

**SENATE RESOLUTION 116—CON-
DEMNING THE ASSAD REGIME
FOR ITS CONTINUED USE OF
CHEMICAL WEAPONS AGAINST
THE SYRIAN PEOPLE**

Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. CORKER, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. KAINE, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. UDALL, Mr. COONS, and Mr. GARDNER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 116

Whereas on August 21, 2013, the Assad regime launched rockets carrying sarin gas, a deadly nerve agent, against Ghouta, a rebel-held suburb of Damascus, killing 1,429 men, women, and children, according to United States Government estimates, while injuring another 3,600 people;

Whereas, on September 14, 2013, the Assad regime agreed to enter the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling, and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction, done at Paris January 13, 1993, and entered into force April 29, 1997 (referred to in this Resolution as the “Chemical Weapons Convention”) and to allow a joint mission between the United Nations and the Organization for the Prevention of Chemical Weapons (referred to in this Resolution as the “OPCW-UN”) to oversee the removal and elimination of Syria’s chemical weapons program;

Whereas, on September 27, 2013, the United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 2118, which endorsed the destruction of Syria’s chemical weapons program and agreed that in the event of non-compliance, it would take action under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations;

Whereas, on October 16, 2013, the OPCW-UN was formally established to investigate and destroy Syria’s chemical weapons program and stockpiles;

Whereas, on June 23, 2014, the OPCW-UN announced that the last of Syria’s declared chemical weapon stockpile had been shipped out of Syria for destruction;

Whereas, on September 30, 2014, the OPCW-UN announced that it had completed its mandate and officially ended operations;

Whereas on October 14, 2013, the Syria Government entered into the Chemical Weapons Convention;

Whereas the Chemical Weapons Convention has 192 member states and bans all chemical weapons;

Whereas, the Assad regime was subsequently accused of committing more chemical weapons attacks on Syrian civilians in opposition-held areas by using chlorine-based chemical weapons, in violation of the Chemical Weapons Convention;

Whereas on August 7, 2015, the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 2235, which established the UN-OPCW Joint Investigative Mechanism to identify which individuals and entities were responsible for the use of chlorine-based chemical weapons attacks in Syria;

Whereas, on October 27, 2016, the UN-OPCW Joint Investigative Mechanism definitively confirmed that the Assad regime was responsible for the use of chemical weapons in Syria in Talmenes in April 2014, in Qmenas in March 2015, and in Sarmin in March 2016;

Whereas, the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 2319 on November 17, 2016, which renewed the UN-OPCW Joint Investigative Mechanism mandate for one year;

Whereas, the Russian Federation, along with China, blocked a United Nations Security

Council Resolution on February 28, 2017, which would have implemented a sanctions regime against the Assad regime for its use of chemical weapons;

Whereas, on the morning of April 4, 2017, another chemical weapons attack took place in the town of Khan Sheikhoun in Idlib Province, killing at least 58 people, including 11 children, according to the Syrian Observatory For Human Rights;

Whereas Human Rights Watch reported that dozens of people showed symptoms consistent with exposure to chemicals after aircraft attacked the town;

Whereas the Assad regime is the only entity operating in Syria that the UN-OPCW Joint Investigative Mechanism has confirmed use of aircraft to launch chemical weapons attacks;

Whereas, United States Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley announced that the United Nations Security Council would hold an emergency meeting on April 5, 2017, to discuss the chemical weapons attack in Idlib province;

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) holds the Assad regime responsible for war crimes and crimes against humanity, including its confirmed use of chemical weapons;

(2) condemns Russia for repeatedly blocking collective response to Bashar al-Assad’s confirmed use of chemical weapons though the United Nations Security Council;

(3) calls on the United Nations Security Council to take immediate, decisive action in response to the Assad regime’s continued use of chemical weapons;

(4) supports the critical work of the United Nations-Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons Joint Investigate Mechanism;

(5) expresses alarm that the continued use of chemical weapons by the Assad regime undermines the integrity of the Chemical Weapons Convention;

(6) reiterates that Bashar al-Assad has lost legitimacy as Syria’s leader; and

(7) insists that Bashar al-Assad must be held accountable for his war crimes and crimes against humanity.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 117—DESIG-
NATING THE WEEK OF APRIL 15,
2017, THROUGH APRIL 23, 2017, AS
“NATIONAL PARK WEEK”**

Mr. DAINES (for himself, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. UDALL, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. HEINRICH, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. RUBIO, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. WARNER, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. NELSON, Mr. PORTMAN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BARASSO, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. ENZI, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. REED, Mr. COTTON, Mr. TESTER, Mr. CORKER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. KING, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. LEAHY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 117

Whereas, on March 1, 1872, Congress established Yellowstone National Park as the first national park for the enjoyment of the people of the United States;

Whereas, on August 25, 1916, Congress established the National Park Service with the mission to preserve unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, edu-

cation, and inspiration of current and future generations;

Whereas, in 2017, the National Park Service began its second century of stewardship of the National Park System after the 2016 National Park Service Centennial, which celebrated 100 years of the work of the National Park Service to protect and manage the majestic landscapes, hallowed battlefields, and iconic cultural and historical sites of the United States;

Whereas the units of the National Park System span from Maine to Hawaii and Alaska and many of the units embody the rich natural heritage of the United States, reflect a unique national story through people and places, and offer countless opportunities for recreation, volunteerism, cultural exchange, education, civic engagement, and exploration;

Whereas the national parks of the United States attracted record-breaking visitation during the National Park Service Centennial, with 331,000,000 recreational visits to these incredible places in 2016;

Whereas the dedicated employees of the National Park Service carry out their mission to protect the national parks of the United States so that the vibrant culture, diverse wildlife, and priceless resources of the parks will endure for perpetuity; and

Whereas the people of the United States have inherited the remarkable legacy of the National Park System and are entrusted with its preservation as the United States marks the beginning of the second century of the National Park System: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of April 15, 2017, through April 23, 2017, as “National Park Week”; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States and the world to visit and experience the treasured national parks of the United States.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, as a fifth-generation Montanan who grew up just a short drive from our Nation’s first national park, Yellowstone National Park, and as chair of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks, I am excited to introduce this resolution to reassure the public that Congress recognizes the remarkable value that our National Parks bring to our national heritage. From America’s hallowed battlefields in Gettysburg and Fredericksburg, to the glacial peaks, geysers, and big game in my home State of Montana, to the ancient cultural resources, volcanoes, and marine life of Hawaii and all across the plains, many of the units of the National Park System bring remarkable opportunities for cultural education and outdoor recreation for people from around the world to enjoy. I am excited to be joined by ranking member MAZIE HIRONO and over 30 of our bipartisan colleagues from Alaska to Maine and Florida in introducing this resolution. The support of this resolution is a reflection that our National Parks bridge political divides and make our Nation uniquely American. As the National Park System begins its second century this year, we have seen record visitation with 331 million visits in 2016, but record visitation also brings additional strain on the National Park Service’s failing infrastructure. I am hopeful