



SENATE MEMORIAL 18-001

BY SENATOR(S) Crowder and Garcia, Aguilar, Baumgardner, Cooke, Coram, Court, Donovan, Fenberg, Fields, Gardner, Guzman, Hill, Holbert, Jahn, Jones, Kagan, Kefalas, Kerr, Lambert, Lundberg, Marble, Martinez Humenik, Merrifield, Moreno, Neville T., Priola, Scott, Smallwood, Sonnenberg, Tate, Todd, Williams A., Zenzinger, Grantham.

MEMORIALIZING CONGRESS TO ACTIVELY PURSUE THE RETURN OF THE U.S.S. PUEBLO FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA.

WHEREAS, Recent actions by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) suggest that North Korea and South Korea have entered into a new phase of their relationship; and

WHEREAS, While the Declaration of War between North and South Korea has not yet been rescinded, the recent meeting between the leaders of the two countries - just the second such meeting since 1948 - has resulted in some measure of détente between the parties; and

WHEREAS, The people of Colorado are encouraged and hopeful for continued positive developments on the Korean peninsula, as evidenced by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's recent meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and President Donald Trump's planned diplomatic trip; and

WHEREAS, Colorado encourages North Korea to continue to work with South Korea and the United States in making substantial efforts to reform its record of human rights abuses, to release political prisoners, and to return property belonging to other countries; and

WHEREAS, North Korea's human rights record has been considered

among the worst in the world and has been globally condemned, with groups such as the United Nations, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and the European Union all critical of the country's record. Indeed, most international human rights organizations consider North Korea to have no contemporary parallel with respect to violations of liberty; and

WHEREAS, North Korea's human rights abuses include slave labor, no freedom of expression or religion, active persecution of Christians and Buddhists, no free press, no freedom of movement, uneven distribution of food to the privileged and starvation of the poor, forced prostitution, and forced abortion; and

WHEREAS, In North Korea, political crimes are greatly varied, from border crossing to any disturbance of the political order, and they are rigorously punished. Due to the dire prison conditions with hunger and torture, a large percentage of prisoners do not survive their sentence term; and

WHEREAS, North Korea holds three United States citizens as political prisoners. The three political prisoners, Kim Hak-song, Kim Dong-chul, and Kim Sang-duk are three of an estimated 80,000 to 120,000 people in North Korea's six political prison camps, in which the U.S. State Department has found evidence of starvation, forced labor, and torture; and

WHEREAS, Kim Hak-song is a Korean-American who worked at the Pyongyang University of Science and Technology (PUST). Kim was arrested for "hostile acts" against the state; and

WHEREAS, Kim Dong-chul is a South Korea-born businessman and naturalized United States citizen. Kim had been living in China with his wife, and owns a business in a special economic zone of North Korea and is a Christian missionary. Kim was arrested for "espionage" in October 2015; and

WHEREAS, Kim Sang-duk is a Korean-American former professor teaching accounting at the Business Administration School of Yanbian University of Science and Technology (YUST) in the northeastern Chinese city of Yanji, near the Chinese border with North Korea. At the

time of his arrest, Kim had completed a one-month assignment as a guest lecturer in international finance and management at the Pyongyang University of Science and Technology (PUST). Kim was arrested for "hostile criminal acts with an aim to subvert the country" in April 2017; and

WHEREAS, The release of these three Americans from North Korean labor camps would be a unique and powerful gesture of peace and reconciliation; and

WHEREAS, Another gesture to thaw relations and bring healing is to return the only U.S. ship currently under the control of a foreign county; and

WHEREAS, The U.S.S. Pueblo was originally launched as a United States Army cargo ship in 1944 and was transferred to the United States Navy and renamed the U.S.S. Pueblo in 1966 in honor of the City of Pueblo and the County of Pueblo, Home of Heros and four National Congressional Medal of Honor recipients; and

WHEREAS, The U.S.S. Pueblo was captured by North Korea on January 23, 1968, while in international waters. During the efforts to escape, one crewmember was killed in action. North Korea captured 80 crewmembers and two oceanographers as well as the U.S.S. Pueblo. The 82 prisoners were thankfully released 11 months later; and

WHEREAS, The North Korean government uses the U.S.S. Pueblo as an exhibit at the Victorious Fatherland War Museum in Pyongyang, filled with propaganda and historical inaccuracies; now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate of the Seventy-first General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

That we, the Senate of the State of Colorado:

(1) Demand the release of the three United States citizens, Kim Hak-song, Kim Dong-chul and Kim Sang-duk;

(2) Request the release of the nearly 120,000 political prisoners from North Korea's six political camps;

(3) Encourage North Korea to engage in meaningful human rights reformatations;

(4) Support the recent peaceful actions of North Korea and remain hopeful that the nation will continue on a positive course for the rights of its citizens and for sake of global security;

(5) Believe that the return of the U.S.S. Pueblo to the people of Colorado and the United States would be a good faith action by North Korea in furtherance of improving relations; and

(6) Strongly urge Congress, the President, and the President's Administration to actively pursue the release of North Korea's political prisoners, the return of the three United States citizens being unlawfully detained, and the restoration of the U.S.S. Pueblo to its rightful home.

Be it Further Resolved, that copies of this Memorial be sent to President Donald J Trump; Mike Pompeo, Secretary of State; Marc Knapper, Charge d'Affaires ad interim to South Korea; and Colorado's Congressional delegation.

Kevin Grantham
PRESIDENT OF
THE SENATE

Effie Ameen
SECRETARY OF
THE SENATE