



SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 09-052

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also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Rice, Acree, Apuan, Balmer, Baumgardner, Benefield, Bradford, Casso, Court, Curry, Ferrandino, Fischer, Frangas, Gagliardi, Gardner B., Gardner C., Gerou, Green, Hullinghorst, Judd, Kagan, Kefalas, Kerr A., Kerr J., King S., Labuda, Lambert, Levy, Liston, Looper, Marostica, Massey, May, McCann, McFadyen, McKinley, McNulty, Merrifield, Middleton, Miklosi, Murray, Nikkel, Pace, Peniston, Pommer, Primavera, Priola, Riesberg, Roberts, Ryden, Scanlan, Schafer S., Solano, Sonnenberg, Soper, Stephens, Summers, Swalm, Todd, Vaad, Vigil, Waller, Carroll T.

CONCERNING DECLARATION OF "COLORADO REFUGEE DAY".

WHEREAS, The United Nations General Assembly recognizes and celebrates June 20th of each year as World Refugee Day; and

WHEREAS, This day was designated by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to bring attention to the plight of the 14 million refugees around the world, more than half of whom are children or adolescents, who live without material, social, or legal protections; and

WHEREAS, The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Statistical Yearbook reports that, in 2007, Asia hosted the majority of the world's refugees, with 55% of the total, followed by Africa with 22%; and

WHEREAS, Refugees who were resettled with United Nations assistance that year departed mainly from refugee camps located in

Thailand, Kenya, the United Republic of Tanzania, Malaysia, and Turkey;
and

WHEREAS, These refugees came primarily from the countries of Burma, Burundi, Somalia, Iraq, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, Fourteen industrialized nations reported the admission of 75,300 resettled refugees during 2007, led by the United States, receiving 48,300 persons; Canada, receiving 11,300 persons; and Australia, receiving 9,600 persons; and

WHEREAS, World Refugee Day honors the courage, strength, and determination of women, men, and children who have often been violently separated from their families, who may have experienced horrific situations of abuse or deprivation, and who have been forced to flee their homeland under threat of persecution, conflict, or violence; and

WHEREAS, Refugees not only exhibit perseverance, tenacity, and a will to survive situations that are unimaginable to most Americans, but, when provided with a safe haven in which to live and thrive, many former refugees go on to lead lives of outstanding accomplishment that benefit not only themselves and their families, but their communities and their country as well; and

WHEREAS, Refugees in many parts of the world today depend on international agencies and local organizations for help in escaping life-threatening situations and successfully resettling into new lives or in finding durable political solutions that allow the refugees to return to their homeland; and

WHEREAS, Refugee assistance organizations require grassroots support from individuals around the world in order to offer the aid and protection that these innocent and resilient people deserve; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Sixty-seventh General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:

(1) That we, the members of the General Assembly of the state of Colorado, express our respect for and admiration of former refugees who

make outstanding contributions to their communities, their states, and the nation, especially those former refugees who have made Colorado their home;

(2) That we remember the millions of refugees who live without safety and without a homeland, and who await assistance from individuals the world over who possess the material resources and political means to make a difference in the lives of those refugees; and that we encourage citizens to support international and local refugee protection and assistance efforts;

(3) That we pay tribute to humanitarian workers on the international level who sometimes risk their lives to provide safety, shelter, and sustenance to refugees in foreign countries, and to local community workers who provide ongoing assistance to refugees as they restart their lives in unfamiliar and often perplexing surroundings; and

(4) That we declare June 20, 2009, to be Colorado Refugee Day in the state and encourage Coloradans to participate in Refugee Day events to learn more about the efforts to resettle refugees in our local communities as well as the world-wide refugee situation.

Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent to the following Colorado Refugee Network Council organizations: African Community Center of Denver, Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning, Lutheran Family Services of Colorado, Ecumenical Refugee and Immigration Services, Jewish Family Services, Rocky Mountain Survivors Center, Colorado African Organization, Emily Griffith Opportunity School, Colorado Refugee Health Clinic, Share International, Mercy Housing, Office of Economic Development, Colorado Refugee Services Program in the Colorado Department of Human Services, and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

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