

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 136

Recognizing the 140th anniversary of the founding of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, and congratulating members and officers of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers for the union's many achievements.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 8, 2003

Mr. DASCHLE (for Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mr. VOINOVICH)) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the 140th anniversary of the founding of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, and congratulating members and officers of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers for the union's many achievements.

Whereas the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers was founded on May 8, 1863, as a secret, fraternal labor organization and its first meetings were held clandestinely for fear of reprisals from railroad management;

Whereas the climate toward labor organizations at that time was extraordinarily hostile, and many of the other newly founded labor organizations failed to withstand the negative pressures placed upon them and disbanded in their infancies;

Whereas the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers began to thrive despite the climate into which it was born;

Whereas the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers has grown from its original 13 members, all from the Michigan Central Railroad, to 59,000 active and retired members employed throughout the United States and Canada;

Whereas the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers is North America's oldest rail labor union;

Whereas the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers' members have contributed, both directly through their railroad activity and in private capacities, to the war effort in all of the battles of the United States dating back to the Civil War;

Whereas their efforts to improve rail safety for both their members and the public have resulted in a dramatic decrease in the number of railroad accidents in the years since their inception;

Whereas, in 1964, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers launched an apprentice engineer program to assure the Nation of a stable supply of well-trained locomotive engineers, and to assure stable employment and earnings to apprentices;

Whereas, after accepting only promoted locomotive engineers in its early years, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers enlarged its membership goals to include other rail employees;

Whereas, in 1993, the 2,500 member American Train Dispatchers Association officially affiliated with the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers in order to unite the two key railway professions that facilitate the efficient and safe movement of passengers and freight;

Whereas, in 1995, the Rail Canada Traffic Controllers union also chose to merge into the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, adding another 700 members;

Whereas, in addition to providing representation for its members, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers aggressively participates in the labor movement with other unions and organizations in promoting the interests of working men and women and their families;

Whereas the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers is an extraordinary union whose leadership still works hard every day—just as it did in 1863—to protect members’ health and safety, to guard their financial interests, to give them an effective voice on the job, and to ensure dignity, respect, and security for railway workers in the workplace; and

Whereas the efforts of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers are deserving of our attention and admiration: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) recognizes the union which has made a tremendous contribution to the structural development
3 and building of the United States, and to the well-
4 being of tens of thousands of workers;

5 (2) congratulates the union for its many
6 achievements and the strength of its members; and

7 (3) expects that the union will continue its dedicated work and will have an even greater impact in
8 the 21st century and beyond, and will enhance the
9
10 the 21st century and beyond, and will enhance the

- 1 standard of living and working environment for rail
- 2 workers and other laborers in generations to come.

