down Broad Street they so well deserve. Philadelphia sports fans have consistently demonstrated their love for and devotion to Philadelphia teams, even after 25 years without winning a major sports championship. While we have a reputation of being something rough around the edges, Philadelphia fans are enthusiastic about sports and fiercely loyal to our teams. We also have a reputation for not resting on our laurels and demanding a lot from those who coach and privileges to wear our teams’ uniforms. I therefore urge our Phillies to keep fighting and bring home another title next year.

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

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

The resolution (S. Res. 712) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

Whereas, on October 29, 2008, the Philadelphia Phillies defeated the Tampa Bay Rays to win the 2008 World Series;

Whereas the 4 to 3 Phillies victory in Game 5 of the Fall Classic secured for Philadelphia a World Series title for the first time since 1980, and for the second time in team history;

Whereas the Philadelphia sports fans deserve congratulations for a stellar 2008 season, in which, after 10 consecutive losing seasons, they posted a regular season record of 97–65 and won the American League Championship Series;

Whereas the 2008 Phillies are a testament to the work of Pat Gillick, who joined the Phillies in 2006, and Hazelton, Pennsylvania-native Joe Maddon, who agreed to.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 713) calling on all parties to the escalating conflict in the eastern region of the Democratic Republic of Congo to implement an immediate ceasefire, with the support of the international community to toward a comprehensive and lasting solution to this crisis.

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

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I wish to express my deep concern about the rapidly deteriorating situation in the eastern region of the Democratic Republic of Congo. Over recent weeks, the United States and our international partners made investments—both financial and diplomatic—to assist in consolidating peace and restoring the rule of law in this region. No one wants to see those investments lost and the progress made reversed, and we may not have to. If we take bold and strategic action now, we can prevent a new regional conflict and revive the peace process in eastern Congo.

I was pleased that our top diplomat for Africa, Jendayi Fraser, traveled to the region with high-level diplomats from the UK and France 2 weeks ago. In addition, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon convened an emergency summit of regional leaders in Nairobi. But it is clear that a comprehensive and lasting solution remains consistent and get all key actors, including Rwanda, to commit to a clear roadmap for implementing the already signed peace agreements. To be successful, we must also establish monitoring and verification mechanisms to hold the parties accountable and challenge the continued culture of impunity.
At the same time, while achieving a political solution is vital to ending the crisis in eastern Congo, the international community should also take measures to help protect civilians and enforce a ceasefire in the short term. The United Nations General Assembly has called for additional 3,000 troops and police specially trained and equipped for rapid response to reinforce the peace-keeping force in Congo, known by its French acronym MONUC. The United States and other Security Council members should act immediately to fulfill those requests. In addition, the Security Council should clarify MONUC's mandate to prioritize civilian protection and conflict prevention in the east and ensure it is implemented equally by all brigades. A renewed MONUC will not only save lives, but can also deter military involvement from neighboring countries.

Ultimately though, lasting peace in eastern Congo and the wider region will require measures to transform the underlying conflict. The continued exploitation of Congo's rich mineral base, particularly cassiterite, coltan, and gold, makes war a profitable enterprise. The international community should work with governments in the region to bring greater transparency and regulation to the trade in these minerals. The next administration and Congress must look seriously at how the United States can contribute meaningfully to this process as it is a critical step toward the larger goal of reforming Congo's economic and political institutions.

Congo has vast potential and its stability can have a positive impact across Africa. We have made notable progress in that direction over recent years, but we are once again standing at a precipice. In the face of a potential regional war, we can no longer rely on piecemeal tactics and half-measures. It is time for a comprehensive and concerted international effort to ensure protection and basic rights for all Congo's people. It is for that reason that I am today introducing a resolution calling for an immediate ceasefire in eastern Congo and a comprehensive solution to this crisis. I am pleased to introduce this resolution with the distinguished senior Senator from Kansas, who has long been a champion on this issue, and I hope our colleagues will join us in this urgent plea for peace.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be agreed to, and the preamble be agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

Whereas the Democratic Republic of Congo was devastated by civil wars lasting from 1996 to 1997 and 1998 to 2003, spawning some of the world's worst human rights violations and involving at least 4 neighboring countries;

Whereas, despite the signing of a peace agreement by several of foreign forces in 2003, eastern Congo has continued to suffer from high levels of poverty, insecurity, and absent or inadequate institutions, allowing armed and criminal groups to operate freely;

Whereas continuing abuses committed by the national military against civilians in Congo and also perpetrated by the military and armed groups in the region have tainted attempts to restore the rule of law in the eastern region of the country;

Whereas, according to a study by the International Rescue Committee released in January 2008, the conflict and related humanitarian crises in the Democratic Republic of Congo have taken the lives of an estimated 5,400,000 people since 1998 and continue to cause as many as 45,000 deaths each month;

Whereas sexual violence and rape remain a pervasive tool used by all parties in the conflict in eastern Congo to terrorize communities, affecting hundreds of thousands of women and girls;

Whereas continued plunder and trade of eastern Congo's mineral resources notably cassiterite, coltan, and gold, by armed groups and members of the national military make war profitable and undermine peace efforts;

Whereas the Governments of the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda signed the Nairobi Communiqué in November 2007, committing to recognize the continued activity of the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda and other armed groups operating in their shared border region;

Whereas, on January 23, 2008, with the active support of the international community, the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo and 22 armed groups in the eastern region signed the Goma accord, committing to an immediate ceasefire and buffer zones for troop disengagement and ultimately disarmament;

Whereas these agreements together provided the first working framework in years for peace and lasting stability in eastern Congo, but a continued culture of impunity and suspicion has impeded their implementation;

Whereas the United Nations reported more than 200 violations of these agreements between January and July of 2008, as well as 2,000 cases of rape and hundreds of people killed;

Whereas hate speech inciting ethnic violence by local and national leaders in Congo continued during this period, feeding the continued activity of the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda and other armed groups operating in their shared border region;

Whereas United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon traveled to Nairobi, Kenya, on November 7, 2008, and convened a summit of regional leaders, including the heads of state of the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda, which led to a joint statement calling for an immediate ceasefire and the creation of humanitarian corridors; and

Whereas, in 2006, the United States Support the efforts of the United Nations Mission in Congo (MONUC), has proven unable to protect civilians in light of this new offensive by General Nkunda's forces, causing displacement and protests by local communities;

Whereas allegations of troops from Angola, Rwanda, and Zimbabwe crossing into eastern Congo are structured around continued tensions and increased fears of a wider war that could draw other countries from the region into the fighting, as happened in 1998; and

Whereas the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Democratic Republic of Congo, Alan Doss, and United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon have called for more troops and better capabilities for MONUC to stop the rebel offensive and protect civilians;

Whereas United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon traveled to Nairobi, Kenya, on November 7, 2008, and convened a summit of regional leaders, including the heads of state of the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda, which led to a joint statement calling for an immediate ceasefire and the creation of humanitarian corridors; and

Whereas, in 2006, the United States Support the efforts of the United Nations Mission in Congo (MONUC), has proven unable to protect civilians in light of this new offensive by General Nkunda's forces, causing displacement and protests by local communities;

Whereas the United Nations Mission in Congo, known by its French acronym MONUC, has proven unable to protect civilians in light of this new offensive by General Nkunda's forces, causing displacement and protests by local communities;

Whereas the United Nations Mission in Congo, known by its French acronym MONUC, has proven unable to protect civilians in light of this new offensive by General Nkunda's forces, causing displacement and protests by local communities;

Whereas the United Nations Mission in Congo, known by its French acronym MONUC, has proven unable to protect civilians in light of this new offensive by General Nkunda's forces, causing displacement and protests by local communities;

Whereas the United Nations Mission in Congo, known by its French acronym MONUC, has proven unable to protect civilians in light of this new offensive by General Nkunda's forces, causing displacement and protests by local communities;
Whereas 25,000 firefighters and emergency response personnel from California, 41 other States, and other nations worked side-by-side to fight the wildfires;

Whereas members of the National Guard from California and other States provided essential support to the firefighting effort; and

Whereas the people of California and the United States were inspired by the dedication of the firefighters throughout the ongoing fire suppression and subsequent repair and rebuilding efforts: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the firefighters and emergency workers from California, 41 other States, and other nations for their courageous actions and sacrifices in fighting wildfires in California;

(2) supports the continued work of firefighters to protect National Forest System land, other public land, and private property from further damage;

(3) praises the people of California for their great courage in the face of the fires; and

(4) extends heartfelt sympathy to the people who have lost loved ones, homes, and businesses in the wildfires.

SENATE NATIONAL SECURITY WORKING GROUP

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 715, submitted earlier today.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 715) was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

Whereas, in 2008, there have been more than 10,000 wildfires in California started by natural causes and human activity;

Whereas more than 1,440,000 acres of Federal, State, and local land in California burned in 2008;

Whereas, in June 2008, fires started by lightning burned approximately 1,200,000 acres of Federal, State, and local land in California, making the June fires the largest single wildfire event in California’s recorded history;

Whereas 41 counties across California were impacted by wildfires in 2008;

Whereas more than 1,400 homes were destroyed by fires in California in 2008;

Whereas State and local firefighters have been called to duty for increasingly long fire seasons, working on the front lines of these fires for weeks;

Whereas firefighters have risked their lives and endured great hardship to protect lives, property, and the environment in California;

Whereas 37 firefighters were injured and 14 firefighters tragically lost their lives in California in 2008;

HONORING THE FIREFIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY WORKERS IN CALIFORNIA IN 2008

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 714, which was submitted earlier today by Senator BOXER.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 714) honoring the firefighters and emergency workers who courageously fought fires in California in 2008.

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

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements related to the resolution be printed in the RECORD at the appropriate place as if read.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 714) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

Whereas, in 2008, there have been more than 10,000 wildfires in California started by natural causes and human activity;

Whereas more than 1,440,000 acres of Federal, State, and local land in California burned in 2008;

Whereas, in June 2008, fires started by lightning burned approximately 1,200,000 acres of Federal, State, and local land in California, making the June fires the largest single wildfire event in California’s recorded history;

Whereas 41 counties across California were impacted by wildfires in 2008;

Whereas more than 1,400 homes were destroyed by fires in California in 2008;

Whereas State and local firefighters have been called to duty for increasingly long fire seasons, working on the front lines of these fires for weeks;

Whereas firefighters have risked their lives and endured great hardship to protect lives, property, and the environment in California;