

110TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 332

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 11, 2008

Received and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Recognizing the 60th anniversary of the Universal
Declaration of Human Rights.

Whereas the United Nations Charter sought to establish an international forum to “save succeeding generations from the scourge of war..., reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small...”;

Whereas, through manifold works of generosity, the people of the United States exemplify a noble conviction that the deepest yearnings of the human heart for respect and dignity transcend political, ethnic, and religious differences;

Whereas the people of the United States continue to inspire their leaders to prioritize endeavors which bring hope and healing to those in need throughout the world;

Whereas the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on December 10, 1948, as a “common standard of achievement for all peoples and nations. . .”;

Whereas the preamble of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states, “. . .recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice, and peace in the world. . .”;

Whereas the Universal Declaration of Human Rights sets forth a common understanding of universal rights and freedoms and the notion that these cannot be created and are neither conferred by countries nor by governments, but rather are inalienable rights and freedoms with which all human persons are endowed by their very nature;

Whereas, Eleanor Roosevelt, who led the United States delegation to the first Commission on Human Rights, was responsible for drafting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in recognition of her unparalleled humanitarian conviction, was elected as Chairwoman of the Commission; Eleanor Roosevelt expressed her vision of a declaration of true universality with enduring principles that would be perpetually recognized by all nations when

she stated, as she submitted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights for consideration by the United Nations General Assembly, “We stand today at the threshold of a great event both in the life of the United Nations and in the life of mankind. This declaration may well become the international Magna Carta for all men everywhere.”; and

Whereas United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon noted on Human Rights Day 2007, that “[i]t is our duty to ensure that these rights are a living reality – that they are known, understood and enjoyed by everyone, everywhere”: Now, therefore, be it

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

3 (1) recognizes on its 60th anniversary year the
4 Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a sin-
5 gular achievement of the community of nations;

6 (2) recognizes the contribution in the Declara-
7 tion of Independence and the United States Con-
8 stitution to the development of the Universal Dec-
9 laration of Human Rights, and the role of the
10 United States in preserving the legacy of these
11 foundational human rights precepts through its par-
12 ticipation in the United Nations;

13 (3) urges all United Nations Member States to
14 renew their commitment to uphold and promote the
15 transcendent principles of human dignity enshrined
16 in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, espe-

1 cially on behalf of the world's most vulnerable per-
2 sons and those who have no power to advocate on
3 their own behalf; and

4 (4) joins with colleagues inspired by the spirit
5 of goodwill in parliaments throughout the world in
6 seeking to guide the United Nations and its agencies
7 to serve as effective instruments of genuine and last-
8 ing justice and peace among nations.

Passed the House of Representatives June 10, 2008.

Attest:

LORRAINE C. MILLER,

Clerk.