

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 274

Commemorating the 25th anniversary of the peaceful and democratic reunification of Germany.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 1, 2015

Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. JOHNSON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

RESOLUTION

Commemorating the 25th anniversary of the peaceful and democratic reunification of Germany.

Whereas more than 22,000,000 people of the United States served in the Cold War by supporting the efforts to bring military, economic, and diplomatic pressure to bear in the defense of Germany and the West, and ultimately helping more than 400,000,000 people gain freedom from the bondage of communism in the Soviet Bloc;

Whereas the United States supported the promulgation of the Basic Law for the Federal Republic of Germany, under which Germany was eventually reunited;

Whereas the United States created the Reconstruction Loan Corporation, which, under West German leadership, became the Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau that invested in

the reconstruction of West Germany and lay the economic groundwork for the reunification of Germany;

Whereas, on November 4, 1989, more than 1,000,000 people gathered in Alexanderplatz in East Berlin and 40 other cities and towns in East Germany to demand free elections and basic civil rights, such as freedom of opinion, movement, press, and assembly;

Whereas, on November 9, 1989, East German politbureau member Guenter Schabowski announced that the Government of East Germany would allow “every citizen of the German Democratic Republic to leave the GDR through any of the border crossings” and East German leader Egon Krenz promised “free, general, democratic, and secret elections”;

Whereas thousands of people in East Berlin immediately flooded the border checkpoints at the Berlin Wall and demanded entry into West Berlin, causing the overwhelmed border guards of East Germany to open the checkpoints to allow people to cross into West Berlin;

Whereas in the days following the fall of the Berlin Wall on November 9, 1989, hundreds of thousands of people from East Germany freely crossed the border into West Berlin and West Germany for the first time in more than 28 years;

Whereas German Chancellor Helmut Kohl demonstrated leadership and vision when he announced a 10-point program calling for the 2 Germanys to expand mutual cooperation with the view toward eventual reunification on November 28, 1989;

Whereas in March 1990, East Germany held free elections for the first time and those elections led to the defeat of

the Party of Democratic Socialism and demonstrated the desire of the East German people to reunify Germany and rejoin the world community, which led to the May 1990 treaty on monetary, economic, and social issues and the signing of the Unification Treaty on August 31, 1990;

Whereas, on October 2, 1990, President George Herbert Walker Bush told the German people: “The United States is proud to have built with you the foundations of freedom, proud to have been a steady partner in the quest for 1 Germany, whole and free. America is proud to count itself among the friends and allies of free Germany, now and in the future.”;

Whereas, on October 3, 2015, the people of Germany will celebrate in Frankfurt and across Germany, the 25th anniversary of the reunification of Germany; and

Whereas the reunification of Germany demonstrated the end of the division of Europe and the triumph of democracy over communism: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) with the people of the former communist
3 countries and Western Europe, celebrates 25 years
4 of a united Germany, free from the oppression of
5 communism;

6 (2) honors the courage and sacrifice of the peo-
7 ple of Germany, the United States, and other coun-
8 tries who served in the Cold War to bring freedom
9 to Central and Eastern Europe;

1 (3) recognizes the importance of the alliance be-
2 tween the United States and Germany in—

3 (A) common defense;

4 (B) an enduring shared commitment to the
5 free and unified Europe; and

6 (C) an expanding and deepening economic
7 prosperity under the rule of law throughout Eu-
8 rope;

9 (4) expresses to the people of Germany an ap-
10 preciation for the commitment of the people of Ger-
11 many to the promotion of freedom through leader-
12 ship in providing international assistance, support
13 for peacekeeping and international security efforts,
14 and acceptance of refugees, including efforts by the
15 people of Germany in Afghanistan, Bosnia and
16 Herzegovina, Kosovo, Lebanon, Sudan, and Ukraine;
17 and

18 (5) reaffirms the deep and historical friendship
19 between the Government and people of the United
20 States and the Government and people of Germany.

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