

Whereas the United States is home to over 12,000 recreational boating facilities that contribute substantially to their local communities by providing safe, reliable gateways to boating for members of their communities and welcomed guests;

Whereas marinas of the United States also serve as stewards of the environment, actively seeking to protect their surrounding waterways not only for the enjoyment of the current generation, but for generations to come; and

Whereas marinas of the United States also provide their communities and visitors a place where friends and families, united by a passion for the water, can come together for recreation, rest, and relaxation: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) commemorates the marinas of the United States for providing environmentally friendly gateways to boating for the citizens of, and the visitors to the United States; and

(2) designates August 11, 2007, as the sixth annual "National Marina Day" in order—

(A) to honor the marinas of the United States for their many contributions to their local communities; and

(B) to make citizens, policy makers, elected officials, and employees more aware of the overall contributions marinas make to their well-being.

SENATE RESOLUTION 174—HONORING THE ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT OF SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS IN THE UNITED STATES DURING NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK BEGINNING APRIL 22, 2007

Mr. KERRY (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, Ms. LANDRIEU, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. BAYH, Mr. VITTER, Mr. COLEMAN, and Mr. CARDIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 174

Whereas the 25,800,000 small business concerns in the United States are the driving force behind the Nation's economy, creating more than 3/4 of all net new jobs and generating more than 50 percent of the Nation's nonfarm gross domestic product;

Whereas small business concerns are the Nation's innovators, advancing technology and productivity;

Whereas small business concerns represent 97 percent of all exporters and produce 28.6 percent of exported goods;

Whereas Congress established the Small Business Administration in 1953, to aid, counsel, assist, and protect the interests of small business concerns in order to preserve free competitive enterprise, to ensure that a fair proportion of the total purchases and contracts or subcontracts for property and services for the Federal Government be placed with small business concerns, to ensure that a fair proportion of the total sales of Government property be made to such small business concerns, and to maintain and strengthen the overall economy of the Nation;

Whereas the Small Business Administration has helped small business concerns access critical lending opportunities, protected small business concerns from excessive Federal regulatory enforcement, played a key role in ensuring full and open competition for Government contracts, and improved the economic environment in which small business concerns compete;

Whereas for over 50 years, the Small Business Administration has helped millions of

entrepreneurs achieve the American dream of owning a small business concern, and has played a key role in fostering economic growth; and

Whereas the President has designated the week beginning April 22, 2007 as "National Small Business Week": Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) honors the entrepreneurial spirit of small business concerns in the United States during National Small Business Week, beginning April 22, 2007;

(2) applauds the efforts and achievements of the owners of small business concerns and their employees, whose hard work and commitment to excellence have made them a key part of the Nation's economic vitality;

(3) recognizes the work of the Small Business Administration and its resource partners in providing assistance to entrepreneurs and small business concerns;

(4) strongly urges the President to take steps to ensure that—

(A) the applicable procurement goals for small business concerns, including the goals for small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans, small business concerns owned and controlled by women, HUBZone small business concerns, and small business concerns owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals, are reached by all Federal agencies;

(B) guaranteed loans, including microloans and microloan technical assistance, for start-up and growing small business concerns and venture capital are made available to all qualified small business concerns;

(C) the management assistance programs delivered by resource partners on behalf of the Small Business Administration, such as small business development centers, women's business centers, and the Service Corps of Retired Executives, are provided with the Federal resources necessary to do their jobs; and

(D) reforms to the disaster loan program of the Small Business Administration are implemented as quickly as possible; and

(5) urges that, as was the case in the President's budget for fiscal year 2008, the Small Business Administration continue to be designated as a major agency in the President's budget submitted pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, and that the Administrator of the Small Business Administration have an active role as a member of the President's Cabinet.

SENATE RESOLUTION 175—RECOGNIZING THE 59TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL

Mr. BROWNBACK (for himself, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. LOTT, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. VITTER, Mr. KYL, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. BUNNING, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BAYH, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. SMITH, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. BIDEN, and Mr. MCCONNELL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 175

Whereas, on May 14, 1948, the State of Israel was established as a sovereign and independent country;

Whereas the United States was one of the first countries to recognize the State of Israel, only 11 minutes after the creation of the State;

Whereas Israel has provided Jews from all over the world with an opportunity to reestablish their ancient homeland;

Whereas Israel is home to many religious sites that are sacred to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam;

Whereas Israel provided a refuge to Jews who survived the horrors of the Holocaust, which were unprecedented in human history;

Whereas Israel has also provided a refuge to, and has successfully absorbed, more than 800,000 Jewish refugees who fled persecution in neighboring states in the Middle East;

Whereas the people of Israel have established a pluralistic democracy that incorporates the freedoms cherished by the people of the United States, including—

- (1) the freedom of speech;
- (2) the freedom of religion;
- (3) the freedom of association;
- (4) the freedom of the press; and
- (5) government by the consent of the governed;

Whereas Israel continues to serve as a shining model of democratic values by—

- (1) regularly holding free and fair elections;
- (2) promoting the free exchange of ideas; and

(3) vigorously exercising in its parliament, the Knesset, a democratic government that is fully representative of its citizens;

Whereas Israel has bravely defended itself from terrorist and military attacks repeatedly since Israel declared its independence;

Whereas the Government of Israel has successfully worked with the neighboring governments of Egypt and Jordan to establish peaceful bilateral relations;

Whereas, despite the deaths of over 1,000 innocent citizens of Israel at the hands of murderous suicide bombers and other terrorists since 2002, the people of Israel continue to seek peace with their Palestinian neighbors;

Whereas several Israeli soldiers remain hostages of terrorist groups, and were unable to celebrate the Independence Day of Israel with their families and friends;

Whereas successive leaders of Israel have sought peace in the Middle East;

Whereas the United States and Israel enjoy a strategic partnership based on shared democratic values, friendship, and respect;

Whereas the people of the United States share an affinity with the people of Israel and view Israel as a strong and trusted ally;

Whereas Israel has made significant global contributions in the fields of science, medicine, and technology;

Whereas the Independence Day of Israel on the Jewish calendar coincides this year with April 24, 2007; and

Whereas recognition of the numerous achievements of the people and the State of Israel is especially important in 2007 given the grave threats issued by, and the clear intentions of, the Government of Iran: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the independence of the State of Israel as a significant event for providing refuge and a national homeland for the Jewish people;

(2) strongly supports efforts to bring peace to the Middle East;

(3) commends the bipartisan commitment of all Presidents and Congresses of the United States since 1948 that supported Israel and worked for the security and well-being of Israel;

(4) congratulates the United States and Israel for strengthening their bilateral relations during 2006 in the fields of defense, diplomacy, and homeland security, and encourages both countries to continue their cooperation in resolving mutual challenges; and