

Our factory and our apartment belonged now to the Polish authorities. We left Poland soon afterwards.

After the collapse of the Iron Curtain and the communist regime, I tried [to] get our possessions back without success, my appeal having been dismissed by the Polish High Court. No compensation was offered.

We hope our resolution we are introducing today will spur our own government and governments in Eastern Europe into action and call attention to this important unfinished business. Justice and memory demand nothing less.

I ask unanimous consent that this statement be placed in the appropriate place in the RECORD and ask that the text of the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to submit a resolution with my friend and colleague, the senior Senator from Florida, urging the restitution of property looted from victims of the Holocaust.

Though it was inflicted over 60 years ago, the persecution of Europe's Jews still defies belief. Never before in history had a nation committed the scope and breadth of the Holocaust's crimes against its own citizens, some of whom were even decorated German veterans of WWI. Never before had a state policy of atrocity encompassed such a horrifying thoroughness as it did during those terrible years of Nazi rule. Crimes against the Jews took all forms—from genocide to theft—and for those who survived, the scars remain today.

There are many of us now who look back, and wonder how the civilized world could have stood by, and let this thing happen; but we are not wholly without responsibility ourselves. Many of the victims of the Holocaust still seek property which was stolen from them during the years of Nazi and Nazi-allied rule in Germany and Eastern Europe. For these survivors and their kin, the persecution of the Jews is not a 60-year-old horror story in a history textbook, but a constant struggle to extract justice from those who would prefer to forget. While some countries have taken active steps to recompense victims of the wholesale Nazi confiscation, others have not.

I am proud to have been engaged in this issue throughout my tenure in the Senate, serving in 1999 as a Commissioner on the Presidential Advisory Commission on Holocaust Assets in the United States. I also introduced with Senator CLINTON the Holocaust Victims Assets, Restitution Policy, and Remembrance Act in 2001 and again in 2003. This legislation aimed to establish a Foundation to research Holocaust-era property restitution, and promote innovative solutions restitution issues. I am confident that my resolution introduced today will help establish a follow-up conference to the previous Holocaust restitution conference in 1998. I would further like to thank the Claims Conference for all the great work they've done with us on this

issue, and in furthering the cause of justice for Holocaust victims.

I recognize that this issue is complex. It is a matter of enacting legislation for restitution in countries that do not yet have it, and using the existing legislation in those that do. Our resolution calls for such action. It also calls for a second conference on Holocaust restitution to be held in Europe next year, more than a decade after the first. These steps would represent meaningful action on an issue which has gone unaddressed for far too long.

I also recognize that most of the countries in question have different governments than they did during the Nazi and Communist eras. As a result, I believe that the restitution process can be achieved in a positive spirit of cooperation with our European allies.

I thus sincerely hope that these European friends will work with us to resolve some of the last loose ends of the Nazis' crimes; and so do our own small part to make redress for the inaction of those who came before.

SENATE RESOLUTION 604—CONGRATULATING THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO BULLDOGS BASEBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2008 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETICS ASSOCIATION DIVISION I COLLEGE WORLD SERIES

Mrs. BOXER (for herself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 604

Whereas on June 25, 2008, the student athletes of the California State University, Fresno Bulldogs baseball team, in the sixth elimination game faced by the Fresno State Bulldogs, finished a true Cinderella story season, winning the 2008 National Collegiate Athletics Association Division I College World Series Championship (referred to in this preamble as the "2008 NCAA College World Series") by defeating the University of Georgia Bulldogs, 2 games to 1, in a best-of-3 championship;

Whereas the 2008 NCAA College World Series is the second championship for the California State University;

Whereas the Fresno State Bulldogs are the lowest-seeded team in college sports history to win a championship;

Whereas the Fresno State Bulldogs won 6 elimination games to win the 2008 NCAA College World Series, which is a testament to the resilience, fortitude, and "never say die" attitude of the team;

Whereas the Fresno State Bulldogs beat number 3-ranked Arizona State University, number 6-ranked Rice University, number 2-ranked University of North Carolina, and number 8-ranked University of Georgia to win the 2008 NCAA College World Series;

Whereas the Fresno State Bulldogs tied the record of most runs, 62, in the College World Series;

Whereas the Fresno State Bulldogs elimination game, a 19-10 win against Georgia just 1 day earlier, produced College World Series records for most runs in a game by 1 team, most combined runs, most hits by 1 team, most combined hits, and longest game;

Whereas the Fresno State Bulldogs played 78 games this year, more than any other team in the United States;

Whereas playing with a torn ligament in his left thumb, right fielder Steve Detwiler had 4 hits in 4 at-bats, including 2 home runs and 6 runs batted in, during the championship game;

Whereas Justin Wilson, the winning pitcher, pitching on just 3 days rest, was able to pitch 129 pitches, 86 of which were strikes over 8 strong innings, allowing just 5 hits, 1 run, and striking out 9 batters;

Whereas Tommy Mendonca, third baseman for the 2008 NCAA College World Series champion Fresno State Bulldogs, was named the "Most Outstanding Player", tying the College World Series record with 4 home runs;

Whereas the Fresno State Bulldogs have 5 players on the 2008 NCAA College World Series all-tournament team, including third baseman Tommy Mendonca, second baseman Erik Wetzler, outfielder Steve Susdorf, outfielder Steve Detwiler, and pitcher Justin Wilson;

Whereas the Fresno State Bulldogs have shown great character, comradery, resilience, and sportsmanship on the way to winning the national championship;

Whereas the fellow students, families, alumni, faculty, and fans of the Fresno State Bulldogs have been a great part of this championship, showing great support with many individuals wearing "Underdogs to Wonderdogs" t-shirts; and

Whereas the Fresno State Bulldogs have instilled within the City of Fresno and the State of California great pride and excitement: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the California State University Fresno Bulldogs baseball team for winning the 2008 National Collegiate Athletics Association Division I College World Series; and

(2) recognizes the achievements of the players, coaches, students, and staff whose hard work and dedication made winning the championship possible.

SENATE RESOLUTION 605—COMMEMORATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BERLIN AIRLIFT AND HONORING THE VETERANS OF OPERATION VITTLES

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

S. RES. 605

Whereas in spring of 1948 Berlin was isolated within the Soviet occupation zone and had only 35 days' worth of food and 45 days' worth of coal remaining for the city;

Whereas military planners in the United States and the United Kingdom determined that 1,534 tons of flour, wheat, fish, milk, and other food items would be required daily to feed the 2,000,000 residents of Berlin;

Whereas military planners determined that 3,475 tons of coal and gasoline would be required daily to keep the city of Berlin heated and powered;

Whereas, on June 1, 1948, the United States Air Force created the Military Air Transport Service, the predecessor to Air Mobility Command, to organize and conduct airlift missions;

Whereas, on June 26, 1948, "Operation Vittles" began when 32 United States Air Force C-47 Dakotas departed West Germany for Berlin hauling 80 tons of cargo, and the first British aircraft launched on June 28, 1948;

Whereas Major General William H. Tunner, a veteran of the aerial supply line over the