

Coordination Center in Juneau, AK, received an emergency beacon from a fishing vessel. The vessel was the *Illusion*.

Like so many of our brave Coast Guard men and women, Petty Officer Milam and his crew of four launched in a Coast Guard rescue helicopter to investigate the source of the distress signal they had received, undaunted by a howling 50-mile-an-hour wind and heavy rain and near zero visibility.

When the aircrew arrived on the scene, they realized that the crew of the fishing vessel had abandoned their ship and climbed into a life raft, which was being tossed, at that time, in the treacherous Bering Sea. Petty Officer Milam readied himself to be hoisted down into the 40-degree temperature seas below.

As soon as Petty Officer Milam entered the water, he swam to the life raft and found four survivors. They were hypothermic and in shock and unprotected from the elements. They did not have any survival equipment on. One by one, Petty Officer Milam pulled the survivors out of the life raft and took them and swam with them over to a rescue basket that had been lowered through the darkness from the helicopter that was hovering above them.

After loading the first two survivors into the rescue basket, Petty Officer Milam could begin to feel the frigid water flowing into his own suit. He told me it had, unfortunately, hung up on the edge of the life raft and partially unzipped and that water was filling into his survival suit. But he had to fight the debilitating effects of the cold and struggle against exhaustion in order to continue to swim the third survivor from the life raft to the rescue basket.

While the third survivor was being lifted toward the spotlights of the rescue helicopter, Petty Officer Milam—his legs now numb with cold—realized that the life raft, with one survivor still onboard, had drifted too far for him to reach under its current condition. So he signaled for an emergency pickup, and he was hoisted back into the helicopter.

Once inside the helicopter, he became aware of the fact that the crew had only enough fuel to remain on the scene for 15 minutes more. But Petty Officer Milam courageously asked to be lowered back into the sea, now over the top of this survivor, to try and save that last remaining survivor.

Upon entering the water, Petty Officer Milam pulled the last survivor, who was now very combative because of the fear of the circumstances—he was nearly drowning—he was forced to drag this person from the life raft through the storm back into this rescue basket.

With the last survivor in the rescue helicopter, Petty Officer Milam drifted into a stage of unconsciousness as the aircrew lowered the rescue basket directly back to him. He was still in the water. Miraculously, Petty Officer Milam was able to climb inside that basket and was hoisted to safety.

He told me personally that the next time he awoke he was in the clinic at Dutch Harbor, AK, wrapped in blankets and surrounded by heat lamps. As a matter of fact, he told me he was in bed for a period of hours, and they told him his boat was leaving, so he just got himself up and went back to the dock and went onboard the boat. This man is one of the most courageous men I have ever met in my life.

When we consider the Coast Guard as the guardian of our last frontier, I am proud to tell the Senate that fellow Alaskans recognize him as a man who has dedicated his life to public service. Petty Officer Milam's heroic actions personify the selfless public service representative of U.S. Coast Guard men and women who are stationed around the globe and represent us so well.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 433) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 433

Whereas, since 1867 the United States Coast Guard has been a vital piece of Alaskan history, providing lifesaving medical treatment to native villages along its coasts, protecting its fisheries resources, and courageously rescuing those who face peril on the seas;

Whereas, in 2007 the men and women of the United States Coast Guard stationed in Alaska valiantly responded to 696 calls for assistance and saved the lives of 463 mariners in distress;

Whereas, the actions of Petty Officer Willard L. Milam personify the proud history of courage and public service of the United States Coast Guard on the 10th of February, 2007, when, on a pitch-black winter morning, Petty Officer Milam launched aboard a Coast Guard HH-65 helicopter in near-zero visibility to locate the source of a distress signal approximately 50 miles southwest in Makushin Bay, Alaska;

Whereas, Petty Officer Milam bravely deployed into storm tossed, 40-degree seas and swam to a life raft to find four survivors hypothermic and soaked in unprotected clothing;

Whereas, Petty Officer Milam heroically overcame exhaustion and hypothermia to pull each survivor from a life raft and assist them through the raging seas, placing them into a rescue basket to be hoisted into the rescue helicopter;

Whereas, Petty Officer Milam's courageous rescue off the coast of Alaska has earned him the 2007 Coast Guard Foundation Award for Heroism and the 2007 Captain Frank Erickson Aviation Rescue Award;

Whereas, through extraordinary teamwork, airmanship, and courage, the crew of the Coast Guard rescue helicopter saved four lives from the treacherous Bearing Sea: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the heroic accomplishments of Petty Officer Willard Milam, who represented the finest traditions of the United States Coast Guard during the dramatic rescue of four survivors from the treacherous Bering Sea; and

(2) honors the United States Coast Guard, America's lifesavers and guardians of the sea, for its unflinching determination and proud 217-year history of maritime search and rescue resulting in over 1 million lives saved; and

(3) recognizes the tireless work, dedication, and commitment of Coast Guard men and women, many of them stationed in Alaska, far away from family and friends, who commit themselves every day to executing this noble mission hundreds of miles from our shores with honor, respect, and devotion to duty.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent we proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 435.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 435) recognizing the goals of Catholic Schools Week and honoring the valuable contributions of Catholic Schools in the United States.

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

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 435) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 435

Whereas Catholic schools in the United States have received international acclaim for academic excellence while providing, students with lessons that extend far beyond the classroom;

Whereas Catholic schools present a broad curriculum that emphasizes the lifelong development of moral, intellectual, physical, and social values in the young people of the United States;

Whereas Catholic schools in the United States today educate 2,363,220 students and maintain a student-to-teacher ratio of 15 to 1;

Whereas the faculty members of Catholic schools teach a highly diverse body of students;

Whereas the graduation rate for all Catholic school students is 95 percent;

Whereas 83 percent of Catholic high school graduates go on to college;

Whereas Catholic schools produce students strongly dedicated to their faith, values, families, and communities by providing an intellectually stimulating environment rich in spiritual character and moral development; and

Whereas in the 1972 pastoral message concerning Catholic education, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops stated, "Education is one of the most important ways by which the Church fulfills its commitment to the dignity of the person and building of community. Community is central to education ministry, both as a necessary condition and an ardently desired goal. The educational efforts of the Church, therefore, must be directed to forming persons-in-community; for the education of the individual Christian is important, not only to his solitary destiny, but also the destinies of the many communities in which he lives." Now, therefore, be it

Resolved. That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the goals of Catholic Schools Week, an event cosponsored by the National Catholic Educational Association and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops that recognizes the vital contributions of thousands of Catholic elementary and secondary schools in the United States; and

(2) commends Catholic schools, students, parents, and teachers across the United States for their ongoing contributions to education, and for the vital role they play in promoting and ensuring a brighter, stronger future for the United States.

NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELING WEEK

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to S. Res. 436.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 436) designating the week of February 4 through February 8, 2008 as “National School Counseling Week.”

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

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution and preamble be agreed to en bloc, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, and any statements relating to this matter be printed in the RECORD with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 436) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 436

Whereas the American School Counselor Association has declared the week of February 4 through February 8, 2008, as “National School Counseling Week”;

Whereas the Senate has recognized the importance of school counseling through the inclusion of elementary and secondary school counseling programs in the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965;

Whereas school counselors have long advocated that the education system of the United States must leave no child behind and must provide opportunities for every student;

Whereas personal and social growth results in increased academic achievement;

Whereas school counselors help develop well-rounded students by guiding them through their academic, personal, social, and career development;

Whereas school counselors have been instrumental in helping students, teachers, and parents deal with the trauma that was inflicted upon them by hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma, and other recent natural disasters;

Whereas students face myriad challenges every day, including peer pressure, depression, the deployment of family members to serve in conflicts overseas, and school violence;

Whereas school counselors are usually the only professionals in a school building who are trained in both education and mental health matters;

Whereas the roles and responsibilities of school counselors are often misunderstood,

and the school counselor position is often among the first to be eliminated in order to meet budgetary constraints;

Whereas the national average ratio of students to school counselors of 476-to-1 is almost twice the 250-to-1 ratio recommended by the American School Counselor Association, the American Counseling Association, the American Medical Association, the American Psychological Association, and other organizations; and

Whereas the celebration of National School Counseling Week would increase awareness of the important and necessary role school counselors play in the lives of students in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved. That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of February 4 through February 8, 2008, as “National School Counseling Week”; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies and activities that promote awareness of the role school counselors perform in the school and the community at large in preparing students for fulfilling lives as contributing members of society.

HONORING THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to S. Res. 429.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 429) honoring the brave men and women of the United States Coast Guard whose tireless work, dedication, and commitment to protecting the United States have led to the confiscation of over 350,000 pounds of cocaine at sea during 2007.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I watch The Weather Channel sometimes, and they have these pieces on what the Coast Guard does in violent seas. The Chair, being from Rhode Island, probably doesn't appreciate it as much as I do, being from the desert, but the Coast Guard rides some rough seas. So they are entitled to this resolution tonight.

I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid on the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 429) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 429

Whereas the estimated import value of the 350,000 pounds of cocaine confiscated by the United States Coast Guard in 2007 is more than \$4,700,000,000, or nearly ½ of the Coast Guard's annual budget;

Whereas the Coast Guard's at-sea drug interdictions are making a difference in the lives of United States citizens, as evidenced by the reduced supply of cocaine in more than 35 major cities throughout the United States;

Whereas keeping illegal drugs from reaching our shores, where they undermine American values and threaten families, schools, and communities, continues to be an important national priority;

Whereas, through robust interagency teamwork, collaboration with international partners, and ever more effective tools and tactics, the Coast Guard has removed more than 2,000,000 pounds of cocaine during the past 10 years and will continue to tighten the web of detection and interdiction at sea; and

Whereas the men and women of the Coast Guard who, while away from family and hundreds of miles from our shores, execute this dangerous mission, as well as other vital maritime safety, security, and environmental protection missions, with quiet dedication and without need of public recognition, continue to display selfless service in protecting the Nation and the American people: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved. That the Senate—

(1) honors the United States Coast Guard, with its proud 217-year legacy of maritime law enforcement and border protection, along with the brave men and women whose efforts clearly demonstrate the honor, respect, and devotion to duty that ensure the parents of the United States can sleep soundly knowing the Coast Guard is on patrol; and

(2) recognizes the tireless work, dedication, and commitment that have allowed the Coast Guard to confiscate over 350,000 pounds of cocaine at sea in 2007.

PEACEFUL RESOLUTION TO THE CURRENT ELECTORAL CRISIS IN KENYA

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 431 and the Senate proceed to that matter.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 431) calling for a peaceful resolution to the current electoral crisis in Kenya.

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

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid on the table, there be no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating to this matter be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 431) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 431

Whereas on December 27, 2007, Kenyan citizens went peacefully to the polls to elect a new parliament and a new President and signaled their commitment to democracy by turning out in large numbers, and in some instances waiting in long lines to vote;

Whereas election observers reported serious irregularities and a lack of transparency that, combined with the implausibility of the margin of victory, and the swearing in of the Party of National Unity presidential candidate Mwai Kibaki with undue haste, all serve to undermine the credibility of the presidential election results;

Whereas the Government of Kenya imposed a ban on live media broadcasts that day, and shortly after the election results were announced, in contravention of Kenyan law, the Government also announced a blanket