

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 38

Commending the people of Iraq on the January 30, 2005, national elections.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 7, 2005

Mr. FRIST (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. BOND, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. BURNS, Mr. BURR, Mr. BYRD, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. COBURN, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. COLEMAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CORZINE, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. DODD, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. GREGG, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HATCH, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. INOUE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KERRY, Mr. KOHL, Mr. KYL, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. LOTT, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. MCCONNELL, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. REED, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. SMITH, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. SPECTER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. TALENT, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. THUNE, Mr. VITTER, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Commending the people of Iraq on the January 30, 2005,
national elections.

Whereas on January 30, 2005, Iraq held its first democratic elections in nearly half a century;

Whereas after more than 3 decades of enduring harsh repression and lack of freedom, millions cast ballots on January 30, 2005, to determine the future of their country in an election widely recognized as a success by the international community;

Whereas the hard work, contributions, vision, and sacrifices of the Interim Iraqi Government in undertaking major political, economic, social, and legal reforms and, in conjunction with the efforts of the Iraqi Independent Electoral Commission, in ensuring that Iraq held nationwide elections on January 30, and in not being intimidated by terrorist and insurgent forces resulted in the successful elections of January 30;

Whereas on January 30, President George W. Bush stated that the election in Iraq was a “milestone” in Iraq’s history and that the “world is hearing the voice of freedom from the center of the Middle East”;

Whereas the January 30 election is another step in the process of developing a free and democratic Iraq;

Whereas the people of Iraq cast votes to freely choose the 275-member Transitional National Assembly that will serve as the national legislature of Iraq for a transition period, name a Presidency Council, and select a Prime Minister;

Whereas the Transitional National Assembly will draft the permanent constitution of Iraq;

Whereas the election establishes a credible process for governing Iraq under a mandate from the majority of the people of Iraq for a new Iraq in which all communities

are represented, minority rights are respected, and violence is not tolerated;

Whereas an estimated 14,300,000 Iraqis were registered to vote at more than 5,000 polling stations across Iraq and in 14 other countries;

Whereas, with 256 political entities composed of 18,900 Iraqi candidates standing for election in 20 different elections (the national election, 18 provincial elections, and Kurdistan Regional government election), voter turnout demonstrated widespread enthusiasm for self-determination;

Whereas Iraqi security forces joined with United States and Coalition forces in providing security for the elections;

Whereas despite these efforts, many Sunni Iraqis in some provinces did not vote because of fear and intimidation;

Whereas the United Nations Electoral Assistance Division and other nongovernmental organizations provided technical support and assistance to the Independent Electoral Commission of Iraq and the Iraqi Interim Government;

Whereas the people of Iraq will again exercise their popular will through a national referendum in October 2005, when the Transitional National Assembly presents a draft constitution for Iraq;

Whereas national elections based on that constitution are then to be held in December 2005 to choose an Iraqi government in a manner prescribed by the constitution;

Whereas it is in the interest of Iraq, the Middle East, the United States, and the international community that Iraq successfully transitions to a functioning democratic state, as this may serve as a catalyst for peace and stability in the region; and

Whereas the Iraqi government needs assistance from the broader international community to further develop governing capacity, train effective security forces who can defeat the terrorists and insurgents and maintain law and order, improve economic conditions, and maintain essential services, such as the delivery of electricity, gasoline, and water: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) commends the people of Iraq on the suc-
3 cessful nationwide elections held in Iraq on January
4 30, 2005, and recognizes the elections as another
5 step in developing a free and democratic Iraq;

6 (2) recognizes the desire for freedom and lib-
7 erty of all individuals who served as candidates,
8 campaign workers, United Nations and Iraqi election
9 officials, and voters in the January 30, 2005, elec-
10 tions in Iraq and congratulates the new members of
11 the Transitional National Assembly and the leaders
12 of the provincial and regional governments;

13 (3) urges the new leadership of Iraq to move
14 forward with drafting the constitution, upholding the
15 law, and holding a referendum on the new constitu-
16 tion in October 2005;

17 (4) encourages participation of all groups and
18 communities in the drafting of a new constitution
19 and the formation of a permanent government for
20 Iraq;

1 (5) recognizes and honors the sacrifices made
2 for freedom and liberty in Iraq by the people of Iraq;

3 (6) commends the Iraqi security forces, and the
4 U.S. armed forces and Coalition forces, who ensured
5 the elections could be conducted in a relatively safe,
6 secure, and credible manner;

7 (7) condemns and deploras all acts of violence
8 and intimidation against the people of Iraq by mem-
9 bers of the former Iraqi regime, insurgents, and
10 other extremists and terrorists;

11 (8) supports the establishment of a fully demo-
12 cratic Iraqi government that respects the rule of law,
13 promotes ethnic and religious tolerance, respects the
14 rights of women and all minorities, provides security
15 and stability for the people of Iraq, and has the ca-
16 pacity to maintain basic services such as the delivery
17 of sufficient electricity, gasoline, and water;

18 (9) believes that it is in the interest of the peo-
19 ple of Iraq, the Middle East, the United States, and
20 the international community that Iraq transitions to
21 a fully democratic state, and that doing so may
22 serve as a catalyst for peace and stability in the re-
23 gion;

24 (10) calls on the international community, par-
25 ticularly Arab states, countries with predominantly

1 Muslim populations, and all North Atlantic Treaty
2 Organization member states, to provide military and
3 police personnel to train and assist Iraqi security
4 forces and to otherwise assist in the political and
5 economic development of Iraq;

6 (11) encourages the newly-elected transitional
7 government of Iraq to ensure that all Iraqis, includ-
8 ing members of the Sunni religious community, are
9 represented in the Constitution-writing process and
10 in the new Iraqi cabinet to improve the prospects for
11 national unity and consensus; and

12 (12) looks forward to welcoming Iraq into the
13 world community of democratic nations.

○