

2013 SENATE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

SCR 4008

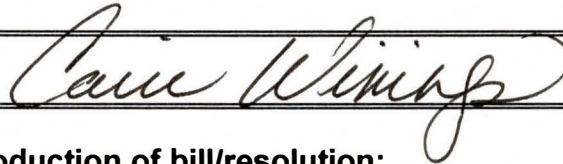
2013 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Senate Government and Veterans Affairs Committee Missouri River Room, State Capitol

SCR 4008
02/01/2013
Job Number 18143

☐ Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A concurrent resolution designating May 1 as "Cold War Victory Day".

Minutes:

Chairman Dever: Opened the hearing on SCR 4008.

Senator Dever, District 32: Testified as sponsor to explain the bill. The list of sponsors is all veterans and served during the time that this resolution covers. I chose not to include Vietnam veterans because their service has been honored in a lot of other ways. I served in 1971 to 1973 and I was a radio teletype operator and served in Berlin.

(2:12) Representative Owens, District 17: Testified as sponsor and in support of the bill. I am here to say that there were many people from 1945 to 1991 that participated and won this Cold War. I am talking about from B52 and B1 and tanker people that stayed away from their families and pulled alerts to the submarine launch. We had tactical and nuclear weapons in the Army as well. Throughout all of this, as part of both the tactical and strategic force that (inaudible) believe that it was peace through strength won the Cold War. And North Dakota was at the tip of the spear with just 300 missiles out of a land base of 1000, not to mention all of the other support elements that we had.

(3:59) Cal Thorson, former Minuteman Launch Control Officer, Grand Forks AFB and Bismarck resident: See Attachment #1 for testimony in support of the bill.

(10:05) Chairman Dever: I should have asked you before, but what is the significance of May 1st?

Cal Thorson: It is May Day in Communist countries.

(10:58) John Jacobson, North Dakota Veterans Coordinating Council: See Attachment #2 for testimony in support of the bill.

(12:36) Chairman Dever: You are also a Cold War veteran?

John Jacobson: Yes I am. The federal government did send out certificates of thanks for Cold War veterans, but you had to apply for it.

(13:13) Larry Skogen, 26 year veteran of US Air Force: Much of my time was spent in nuclear deterrent force. I served during many wars. I am most proud of being a Cold War veteran which was the big conflict of the second half of the 20th century. I used to talk to the cadets at the US Air Force Academy; I was on faculty down there for about six years, about very long wars. One of the wars began in the 1300's and ended in the middle of the 1400's, it was called the 100 year war. The people that lived through that time divided it into a number of wars. All the wars were fought between England and France. It was different kings and royalties and so over 100 years they fought against each other and today when we look back on that time, we call it the 100 year war. We don't call it the little wars that were fought along the way. I told the cadets that someday historians are going to look back at the 20th century and they are going to talk about two wars. They are going to talk about the world wars beginning in 1914 with the opening of WW1 and it ended in 1945 with the dropping the atomic bomb. That is what historians are going to see and they are not going to divide it up. I am convinced that the Cold War is going to be viewed the same way. Starting in 1947 to 1989 we had a number of wars. We had the Korean War, Vietnam War, Invasion of Granada, and a number of others. I think that when historians

look back they are going to say there were the world wars of the 20th century and the cold war of the 20th century. I think it is absolutely appropriate that we recognize the Cold War on a specific day and May 1st is an appropriate day to do that. It is one of the two significant wars of the 20th century. North Dakota can step out front with a couple of other states have already done that.

(16:44) Chairman Dever: You mentioned the 1989 that is when the Berlin wall came down. Having served there, I knew it was not built to come down.

Larry Skogen: Absolutely. I did not realize you had served in Berlin. I used to go on temporary duty up to Berlin. I never felt so isolated in my life.

Chairman Dever: 110 Miles inside of East Germany.

Larry Skogen: You had to fly in or train in.

Chairman Dever: It was interesting flying; there were three paths that the airplanes could take and because at the end of WWII they flew at a lower altitude than any airplane flying through that space. It had to be below 10,000 ft.

Larry Skogen: I am told that you can go there now and checkpoint Charlie is now in a museum.

Chairman Dever: Closed the hearing and opened committee discussion.

(Senator Nelson and Chairman Dever discussed personal experiences)

Vice Chairman Berry: Moved a Do Pass.

Senator Nelson: Seconded.

A Roll Call Vote Was Taken: 6 yeas, 0 nays, 1 absent.

Vice Chairman Berry: Carrier.

Date: 2/1

Roll Call Vote #: 1

2013 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE
ROLL CALL VOTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 4008

Senate Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken: ☒ Do Pass ☐ Do Not Pass ☐ Amended ☐ Adopt Amendment

☐ Rerefer to Appropriations ☐ Reconsider

Motion Made By Senator Berry Seconded By Senator Nelson

Senators	Yes	No	Senator	Yes	No
Chairman Dick Dever	✓		Senator Carolyn Nelson	✓	
Vice Chairman Spencer Berry	✓		Senator Richard Marcellais	✗	
Senator Dwight Cook	✓				
Senator Donald Schaible	✓				
Senator Nicole Poolman	✓				

Total (Yes) 6 No 0

Absent 1

Floor Assignment Senator Berry

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SCR 4008: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Sen. Dever, Chairman)
recommends **DO PASS** (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING).
SCR 4008 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

2013 HOUSE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

SCR 4008

2013 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee Fort Union Room, State Capitol

SCR 4008
March 21, 2013
20287

☐ Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature

Carmen Hart

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A concurrent resolution designating May 1st as "Cold War Victory Day."

Minutes:

Attachments 1-2

Chairman Jim Kasper opened the hearing on SCR 4008.

Senator Dever appeared in support of this resolution. The sponsor list has six veterans that served in the Cold War. This resolution came to me from a constituent who was a missileer. Rep. Belter and Rep. Owens are also missileers. A big part of the Cold War was a stare down. It was the two world powers staring at each other, and peace came about through the threat of mutual destruction. North Dakota was at the epicenter of that. The Vietnam War was a part of that Cold War too.

Rep. Steven Zaiser Have other states indicated May 1 as Cold War Victory Day?

Senator Dever I don't know the answer to that. The reason May 1 was chosen is because in the old Soviet Union that was an important date for them when they paraded their military down the streets.

Rep. Steven Zaiser Part of this Cold War was also the beginning of the Arms Race. We built up each side enormous amount of overkill capacity in terms of our military. Was that discussed by your constituent that testified?

Senator Dever It was not discussed. During the Ronald Reagan term, we accelerated the Arms Race. Part of the reason that it came to a conclusion was that Soviet Union couldn't keep up with it.

Rep. Gary Paur I wonder if we should specify the state American Legion or was your intention to send it to the national American Legion?

Senator Dever I don't have a real preference with that. I think both would be a good idea.

Rep. Bill Amerman The biggest stare down came with President Kennedy when he stared them down in the Cuban missile crisis. Would you agree with that?

Senator Dever I would agree that was a big stare down. I would suggest, though, that there might have been several points that were stare downs. The Berlin Airlift was huge. It was the American military for over a year supplying everything that was needed by that city by air. One of the nice things about serving in Berlin was that they never allowed anybody to serve there who had any kind of a criminal record or anything like that, because they didn't want to see an international incident. I think the Vietnam War was that stare down in action.

Rep. Bill Amerman When I was in service, the Berlin Brigade was a lead organization and wasn't very easy to get into. I congratulate you. It was prime duty and it was very difficult. You had to meet a lot of high standards to be able to serve over there.

Senator Dever I appreciate that. I appreciate your service too. A couple years we had a press conference. I made a comment that I sometimes feel kind of funny about my service because I didn't serve in Vietnam. During that press conference I made a comment that I stand on the shoulders of heroes. Afterwards one of the veterans came to me and said he felt really hurt by me saying that, because I could have gone to Vietnam just as easily as any of the rest of them.

Rep. Gail Mooney I did a quick google search and have come up with at least a half a dozen states that have implemented a Victory Day on May 1. **Attachment 2.**

Chairman Jim Kasper Did you consider saying something about the veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan and sending a copy to David Sprynczynatyk of the North Dakota National Guard?

Senator Dever I might need to think about that, because it is a different era. We think of that as a War on Terror.

Rep. Owens appeared in support. The Cold War Victory was an era from 1945-1991. It was the United States and USSR locked in an _ battle that resulted in the back and forth threat of not just war, possibly World War III, but complete alienation. During this time America's alone deterrents were both tactical and strategic, nuclear weapons. North Dakota was at the tip of this sphere with 300 of those land base missiles, not to mention the B 52s and the tanker forces that were on call 24/7 during that entire time. After the war was over, we have reduced down to a total count of 450 missiles and down to 400 now in land base alone, not to mention the reduction. No longer do you have tankers on call 24/7. No longer do you have B 52s and B 1s and people away from their families. This was a victory by all measure. We could destroy the world 20 times over at that point, and we have pulled back from that, even with all the talk still now of nuclear proliferation around the globe. A lot of people don't know that it was the first time we sent the National Guard in first to Iraq and Afghanistan.

Rep. Steven Zaiser Share with us all the fallout shelters and the civil defense mechanisms that were in place during that time in the 60s and how big an issue that was.

Rep. Owens Being from Alabama, I can specifically relate to you a small little event that occurred in history circuit in 1961. It is commonly referred to as the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Even though those missiles had a very short range which is why they were put in Cuba so they could reach our mainland, because we had, what very few people know, we actually started that confrontation because we had missiles in Turkey. That made the Russians feel a little uneasy that we could hit them from Turkey. We would hold drills in the middle of the day to go into the hallway and stick our heads between our knees. We had drills getting under tables in elementary schools. You had basements of buildings that really weren't that protective. It was more of a psychological benefit than anything else. They would hold drills in these whole complexes, and this was mainly just in the southeastern United States because that was where the missiles could reach. A bell would ring in the building and everybody would rush down to the basement. You would see as you walked into the door, this building is a civil defense shelter.

Rep. Marie Strinden Did you come to North Dakota because of the military?

Rep. Owens I was in South Dakota and looking for my next assignment. There was an opening for an operations officer in Grand Forks, and I knew nobody else would volunteer for the job.

Garald Maddock, Secretary for the NDVCC, appeared in support. **Attachment 1.** (22:20-22:59)

Larry Skogen, President of Bismarck State College and private citizen, appeared in support. I am a veteran of 26 years in the United States Air Force, 6 years enlisted, and 20 years as a commissioned officer. In that commissioning time, I spent much of my time as a missileer and on the faculty at the United States Force Academy. My testimony is to try to bring some historical perspective to this. Our battle was different during the Cold War. It was setting alerts and being prepared and going to the training and hoping every day that you never had to do anything with all the weaponry you had at your fingertips. It begins with the dropping of the atomic bomb in August 1945 and ends with the fall of the Soviet Union in the early 1990s. All the wars of the 20th century are connected. Now wars are tied to terrorism. I encourage the recognition of the Cold War as an end of an era.

Rep. Vernon Laning Do you think with your historical knowledge there could be any negative repercussions with this resolution with future relations with Russia?

Larry Skogen I don't think so. I think with the demise of the Soviet Union the Russians realized that they had been on the wrong side of a war. Just as we have wonderful relations now with Japan and Germany, and we certainly recognize the defeat of both of those countries, I think that the Russians acknowledge the fact that they lost that war.

Rep. Gary Paur This is just an observation from when I was in Cuba. Cuban government officials stated that during that Cuban Missile Crisis, the communications were not good enough. The Russian commander of those missiles was authorized to launch on his own authority, and we were a lot closer to a disaster than the Americans realized.

Larry Skogen I certainly agree with that. When we look back on the nuclear weaponry that we have and the command and control of this, the United States has tried very hard to insure that there is a failsafe that you don't have an accidental launch and that somebody

doesn't have absolute control to launch those missiles. However, we know that the Soviet Union didn't have that. We were very fortunate, particularly in the Cuban Missile Crisis, not to have a nuclear exchange. The captains of nuclear armed submarines have the codes they need to launch those as well. The land base ICBMs are not that way. When we worked in the silos and when they are working there now, they do not have the codes to do that, but the Navy does, and we know that the Soviets did as well.

Chairman Jim Kasper My brother in law was in the Air Force as an officer. He was a courier between the Pentagon and President Kennedy. During the Cuban Missile Crisis there was a day he was called to the joint chief of staff and given a message to get to President Kennedy immediately and if anybody tried to stop him, he was to shoot them. To this day, he does not know what the message was.

The hearing was closed.

Rep. Vernon Laning made a motion for a Do pass.

Rep. Karen Karls seconded.

A roll call vote was taken and resulted in **DO PASS, 13-0, 1 ABSENT.** **Rep. Vernon Laning** is the carrier.

Date: 3-21-13
Roll Call Vote #: _____

2013 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 4008

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken: ☒ Do Pass ☐ Do Not Pass ☐ Amended ☐ Adopt Amendment
☐ Rerefer to Appropriations ☐ Reconsider

Motion Made By Lanning Seconded By Karls

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Jim Kasper	X		Rep. Bill Amerman		
Vice Chairman Randy Boehning	X		Rep. Gail Mooney	X	
Rep. Jason Dockter	X		Rep. Marie Strinden	X	
Rep. Karen Karls	X		Rep. Steven Zaiser	X	
Rep. Ben Koppelman	X				
Rep. Vernon Lanning	X				
Rep. Scott Louser	X				
Rep. Gary Paur	X				
Rep. Karen Rohr	X				
Rep. Vicky Steiner	X				

Total (Yes) 13 No 0

Absent 1

Floor Assignment Lanning

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SCR 4008: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Rep. Kasper, Chairman)
recommends **DO PASS** (13 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING).
SCR 4008 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.

2013 TESTIMONY

SCR 4008

Cal Thorson
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Chairman Dever and members of the committee, my name is Cal Thorson from Bismarck. I'm in favor of Senate Concurrent Resolution #4008.

I was an officer in the U.S. Air Force from 1978 to 1982, serving as a Minuteman Launch Control Officer at Grand Forks AFB.

A few years ago, I was asked to talk at the dedication of the Ronald Reagan Minuteman Missile Historic Site. I had no prepared speech and just talked from the heart. As I later reflected on my comments, they seemed more significant than I thought at the time. I'd like to share a few of them with you today.

In the 1940's, because of their concern for how their research was being used, the scientists who developed the atomic bomb formed the 'Union of Atomic Scientists'. On the cover of their journal, the "Bulletin of Atomic Scientists" they placed the graphic of a clock; a 'Doomsday Clock' with the hands close to midnight: the figurative time they felt we had remaining until mankind annihilated itself. It began in 1947 at 7 minutes to midnight. In 1953 it was down to 2 minutes. It was up to 12 minutes in 1963 and down to 3 in 1984.

At their peak, the U.S. had over 30,000 nuclear warheads pointed east; the Soviet Union had 40,000 ready to annihilate us. Both sides scared of the other and both poised to turn keys at a moment's notice. It was war of an 'eye blink'.

Today, with a relaxed DEFCON and nuclear posture, there are approximately 1,000 warheads on each side; 150 of which are still sited on ICBMs in North Dakota. The Strategic Air Command is history. Threats still remain, but the continuation of human civilization is no longer in question.

Many uniformed and ununiformed Americans supported the 50-year strategic war of ideologies. To volunteer for service meant total commitment; whether on the wall in Berlin, the battlefields of Korea and Vietnam, or the strategic nuclear forces in North Dakota.

I grew up on the farm at Wing, North Dakota, listening to my uncles recount their experiences in World War II and Korea. It was always 'over there'. This war, this long protracted, tense conflict was over there, but it was also right here too. As the blue Air Force nuclear missile transporter-erector semis, warhead convoy, pickups, and suburbans came through your towns, how many North

Dakota's knew we were ground zero in the middle of a war zone? Those of us in those vehicles knew. We lived with that thought every day.

It was our job and we did it. Combat Crews were thrown into computer simulators every two weeks for rehearsal of launch scenarios and emergency drills. Conditioned like Ivan Pavlov's dogs; conditioned and trained to unquestionably respond to launch orders. There are stories which I suspect will never be on public record of the heroism and professionalism of the field security, maintenance, support personnel, and launch crews in the missile fields of North Dakota.

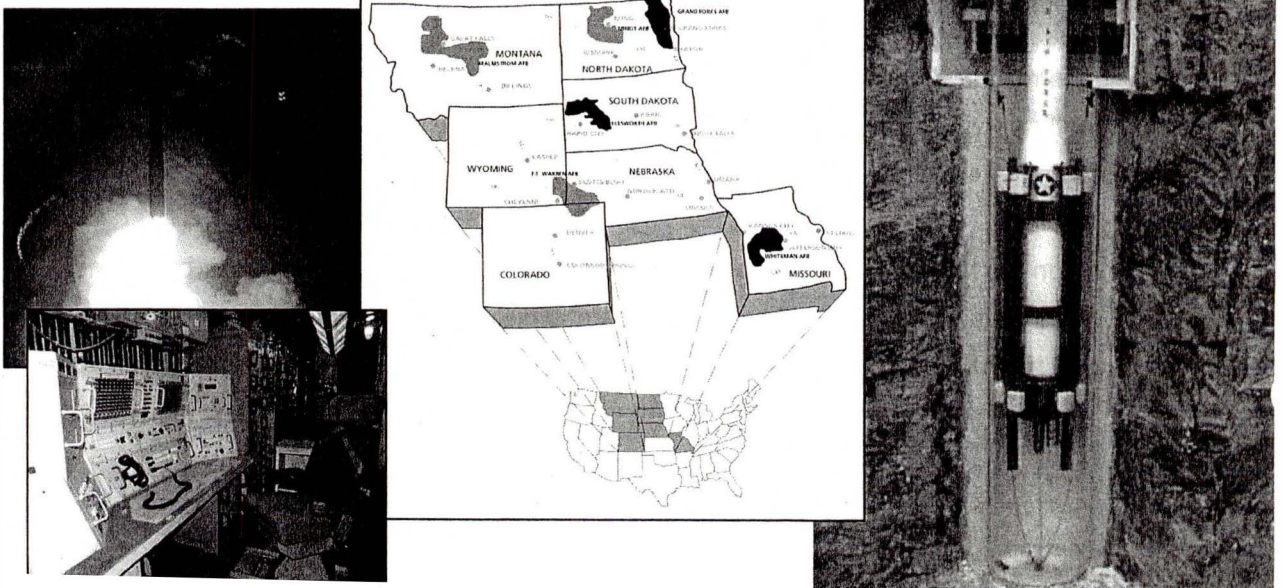
In researching on the Internet what I can say or not say today, I can find nothing released on public record about any Emergency War Order launch orders I may or may not have received while commanding the Minuteman Missiles, but I found on the Internet nearly two dozen 'almosts' that were revealed through the "Freedom of Information Act." Six months after becoming a civilian again, I awoke in the middle of the night in a cold sweat, sat up in bed and asked myself, what did we almost do?" No doubts. It would have been done.

The real impact of my service really did not occur to me until just a few years ago when at the North Dakota Heritage Center; I saw my old missileer uniform, on a mannequin, inside a glass case next to my brother's Air Force pilot's crew uniform from Minot. It was an exhibit on the military history of North Dakota and we were part of it: two North Dakota farm boys, helping fight this 'Cold War' right here in North Dakota, and later returning to civilian life to raise our families in North Dakota.

You can call us 'Cold Warriors' from the past if you want, but make no mistake, it was war and it was fought right here in North Dakota. And we won the war.

I urge the passing Senate Concurrent Resolution #4008 to make May 1st "Cold War Victory Day" in North Dakota.

Thank you.



NORTH DAKOTA VETERANS COORDINATING COUNCIL

My name is John Jacobsen. I am a member of the Legislative Committee of the North Dakota Veterans Coordinating Council. I am also a member of the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

I served in the North Dakota National Guard and the US Army Reserve for a total of 30 years. I retired in 1995 as a Colonel. I served on active duty in 1991 during Operation Desert Shield/Desert storm in the Persian Gulf, stationed in the United Arab Emirates.

The Coordinating Council is made up of 15 members, 3 from each of the five veterans' organizations in North Dakota.

American Legion

AMVETS

Disabled American Veterans

Veterans of Foreign Wars

Vietnam Veterans of America

It is the policy of the Coordinating Council to support legislation that will benefit the welfare of the members of the Armed Forces. The committee MUST concur totally, that is all 15 members must agree on the legislation to be supported or else it does not get the support.

In this case, I have been instructed to recommend to this legislative committee that a "DO PASS" on SCR 4008 is supported by the Veterans Coordinating Council.

My name for the record is Garald Maddock and I am the secretary for the NDVCC, Department Adjutant of the ND AMVETS and also the Adjutant of Post 9 AMVETS. I am a paid up for life member of the ND American Legion, life member of ND AMVETS and a life member of Viet Nam Veterans.

The ND Veterans Coordinating Council is made up of 15 members, 3 each from each of the 5 major Veterans Organizations in North Dakota. If we choose to support any legislation it has to be supported by each member of the NDVCC.

With this Senate Concurrent Resolution 4008 we stand in 100% support.

NDLA, H GVA - Hart, Carmen

4008

From: Mooney, Gail
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2013 10:29 AM
To: NDLA, H GVA - Hart, Carmen
Subject: SCR 4008

Attachment
2

In a Google search, there was no one document that listed all the states that have adopted a Cold War Victory Day on May 1, but the following states popped up with reference to this adoption...

Kansas
Missouri
Arizona
New Jersey
Arizona
Virginia
Maine
Texas

Gail Mooney, ND State Representative, District 20
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