics of the University of Vermont, Jeff Schulman; and

(C) the head coach of the University of Vermont Catamounts men’s soccer team, Rob Dow.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I have four 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 FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 4, 2025, at 10 a.m., to consider a nomination.

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

The Committee on Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 4, 2025, at 10:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 4, 2025, at 2:20 p.m., to conduct a closed business meeting.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 4, 2025, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Sam Ruhe and Ivy Benjenk, two detailees in my office, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNIZING JANUARY 2025 AS NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 55, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 55) recognizing January 2025 as “National Mentoring Month”.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be