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SENATE RESOLUTION 257--RELATING TO THE ``**ENOLA GAY**'' EXHIBIT

Mrs. KASSEBAUM submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. Res. 257

Whereas the role of the **Enola Gay** during World War II was momentous in helping to bring World War II to a merciful end, which resulted in saving the lives of Americans and Japanese;

Whereas the current script for the National Air and Space Museum's exhibit on the **Enola Gay** is revisionist and offensive to many World War II veterans;

Whereas the Federal law states that ``the Smithsonian Institute shall commemorate and display the contributions made by the military forces of the Nation toward creating, developing, and maintaining a free, peaceful, and independent society and culture in the United States'';

Whereas the Federal law also states that ``the valor and sacrificial service of the men and women of the Armed Forces shall be portrayed as an inspiration to the present and future generations of America''; and

Whereas, in memorializing the role of the United States in armed conflict, the National Air and Space Museum has an obligation under the Federal law to portray history in the proper context of the times: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that any exhibit displayed by the National Air and Space Museum with respect to the **Enola Gay** should reflect appropriate sensitivity toward the men and women who faithfully and selflessly served the United States during World War II and should avoid impugning the memory of those who gave their lives for freedom.

Mrs. KASSEBAUM. Mr. President, I rise today to submit a sense-of-the-Senate resolution related to the National Air and Space Museum's upcoming exhibit involving the **Enola Gay**.

As everyone in this Chamber knows, the **Enola Gay** is the plane that carried the atomic bomb to Hiroshima in August 1945. For the past 44 years, it has been in the possession of the Smithsonian Institute. Until 1960, the plane was simply left outside, exposed to elements and allowed to deteriorate. However, over the past several years, the plane has been restored, and next year it will be displayed at the National Air and Space Museum as part of an exhibit on the end of World War II.

Mr. President, the **Enola Gay** represents a significant piece of our Nation's history, and its exhibition is long overdue. Unfortunately, the current script for this important exhibit is seriously flawed and should be rewritten.

The United States Code states that ``the Smithsonian Institution shall commemorate and display the contributions made by the military forces of the Nation toward creating, developing, and maintaining a free, peaceful and independent society and culture in the United States.'' It also states that ``the valor and sacrificial service of the men and women of the Armed Forces shall be portrayed as an

inspiration to the present and future generations of America.''

As it is currently written, the National Air and Space Museum's script for the exhibit, ``The Last Act: The Atomic Bomb and the End of World War II,''' does not meet the standards set forth in the United States Code. Instead, it is revisionist and unbalanced. It must be changed.

Early this spring, I was stunned to learn that the National Air and Space Museum's script for the exhibit included statements such as: ``For most Americans this war was fundamentally different than the one waged against Germany and Italy--it was a war of vengeance. For most Japanese, it was a war to defend their unique culture against Western imperialism.''' At that time, I wrote to the director of the Smithsonian Institution and informed him that if the National Air and Space Museum could not display the **Enola** Gay in a manner that veterans would not find offensive, it should be moved to a museum that could.

While I am pleased that the museum has worked with veterans groups to improve the script since my letter of March 30, serious problems remain. The script continues to lack balance and historical context. For example, there are still more than twice as many photos of Japanese suffering than Americans. I think this is wrong. The role of the **Enola** Gay was momentous in helping bring World War II to a merciful close, saving both American and Japanese lives. Any exhibit involving the historic plane should respect the men and women who served this country so faithfully and selflessly during World War II and should avoid impugning the memory of those who gave their lives for freedom.

The sense-of-the-Senate resolution that I am introducing today reminds the National Air and Space Museum of its obligation to portray history in the proper context of the times. I hope that my colleagues will join with me enacting this important resolution.

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