


Risch [Degree]

AMENDMENT NO. _____ Calendar No. _____

Purpose: To amend the preamble.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—115th Cong., 2d Sess.

S. Res. 634

Commemorating the 70th anniversary of the Berlin Airlift
and honoring the veterans of Operation Vittles.

Referred to the Committee on _____ and
ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT intended to be proposed by Mr. RISCH

Viz:

1 Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas, in late June 1948, West Berlin was isolated within
the Soviet occupation zone, and there were only 35 days'
worth of food and 45 days' worth of coal remaining for
the city;

Whereas military planners in the United States and the
United Kingdom initially determined that—

(1) 1,534 tons of flour, wheat, fish, milk, and
other food items would be required daily to feed the
more than 2,000,000 residents of West Berlin; and

(2) 3,475 tons of coal and gasoline would be re-
quired daily to keep West Berlin heated and pow-
ered;

Whereas, on June 1, 1948, the fledgling United States Air
Force created the Military Air Transport Service, the

predecessor to the Air Mobility Command, to organize and conduct airlift missions;

Whereas, on June 26, 1948, Operation Vittles began when 32 Douglas C-47 Skytrains of the United States Air Force departed from bases in southwest Germany to West Berlin hauling 80 tons of cargo;

Whereas the first British aircraft operating under "Operation Plainfare" launched on June 28, 1948, from bases in northwest Germany;

Whereas Major General William H. Tunner, a veteran of the successful aerial supply line over the Himalayas during World War II, took command of Operation Vittles on July 28, 1948;

Whereas Major General Tunner pioneered many new and innovative tactics and procedures for the airlift, including creating air corridors for ingress and egress, staggering the altitudes at which aircraft flew, and implementing mandatory instrument flight rules that allowed aircraft to land as frequently as every 3 minutes;

Whereas one pilot, 1st Lieutenant Gail S. Halvorsen, who became known as the "Candy Bomber", initiated "Operation Little Vittles" to bring hope to the children of Berlin by dropping handkerchief parachutes containing chocolate and chewing gum as a symbol of the goodwill of the United States;

Whereas Operation Little Vittles ultimately dropped more than 23 tons of candy in more than 250,000 miniature parachutes;

Whereas, during the "Easter Parade" on Easter Sunday, April 17, 1949, airlifters reached the pinnacle of Operation Vittles by delivering 12,940 tons of cargo, including

the equivalent of 600 railroad cars full of coal, and setting the record for tonnage of cargo delivered in a single day during the Berlin Airlift;

Whereas the unprecedented size and scope of the Berlin Airlift also made heavy and unforeseen demands on United States Army personnel in Germany, including the United States Army Airlift Support Command;

Whereas 39 British airmen and civilians, 21 United States airmen and civilians, and 14 German citizens made the ultimate sacrifice during the Berlin Airlift,

Whereas airlifters delivered 2,325,809 tons of food and supplies during 277,569 total flights into West Berlin;

Whereas the Soviet Union was forced to lift the blockade of West Berlin on May 12, 1949, in light of the success of the airlift;

Whereas the Berlin Airlift marked the first use of airpower to provide hope and humanitarian assistance and to win a strategic victory against enemy aggression and intimidation;

Whereas the enormous effort and cooperation of the Berlin Airlift helped overcome years of animosity between the United States and Germany and laid the foundation for a deep and lasting friendship between the people of the two countries; and

Whereas today Germany is one of the United States' closest and strongest allies in Europe, based on our close and vital relationship as friends, trading partners, and allies sharing common values and institutions to promote stability—politically, economically, and in security matters: Now, therefore, be it