

of Lake Superior, the largest of North America's Great Lakes;

Whereas the Minneapolis-St. Paul area is nationally recognized for its parks, museums, and cultural events; and

Whereas the people of Minnesota have a timeless reputation of compassion, strength, and determination: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate congratulates the State of Minnesota on its 150th anniversary and the contributions it continues to make to America's economy and heritage.

SENATE RESOLUTION 553—CONGRATULATING CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND, ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 350TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Ms. MIKULSKI) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 553

Whereas 2008 marks the 350th anniversary of the establishment of Charles County, Maryland, a historic and memorable event that will be commemorated throughout the year;

Whereas Charles County was chartered in 1658 and named after Charles Calvert, a royal proprietor of the colony of Maryland;

Whereas citizens of Charles County have played an important role in the history of Maryland and our Nation, including Thomas Stone, whose home is maintained by the National Park Service in Port Tobacco and who served as a Continental Congressman, a framer of the Articles of Confederation, and a signer of the Declaration of Independence;

Whereas, under the Articles of Confederation, John Hanson, born in Port Tobacco, served as the President of the United States in Congress Assembled;

Whereas Josiah Henson escaped slavery and fled from Charles County to Canada, where he wrote his autobiography, a narrative that later inspired Harriet Beecher Stowe's famous novel "Uncle Tom's Cabin";

Whereas Josiah Henson's grandnephew, Matthew Henson, left Charles County farmland to become an arctic explorer, venturing to the North Pole and going on to receive international acclaim;

Whereas, following the Civil War, the house of Dr. Samuel A. Mudd in Waldorf was where John Wilkes Booth stopped to have Dr. Mudd reset his leg, broken after he fatally shot President Abraham Lincoln and jumped off the balcony of Ford's Theater in Washington, DC;

Whereas today Charles County has roughly 120,000 residents;

Whereas, while farming and small town life still flourish, particularly along the banks of the Potomac River, the population of the county is growing; and

Whereas the county is home to workers in the National Capital region as well as the county's largest employer, a Department of Defense Energetics Center, the Indian Head Division, Naval Surface Warfare Center: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(a) commends and congratulates Charles County, Maryland, on the occasion of its 350th anniversary; and

(b) requests the Secretary of the Senate to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the Charles County Anniversary Committee as an expression of the Senate's best wishes for a glorious year of celebration.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 79—CONGRATULATING AND SALUTING FOCUS: HOPE ON ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY AND FOR ITS REMARKABLE COMMITMENT AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO DETROIT, THE STATE OF MICHIGAN, AND THE UNITED STATES

Mr. LEVIN (for himself and Ms. STABENOW) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. CON. RES. 79

Whereas Focus: HOPE began as a civil and human rights organization in 1968 in the wake of the devastating Detroit riots, and was cofounded by the late Father William T. Cunningham, a Roman Catholic priest, and Eleanor M. Josaitis, a suburban housewife, who were inspired by the work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.;

Whereas Focus: HOPE is committed to bringing together people of all races, faiths, and economic backgrounds to overcome injustice and build racial harmony, and it has grown into one of the largest nonprofit organizations in Michigan;

Whereas the Focus: HOPE mission statement reads, "Recognizing the dignity and beauty of every person, we pledge intelligent and practical action to overcome racism, poverty and injustice. And to build a metropolitan community where all people may live in freedom, harmony, trust, and affection. Black and white, yellow, brown and red, from Detroit and its suburbs of every economic status, national origin and religious persuasion we join in this movement.";

Whereas one of Focus: HOPE's early efforts was to support African-American and female employees in a seminal class action suit against the American Automobile Association (AAA), resulting in groundbreaking affirmative action commitments made by AAA;

Whereas Focus: HOPE helped to conceive and develop the Department of Agriculture's Commodity Supplemental Food Program, which has been replicated in more than 32 States, and through this program, Focus: HOPE helps to feed approximately 41,000 people per month throughout southeast Michigan;

Whereas Focus: HOPE has revitalized several city blocks in central Detroit by redeveloping obsolete industrial buildings, beautifying and landscaping Oakman Boulevard, creating pocket parks, and rehabilitating homes in the surrounding areas;

Whereas, since 1981, Focus: HOPE's Machinist Training Institute has been training individuals from Detroit and surrounding areas in careers in advanced manufacturing and precision machining and has produced nearly 2,300 certified graduates, providing an opportunity for minority youth, women, and others who are often underrepresented in such careers to gain access to the financial mainstream and learn in-demand skills;

Whereas Focus: HOPE has recognized that manufacturing and information technologies are key to the economic growth and security of Michigan and the United States, and is committed to designing programs to encourage the participation of underrepresented urban individuals in those critical sectors;

Whereas, in 1982, Focus: HOPE initiated a for-profit subsidiary for community economic development purposes and is now designated with Federal HUBZone status (as de-

finied in section 3(p) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(p));

Whereas Focus: HOPE created Fast Track, a pioneering skill-enhancing program designed to help individuals improve their reading and math competencies by a minimum of 2 grade levels in 4 to 7 weeks;

Whereas Focus: HOPE's training and education programs have moved more than 9,600 individuals out into the workforce since the inception of those programs and have job placement rates significantly above the national average;

Whereas, in 1987, Focus: HOPE reclaimed and renovated an abandoned building and opened it as the Focus: HOPE Center for Children, which now has served nearly 6,000 children of colleagues, students, and neighbors with quality child care, including latchkey, summer camp, early childhood education, and other educational services;

Whereas Focus: HOPE, through an unprecedented cooperative agreement between the Departments of Defense, Commerce, Education, and Labor, established a national demonstration project, the Center for Advanced Technologies, which integrates hands-on manufacturing training and academic learning and educates advanced manufacturing engineers and technologists at internationally competitive levels;

Whereas Focus: HOPE partnered with 5 universities and 6 industry partners, formerly known as the Greenfield Coalition, to design a unique 21st century curriculum that resulted in students receiving associate's degrees in manufacturing technologies from Lawrence Technological University, or bachelor's degrees in engineering technology or manufacturing engineering from Wayne State University or the University of Detroit Mercy, respectively;

Whereas, due to the unique educational pedagogy at Focus: HOPE's Center for Advanced Technologies, the starting salary of its graduates is higher than the national average of graduates with the same degree from other universities;

Whereas Focus: HOPE has made outstanding contributions in increasing diversity within the traditionally homogenous science, math, engineering, and technology fields, 95 percent of currently enrolled degree candidates are African-American, and the Center for Advanced Technologies is one of the top programs in the United States for graduating minorities with bachelor's degrees in manufacturing engineering;

Whereas Focus: HOPE's unique partnership with the Department of Defense has resulted in several research and development projects, including a nationally recognized demonstration project, the Mobile Parts Hospital, whose Rapid Manufacturing System has been deployed to Kuwait in support of the Armed Forces' operations in Afghanistan, Kuwait, and Iraq;

Whereas, in 1995, Focus: HOPE began a community arts program to present multicultural arts programming and gallery exhibitions designated to educate and encourage area residents, while fostering integration in a culturally diverse metropolitan community, and more than 70,000 people have viewed sponsored exhibits or participated in the program;

Whereas, in 1999, Focus: HOPE established an Informational Technologies Center to provide Detroit students with industry-certified training programs in network administration, network installation, and desktop and server administration, and has graduated nearly 800 students, and initiated, in collaboration with industry and academia,

the design of a new bachelor's degree program to educate information management systems engineers;

Whereas, in 2006, the State of Michigan designated Focus: HOPE's campus and the surrounding community a "Cool Cities" neighborhood;

Whereas the Secretary of Labor presented Focus: HOPE with an Exemplary Public Interest Contribution Award in recognition of its success in opening employment opportunities for minorities and women;

Whereas the Village of Oakman Manor, a 55-unit senior citizen apartment building sponsored by the Presbyterian Village of Michigan in collaboration with Focus: HOPE, opened in 2006 near the Focus: HOPE campus as the first new construction in the area in more than 50 years;

Whereas Focus: HOPE's initiatives and programs have been nationally recognized for excellence and leadership by such entities as the Government Accountability Office, the Department of Labor, the International Standards Organization, the National Science Foundation, the Cisco Networking Academy Program, Fortune magazine, Forbes magazine, and the Aspen Institute;

Whereas former Presidents George H.W. Bush and William Jefferson Clinton have visited Focus: HOPE's campus;

Whereas Focus: HOPE's cofounder Eleanor M. Josaitis received honorary degrees from 13 outstanding universities and colleges, was named one of the 100 Most Influential Women in 2002 by Crain's Detroit Business, was inducted into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame, received the Detroit NAACP Presidential Award, the Arab American Institute Foundation's Kahilil Gibran Spirit of Humanity Award, the Michigan Chamber of Commerce Award for Distinguished Service and Leadership, and the Dr. Charles H. Wright Award for Excellence in Community Activism, the Caring Institute's National Caring Award, and the Clara Barton Ambassador Award from the American Red Cross, as well as many other awards;

Whereas, through generous partnerships with and the support of individuals from all walks of life, the Federal, State, and local governments, and foundations and corporations across the United States, the vision of Focus: HOPE will continue to grow and inspire;

Whereas Focus: HOPE has been fortunate enough to have an active board of directors and advisory board from the most senior levels of corporations and public entities in the United States and has benefitted from thousands of volunteers and supporters;

Whereas Focus: HOPE has been a tremendous force for good in the city of Detroit, the State of Michigan, and in the United States for the past 40 years;

Whereas Focus: HOPE continues to strive to eliminate racism, poverty, and injustice through the use of passion, persistence, and partnerships, and continues to seek improvements in its quality of service and program operations; and

Whereas Focus: HOPE and its colleagues will continue to identify ways in which it can lead Detroit, the State of Michigan, and the United States into the future with creative urban leadership initiatives: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) congratulates and salutes Focus: HOPE for its remarkable commitment and contributions to Detroit, the State of Michigan, and the United States; and

(2) directs the Secretary of the Senate to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to Focus: HOPE for appropriate display.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I am joined by my colleague from Michigan, Senator STABENOW, in introducing a resolution today honoring the 40th anniversary of Focus: HOPE. This resolution was initiated in the House by Representative JOHN CONYERS and cosponsored by the entire Michigan Congressional delegation.

Focus: HOPE, a civil and human rights organization, was founded by the late Father William T. Cunningham and Eleanor Josaitis in the aftermath of the 1967 Detroit riots in one of Detroit's most economically depressed areas. This outstanding organization has established itself as an integral part of the history and fabric of southeast Michigan. The mission of Focus: HOPE is "to use intelligent and practical action to fight racism, poverty and injustice" and that mission is as important today as it was when the organization was founded in 1968.

Over the ensuing 40 years, Focus: HOPE has sought to effect positive change in southeast Michigan. I have been honored to witness and take part in the evolution of this fine organization. Education and job training has been at the core of these efforts. By bringing together businesses, foundations, government and individuals in the community, Focus: HOPE has truly made a difference in Detroit and across the state of Michigan and has grown into one of the largest nonprofits in the State. Focus: HOPE has sought to meet the needs of southeast Michigan in a comprehensive fashion through a number of highly successful programs, including the Machinist Training Institute, the Center for Advanced Technology, the Fast Track program, the Center for Children and the Commodity Supplemental Food Program.

Real and meaningful change comes from sustained and committed service. Over the past 40 years, Focus: HOPE has embodied this principle and, along the way, has touched many lives in Southeast Michigan in a profound way. Equipping individuals with the ability to compete and thrive in workplaces that are increasingly technologically advanced is central to its mission. The reward has been thousands of heartwarming success stories from those who have benefitted from the many services Focus: HOPE provides.

This momentous occasion will be marked by several celebrations, including one in the Mansfield Room of the Capitol later today. I know my colleagues join me in congratulating each individual that has contributed to the success of Focus: HOPE from its inception. I wish the organization many more years of successful and committed service to the community.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED DURING ADJOURNMENT OF THE SENATE

SA 4656. Mr. KERRY submitted, under authority of the order of the Senate of May 2, 2008, an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4627 proposed by Mr. ROCKEFELLER to the bill H.R. 2881, to amend title 49, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for the Federal Aviation Administration for fiscal years 2008 through 2011, to improve aviation safety and capacity, to provide stable funding for the national aviation system, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4657. Mr. KERRY (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY) submitted, under authority of the order of the Senate of May 2, 2008, an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4627 proposed by Mr. ROCKEFELLER to the bill H.R. 2881, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4658. Mr. KERRY submitted, under authority of the order of the Senate of May 2, 2008, an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4627 proposed by Mr. ROCKEFELLER to the bill H.R. 2881, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4659. Mr. BARRASSO submitted, under authority of the order of the Senate of May 2, 2008, an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4627 proposed by Mr. ROCKEFELLER to the bill H.R. 2881, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4660. Mr. BARRASSO (for himself and Mr. ENSIGN) submitted, under authority of the order of the Senate of May 2, 2008, an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2881, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4661. Mr. KERRY (for himself and Mr. LAUTENBERG) submitted, under authority of the order of the Senate of May 2, 2008, an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2881, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4662. Mr. WYDEN submitted, under authority of the order of the Senate of May 2, 2008, an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2881, to amend title 49, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for the Federal Aviation Administration for fiscal years 2008 through 2011, to improve aviation safety and capacity, to provide stable funding for the national aviation system, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4663. Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mrs. BOXER) submitted, under authority of the order of the Senate of May 2, 2008, an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2881, to amend title 49, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for the Federal Aviation Administration for fiscal years 2008 through 2011, to improve aviation safety and capacity, to provide stable funding for the national aviation system, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4664. Mr. DEMINT submitted, under authority of the order of the Senate of May 2, 2008, an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2881, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4665. Mr. DEMINT submitted, under authority of the order of the Senate of May 2, 2008, an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2881, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4666. Mr. DEMINT submitted, under authority of the order of the Senate of May 2, 2008, an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 4585 proposed by Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself, Mr. INOUE, Mr.