

and the entire medical community to educate members of the Armed Forces, veterans, the families of members of the Armed Forces and veterans, and the public about the causes, symptoms, and treatment of post-traumatic stress;

(3) supports efforts by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Defense to foster—

(A) cultural change around the issue of post-traumatic stress; and

(B) understanding that personal interactions can save lives and advance treatment;

(4) welcomes the efforts of the National Center for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder of the Department of Veterans Affairs and local Vet Centers (as defined in section 1712A(h) of title 38, United States Code) to provide assistance to veterans who are suffering from the effects of post-traumatic stress;

(5) encourages the leadership of the Armed Forces to support appropriate treatment of men and women of the Armed Forces who suffer from post-traumatic stress;

(6) recognizes the impact of post-traumatic stress on the spouses and families of members of the Armed Forces and veterans; and

(7) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit a copy of this resolution to—

(A) the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; and
(B) the Secretary of Defense.

SENATE RESOLUTION 619—TO PROVIDE FOR THE PRINTING OF THE SENATE MANUAL FOR THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTEENTH CONGRESS

Mr. BLUNT submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 619

Resolved, That a revised edition of the Senate Manual for the One Hundred Sixteenth Congress be prepared by the Committee on Rules and Administration and printed as a Senate document, and that fifteen hundred additional copies shall be printed and bound for the use of the Senate, bound and delivered as may be directed by the Committee on Rules and Administration.

SENATE RESOLUTION 620—DESIGNATING JUNE 19, 2020, AS “JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY” IN RECOGNITION OF JUNE 19, 1865, THE DATE ON WHICH NEWS OF THE END OF SLAVERY REACHED THE SLAVES IN THE SOUTHWESTERN STATES

Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. WICKER, Ms. ROSEN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BURR, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. FISCHER, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. HAWLEY, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. JONES, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEE, Mrs. LOEFFLER, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. MCSALLY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr.

WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. DURBIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 620

Whereas news of the end of slavery did not reach the frontier areas of the United States, in particular the State of Texas and the other Southwestern States, until months after the conclusion of the Civil War, more than 2½ years after President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863;

Whereas, on June 19, 1865, Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, arrived in Galveston, Texas, with news that the Civil War had ended and the enslaved were free;

Whereas African Americans who had been slaves in the Southwest celebrated June 19, commonly known as “Juneteenth Independence Day”, as inspiration and encouragement for future generations;

Whereas African Americans from the Southwest have continued the tradition of observing Juneteenth Independence Day for more than 150 years;

Whereas Juneteenth Independence Day began as a holiday in the State of Texas and is now celebrated in 46 States and the District of Columbia as a special day of observance in recognition of the emancipation of all slaves in the United States;

Whereas Juneteenth Independence Day celebrations have been held to honor African-American freedom while encouraging self-development and respect for all cultures;

Whereas the faith and strength of character demonstrated by former slaves and the descendants of former slaves remain an example for all people of the United States, regardless of background, religion, or race;

Whereas slavery was not officially abolished until the ratification of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States in December 1865; and

Whereas, over the course of its history, the United States has grown into a symbol of democracy and freedom around the world: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates June 19, 2020, as “Juneteenth Independence Day”;

(2) recognizes the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day to the United States;

(3) supports the continued nationwide celebration of Juneteenth Independence Day to provide an opportunity for the people of the United States to learn more about the past and to better understand the experiences that have shaped the United States; and

(4) recognizes that the observance of the end of slavery is part of the history and heritage of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 621—DESIGNATING JUNE 15, 2020, AS “WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY”

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. CASEY, and Ms. ERNST) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 621

Whereas, in 2006, the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse proclaimed June 15th of each year as “World Elder Abuse Awareness Day”;

Whereas approximately 55,000,000 residents of the United States, or about 1 in every 6 in-

dividuals, have attained the age of 65 on the 15th anniversary of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day in 2020;

Whereas elder abuse can come in many different forms, often manifesting as physical, sexual, or psychological abuse, financial exploitation, neglect, and social media abuse;

Whereas elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation have no boundaries and cross all racial, social, class, gender, and geographic lines, according to the Elder Justice Coalition;

Whereas more than 1 in 10 individuals in the United States over the age of 60 have been subjected to abuse each year, with many such victims enduring abuse in multiple forms, according to the American Journal of Public Health;

Whereas most reported cases of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of older adults take place within private homes, and approximately 90 percent of the perpetrators in elder financial exploitation cases are family members or other trusted individuals, according to the National Adult Protective Services Association;

Whereas research suggests that elderly individuals in the United States who experience cognitive impairment, physical disabilities, and isolation are more likely to become the victims of abuse than those without disabilities;

Whereas other risk factors for elder abuse can include low social support, poor physical health, and experience of previous traumatic events, according to the National Center on Elder Abuse;

Whereas close to half of elderly individuals who suffer from dementia will experience abuse during their lifetime, according to the Department of Justice;

Whereas only a small fraction of elder abuse cases are reported to the authorities;

Whereas there is a need to increase funding for adult protective services programs with the capacity to aid victims, investigate reports of abuse, and actively prevent future victimization, particularly during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, as the social isolation of elderly individuals due to stay-at-home orders only increases the risk of abuse and neglect;

Whereas the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has fueled demand for programs such as State long-term care ombudsman programs, which help prevent elder abuse and neglect in nursing homes and other long-term care facilities, where infection prevention and control deficiencies pose persistent challenges;

Whereas 2020 marks the 10th anniversary of the passage of the Elder Justice Act (subtitle H of title VI of Public Law 111-148) and the 3rd anniversary of the passage of the Elder Abuse Prevention and Prosecution Act (Public Law 115-70);

Whereas public awareness of elder abuse has the potential to increase the identification and reporting of this crime by the public, professionals, and victims, and can act as a catalyst to promote issue-based education and long-term prevention; and

Whereas private individuals and public agencies in the United States must work together at the Federal, State, and local levels to combat abuse, neglect, exploitation, crime, and violence against vulnerable adults, including vulnerable older adults, particularly in light of limited resources for vital protective services: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates June 15, 2020, as “World Elder Abuse Awareness Day”;

(2) recognizes judges, lawyers, adult protective services professionals, law enforcement officers, State long-term care ombudsmen, social workers, health care providers,

advocates for victims, and other professionals and agencies for their efforts to advance awareness of elder abuse;

(3) encourages members of the public and professionals who work with older adults to act as catalysts to promote awareness and long-term prevention of elder abuse—

(A) by reaching out to local adult protective services agencies, State long-term care ombudsman programs, and the National Center on Elder Abuse; and

(B) by learning to recognize, detect, report, and respond to elder abuse; and

(4) encourages those Federal agencies with responsibility for preventing elder abuse to fully exercise such responsibilities to protect older adults, whether living in the community or in long-term care facilities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 622—CON-
DEMNING ATTACKS AGAINST
MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA AND
REAFFIRMING THE CENTRALITY
OF A FREE AND INDEPENDENT
PRESS AND PEACEFUL ASSEM-
BLY TO THE HEALTH OF DEMOC-
RACY IN THE UNITED STATES

Mr. MENENDEZ (for Mr. MARKEY for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. COONS, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CASEY, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 622

Whereas the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States provides the basis of the freedom of the press and peaceful assembly in the United States, stating “Congress shall make no law . . . abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble . . .”;

Whereas Thomas Jefferson, who recognized the importance of the press in a constitutional republic, wisely declared, “. . . were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter.”;

Whereas Article 19 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted in Paris on December 10, 1948, states, “Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.”;

Whereas, on December 18, 2013, the United Nations General Assembly adopted United Nations General Assembly Resolution 163 (2013) on the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity, which unequivocally condemns, in both conflict and non-conflict situations, all attacks on and violence against journalists and media workers, including torture, extrajudicial killing, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention, and intimidation and harassment;

Whereas, according to the U.S. Press Freedom Tracker, a nonpartisan website led by the Freedom of the Press Foundation and the Committee to Protect Journalists, not less than 328 press freedom violations by local and State authorities have been reported by journalists across the United States in the course of covering the demonstrations associated with the death of George Floyd, a Black man, while he was in Minneapolis police custody;

Whereas Kirstin McCudden, managing editor of the U.S. Press Freedom Tracker, described the uptick in reports of violations of freedom of the press in the United States between May 25 and June 3, 2020, as “unprecedented in scope without a doubt.”;

Whereas Joel Simon, executive director of the Committee to Protect Journalists, wrote that “[c]overing protests and demonstrations is vital, both in order to inform the public about the demands of the protesters and also to hold officials accountable.”; and

Whereas more than 100 media and press freedom organizations, led by the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, signed a letter demanding that law enforcement officers immediately stop attacks against credentialed, clearly identifiable journalists and stressed that law enforcement officers do not have legal immunity when they violate clearly established rights under the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) reaffirms its commitment to the freedom of the press and peaceful assembly as pillars of democracy in the United States;

(2) condemns in the strongest terms violence committed against people of the United States exercising their right to free speech and peaceful assembly, including journalists and members of the media, whether that violence is committed by government officials or anyone else;

(3) condemns in the strongest terms actions on the part of any local, State, or Federal authorities to limit, restrict, or in any way prevent members of the media from—

(A) performing their jobs, which contribute to the distribution of vital information;

(B) promoting government accountability;

(C) defending democratic activity; and

(D) strengthening civil society;

(4) recognizes the bravery and courage of the journalists of the United States, foreign journalists, and members of the media who put their own safety at risk in order to cover the demonstrations associated with the death of George Floyd and bring information to the people of the United States and the world;

(5) calls on local, State, and Federal authorities to—

(A) take steps to ensure that members of the media are able to safely perform their duties without interference, censorship, threats of violence, or physical harm; and

(B) explicitly exempt the news media from any curfew regulations; and

(6) calls on local, State, and Federal authorities and officials to—

(A) identify and thoroughly investigate instances in which—

(i) government officials or members of police forces have restricted media access to the demonstrations associated with the death of George Floyd; or

(ii) violence was perpetrated against members of the media during those demonstrations; and

(B) ensure that the perpetrators of violence against the media are appropriately disciplined and, if appropriate, charged.

PROVIDING ASSISTANCE FOR
UNITED STATES CITIZENS AND
NATIONALS TAKEN HOSTAGE OR
UNLAWFULLY OR WRONGFULLY
DETAINED ABROAD

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 462, S. 712.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 712) to provide assistance for United States citizens and nationals taken hostage or unlawfully or wrongfully detained abroad, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment and an amendment to the title.

(Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic.)

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Robert Levinson Hostage Recovery and Hostage-Taking Accountability Act”.

SEC. 2. ASSISTANCE FOR UNITED STATES NATIONALS UNLAWFULLY OR WRONGFULLY DETAINED ABROAD.

(a) **REVIEW.**—*The Secretary of State shall review the cases of United States nationals detained abroad to determine if there is credible information that they are being detained unlawfully or wrongfully, based on criteria which may include whether—*

(1) *United States officials receive or possess credible information indicating innocence of the detained individual;*

(2) *the individual is being detained solely or substantially because he or she is a United States national;*

(3) *the individual is being detained solely or substantially to influence United States Government policy or to secure economic or political concessions from the United States Government;*

(4) *the detention appears to be because the individual sought to obtain, exercise, defend, or promote freedom of the press, freedom of religion, or the right to peacefully assemble;*

(5) *the individual is being detained in violation of the laws of the detaining country;*

(6) *independent nongovernmental organizations or journalists have raised legitimate questions about the innocence of the detained individual;*

(7) *the United States mission in the country where the individual is being detained has received credible reports that the detention is a pretext for an illegitimate purpose;*

(8) *the individual is detained in a country where the Department of State has determined in its annual human rights reports that the judicial system is not independent or impartial, is susceptible to corruption, or is incapable of rendering just verdicts;*

(9) *the individual is being detained in inhumane conditions;*

(10) *due process of law has been sufficiently impaired so as to render the detention arbitrary; and*

(11) *United States diplomatic engagement is likely necessary to secure the release of the detained individual.*

(b) **REFERRALS TO THE SPECIAL ENVOY.**—*Upon a determination by the Secretary of State, based on the totality of the circumstances, that there is credible information that the detention of a United States national abroad is unlawful or wrongful, and regardless of whether the detention is by a foreign government or a nongovernmental actor, the Secretary shall transfer responsibility for such case from the Bureau of Consular Affairs of the Department of State to the Special Envoy for Hostage Affairs created pursuant to section 3.*

(c) **REPORT.**—

(1) **ANNUAL REPORT.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—*The Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees an annual report with respect to United States nationals for whom the Secretary determines there is credible information of unlawful or wrongful detention abroad.*

(B) **FORM.**—*The report required under this paragraph shall be submitted in unclassified*