

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 135

Remembering the 1-year anniversary of the April 10, 2010, plane crash that claimed the lives of the President of Poland Lech Kaczynski, his wife, and 94 others, while they were en route to memorialize those Polish officers, officials, and civilians who were massacred by the Soviet Union in 1940.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 7 (legislative day, APRIL 5), 2011

Mr. LUGAR (for himself, Mr. KERRY, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. CASEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

APRIL 13, 2011

Committee discharged; considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Remembering the 1-year anniversary of the April 10, 2010, plane crash that claimed the lives of the President of Poland Lech Kaczynski, his wife, and 94 others, while they were en route to memorialize those Polish officers, officials, and civilians who were massacred by the Soviet Union in 1940.

Whereas, on April 10, 2010, the President of the Republic of Poland Lech Kaczynski, his wife Maria, and a cadre of current and former Polish statesmen, military officers, family members, and others departed Warsaw by plane to travel to the Russian region of Smolensk;

Whereas the purpose of the delegation's visit was to hold a ceremony in solemn remembrance of the more than 22,000 Polish military officers, police officers, judges, other government officials, and civilians who were executed by the Soviet secret police, the "NKVD", between April 3 and the end of May 1940;

Whereas more than 14,500 Polish victims of such executions have been documented at 3 sites in Katyn (in present day Belarus), in Miednoye (in present day Russia), and in Kharkiv (in present day Ukraine), while the remains of an estimated 7,000 such Polish victims have yet to be precisely located;

Whereas the plane carrying the Polish delegation on April 10, 2010, crashed in Smolensk, tragically killing all 96 persons on board;

Whereas Poland has been a leading member of the trans-atlantic community and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), an Alliance vital to the interests of the United States, and Poland's membership in the Alliance has strengthened NATO;

Whereas the Polish armed forces have stood shoulder-to-shoulder and sacrificed with airmen, marines, sailors, and soldiers of the United States in Iraq, Afghanistan, the Balkans, and around the world;

Whereas Poland has been a leader in the promotion of human rights, not just in Central Europe, but elsewhere around the world; and

Whereas the deep friendship between the governments and people of Poland and the United States is grounded in our mutual respect, shared values, and common priorities on nuclear nonproliferation, counterterrorism, human

rights, regional cooperation in Eastern Europe, democratization, and international development: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) remembers the terrible tragedy that took
3 place on April 10, 2010, when an aircraft carrying
4 a delegation of current and former Polish officials,
5 family members, and others crashed en route from
6 Warsaw to Smolensk to memorialize the 1940 Katyn
7 massacres, killing all 96 passengers;

8 (2) honors the memories of all Poles executed
9 by the NKVD at Katyn, Miednoye, Khakriv, and
10 elsewhere and those who perished in the April 10,
11 2010, plane crash;

12 (3) expresses continuing sympathy for the sur-
13 viving family members of those who perished in the
14 tragic plane crash of April 10, 2010;

15 (4) recognizes and respects the resilience of Po-
16 land’s constitution, as demonstrated by the smooth
17 and stable transfer of constitutional authority that
18 occurred in the immediate aftermath of the April 10,
19 2010, tragedy; and

20 (5) requests that the Secretary of the Senate
21 transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the
22 Ambassador of Poland to the United States.

