

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate the 140th anniversary on this upcoming Sunday of Major General Gordon Granger and his Union soldiers' arrival in Galveston, TX. On that day in 1865, these troops brought with them the news that the war had ended and that the enslaved peoples were henceforth free. Since its origin in 1865, the observance of June 19 as African American Emancipation Day, or Juneteenth, is the oldest known celebration of slavery's end.

It took two and a half years from the time that President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation went into effect for the news of freedom to arrive in Texas. That it took 2 years for African Americans to learn that the war was over, and that they were now free seems absurd in our information age. Yet, despite the transformation made in our society by computers, networks and the internet, there are still gaps in the information accessible to African Americans around this country. The bill that I introduce today attempts to address one of them.

Mr. President, it is a very human instinct for people to want to understand who they are from the lense of who are their ancestors and where they are from. The very commercially successful, and critically acclaimed television series "Roots" was a seminal event in this nation's interest in genealogy. Yet while people across the nation were inspired by Alex Haley's tale to understand their own family history, African Americans trying to do the same confronted unique challenges. Unfortunately, African Americans who attempt to trace their genealogy encounter huge hurdles in reclaiming the usual documentary history that allows most Americans to piece together their heritage. For this reason, I am proposing the Servitude and Emancipation Archival Research Clearing House, SEARCH, Act of 2005. This bill establishes a national database within the National Archives and Records Administration, NARA, housing various documents that would assist those in search of a history that, because of slavery, is almost impossible to find in the most ordinary registers and census records.

Traditionally, someone researching their genealogy would try looking up wills and land deeds; however, enslaved African Americans were prohibited from owning property. In fact, African Americans, must frequently rely on the records of slave owners—most of which are in private hands—in hope that they had kept records containing birth and death information. Even if records do exist, many African Americans in the past did not have formal last names, thus compounding the difficulty of tracing their lives. The omission of surnames also precludes use of the most popular and major source of genealogical research, the United States Census. Furthermore, letters, diaries, and other first-person records used by most genealogical researchers are scarcely available for slaves, owing to

the fact that they could not legally learn to read or write.

We may think that after 1865, African Americans could begin using traditional genealogical records like voter registrations and school records. However, African Americans did not immediately begin to participate in many of the privileges of citizenship, including voting and attending school. Discrimination meant that African Americans were barred from sitting on juries or owning businesses. Segregation meant segregated neighborhoods, schools, churches, clubs, and fraternal organizations, and thus segregated societies maintained segregated records. For example, some telephone directories in South Carolina did not include African Americans in the regular alphabetical listing, but rather at the end of the book. An African American must maneuver these distinctive nuances in order to conduct proper genealogical research. In my own State of Louisiana, descendants of the 9th Cavalry Regiment and 25th Infantry Regiment, known as the Buffalo Soldiers, would have to know to look in the index of United States Colored Troops since there is no mention of them in the index of State Military Regiments.

Abraham Lincoln said, "A man who cares nothing about his past can care little about his future." By providing \$5 million for the National Historical Publications and Records Commission to establish and maintain a national database, the SEARCH Act has the potential to significantly reduce the time and painstaking efforts of those African Americans who truly care about their American past to contribute to the American future. This bill also seeks to authorize \$5 million for States, colleges, and universities to preserve, catalogue, and index records locally.

In a democracy, records matter. The mission of NARA is to ensure that anyone can have access to the records that matter to them. The SEARCH Act of 2005 seeks to fulfill that mission by helping African Americans navigate genealogical research sources and negotiate the unique challenges that confront them in this process. No longer should any American have to wait to learn information, which in itself can offer such freedom.

I hope my colleagues will join me in celebrating the 140th anniversary of Juneteenth by passing this measure. I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1248

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Servitude and Emancipation Archival Research ClearingHouse Act of 2005" or the "SEARCH Act of 2005".

SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF DATABASE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Archivist of the United States shall establish, as a part of the

National Archives, a national database consisting of historic records of servitude and emancipation in the United States to assist African Americans in researching their genealogy.

(b) MAINTENANCE.—The database established by this Act shall be maintained by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated—

(1) \$5,000,000 to establish the national database authorized by this Act; and

(2) \$5,000,000 to provide grants to States and colleges and universities to preserve local records of servitude and emancipation.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 171—EX-PRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE PRESIDENT SHOULD SUBMIT TO CONGRESS A REPORT ON THE TIME FRAME FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF UNITED STATES TROOPS FROM IRAQ

Mr. FEINGOLD submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

S. RES. 171

Whereas United States forces in Iraq have served with courage and distinction and they and their families deserve to know what exactly their mission is and approximately how long they may expect to remain in Iraq;

Whereas establishing time frames for the transfer of sovereignty and for elections in Iraq has resulted in real political and strategic advantages for the United States and has advanced the development of democracy in Iraq;

Whereas establishing a clear time frame for the withdrawal of United States troops from Iraq would help to refute conspiracy theories and eliminate suspicions that obstruct the United States policy goals in Iraq and undermine the legitimacy of the Government of Iraq;

Whereas President George W. Bush stated on April 13, 2004 that "as a proud and independent people, Iraqis do not support an indefinite occupation and neither does America" and that United States troops will remain in Iraq "as long as necessary and not one day more";

Whereas a sound strategic plan for United States military operations in Iraq would include information regarding the numbers of Iraqi troops that must be effectively trained and the amount of time that will be required to train them;

Whereas the President has declined to set out specific goals for the United States military operations in Iraq or a clear time frame for achieving such goals;

Whereas a clear plan and time frame for United States military operations in Iraq would facilitate more responsible budgeting for the costs of United States operations in Iraq; and

Whereas confusion about the United States mission in Iraq does not serve the United States vital interests in establishing stability in Iraq or fighting the terrorist networks that continue to threaten the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the Senate—

(A) supports the men and women of the Armed Forces of the United States in Iraq and deeply appreciates their admirable service; and

(B) recognizes that stability, democracy, and respect for the rule of law in Iraq are in the United States national interest; and

(2) it is the sense of the Senate that—

(A) the United States should remain committed to providing long-term diplomatic and political support to the people of Iraq to achieve stability and democracy;

(B) the United States should work diligently to accelerate the sound and effective training of Iraqi security forces and to increase international cooperation in this endeavor so that the people of Iraq may assume responsibility for their own security;

(C) the United States should continue to pursue a robust and multi-faceted campaign to dismantle and defeat international terrorist networks in Iraq and around the world; and

(D) not later than 30 days after the date that the Senate agrees to this resolution, the President should submit to Congress a report that describes—

(i) the remaining mission of the Armed Forces of the United States in Iraq;

(ii) current estimates of the time frame required for the United States to achieve that mission, including information regarding variables that could alter that time frame; and

(iii) a time frame for the subsequent withdrawal of United States troops from Iraq.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, today, I am submitting a resolution that addresses a gaping hole in the administration's rhetoric and strategy with respect to Iraq. My resolution calls on the President to define the mission of our military in Iraq, and to issue a plan and timeframe for accomplishing that mission. It has been over 2 years since the President launched the war in Iraq, but we still don't have a defined mission or timeframe that would allow us to hold ourselves accountable for giving the military the tools they need to succeed in achieving those goals. My resolution also calls for a plan for the subsequent withdrawal of U.S. troops, so that we can provide some clarity with regard to our intentions and restore confidence at home and abroad that there is an end date in mind.

This resolution does not establish a timeframe for troop withdrawal—that is for our military commanders to determine. Any such timeframe has to be flexible—there are variables that will affect how quickly various missions can be accomplished. But it's hard to conceive of an effective strategic plan that isn't linked to some timetables.

The rationale for our military action in Iraq has changed over time. The projections regarding the resources that would be required were wrong. And now we seem to be in the midst of some vague policy of muddling through. When I speak to servicemen and women in Wisconsin and in Iraq, and when I speak to their families, their pride in their service is evident and it is well-earned. But their frustration with this open-ended commitment, with the stop-loss orders and the multiple deployments, with the extensions and the uncertainties, is equally evident, and it is painful. We can do better by them, by insisting on clarity, by insisting on accountability, and by assuring them

that we have a plan with clear and achievable goals.

In fact, by leveling with the American people about our commitment in Iraq, the administration can regain some of their confidence. After the shifting justifications for this war, after the premature declarations of "mission accomplished," after the exciting and inspiring elections, we still don't have any kind of finish line for our military engagement in Iraq. The American people and our troops deserve a sound plan that is linked to real timeframes and real achievements.

A real timeframe will also help us achieve our security goals in Iraq. The most common argument against clarifying how long we plan to keep troops in Iraq goes something like this: If we reveal a timetable, insurgents and terrorists will simply lie in wait, emerging in force to achieve their goals once we are gone.

But any responsible timetable for U.S. withdrawal would be based just on the establishment of a competent Iraqi force. Americans won't leave until that force has the training it needs to succeed. An Iraqi force, which would not suffer from shortages of translators or struggle to bridge the cultural divide, is the right force to handle any resurgent threat.

Contrary to the conventional wisdom, the administration's refusal to set a plan and timetable about just how long vast numbers of U.S. troops will remain in Iraq is actually an advantage for insurgents and terrorists. This large U.S. military presence smack in the middle of the Arab world is a major recruiting tool for international terrorist networks, and young men are coming to Iraq from around the world to get on-the-job training in attacking Americans. These foreign forces are motivated by our presence, and they feed off conspiracy theories and suspicions regarding American intentions. When I was in Baghdad in February, a very senior coalition officer confided to me that he believed a public U.S. timetable for withdrawing from Iraq would "take the wind out of the sails" of the insurgents.

What's more, the indefinite presence of vast numbers of American troops could also undercut the legitimacy of the Iraqi government in the eyes of many—ironically, destabilizing Iraq despite our best intentions. Having a timetable for the transfer of sovereignty and having a timetable for Iraqi elections have resulted in real political and strategic advantages for the U.S. Having a timetable for the withdrawal of troops should be no different.

Clear plans could also help lead to responsible budgeting. This administration has bypassed the regular budget process, placing hundreds of billions of dollars on the country's tab, on the grounds that requirements are simply "unknowable" and cannot be incorporated into responsible budget planning. This is simply not credible, and continuing to mortgage our children's

future with these irresponsible policies is unacceptable. It is time to hold ourselves accountable for the costs of this war, time to accept the tough choices that come with responsible budgeting, and time to insist on sound planning and clarity about all of this is going.

This resolution is not some kind of cut-and-run strategy, or a call to bring all of our troops home now, regardless of what remains to be achieved on the ground. It is clear to me that we still have military missions on the ground—most notably, training the Iraqi forces to provide for their own security. Moreover, a military response—as well as a diplomatic response, and a financial response—is vital in combating terrorist networks in Iraq and elsewhere. It may well be that some units—perhaps special forces—will be operating in Iraq in coordination with the Iraqi military well into the future as part of the counterterrorism strategy that we need to be pursuing around the world, not just in Iraq.

But Mr. President, the military is only one part of solving the puzzle that we face in Iraq. For many years to come, we will have to work diligently to combat a burgeoning culture of corruption in Iraq, or the rule of law doesn't stand a chance. We need to make reconstruction work and deliver real democracy dividends for the Iraqi people, and this work will go on for some time. Intense American diplomatic and political engagement and support are likely to continue long after all or most of the troops are withdrawn.

Our troops on the ground are truly amazing in their resolve, their professionalism, and their sincere desire to help the people of Iraq. Their courage and commitment was underscored for me during my trip to Iraq earlier this year. I want to help these brave men and women succeed, by insuring that they have an achievable mission, sound planning, and a reasonable timeframe in which to finish their part of the job.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 775. Mr. DOMENICI proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 6, Reserved.

SA 776. Mr. CHAMBLISS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 777. Mr. LAUTENBERG submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 606, to amend the Clean Air Act to eliminate methyl tertiary butyl ether from the United States fuel supply, to increase production and use of renewable fuel, and to increase the Nation's energy independence, and for other purposes which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 778. Mr. LAUTENBERG submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6, Reserved; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 779. Mr. DOMENICI (for himself, Mr. THUNE, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. FRIST, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BOND, Mr. NELSON, of Nebraska, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. HAGEL,