

Locust Ridge, Sevier County, Tennessee, where faith, family, music, and the traditions of Appalachia inspired her lifelong calling to serve others with humility and grace;

Whereas, in the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains, Dolly Parton developed an enduring love of music and a profound faith in her childhood, singing in her grandfather's church, writing songs, and, at the age of 10, regularly performing on the Cas Walker Show in Knoxville, Tennessee;

Whereas, in 1959, Dolly Parton made her first appearance at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, Tennessee, where she was introduced by Johnny Cash and received 3 encores;

Whereas, after graduating from Sevier County High School, Dolly Parton moved to Nashville to pursue a career in music and became one of the most celebrated singer-songwriters in American history;

Whereas Dolly Parton wrote and recorded songs that became timeless classics of the American songbook, including "Jolene", "Coat of Many Colors", "I Will Always Love You", and "9 to 5", while consistently drawing inspiration from her childhood, family, faith, and her East Tennessee mountain heritage;

Whereas Dolly Parton earned her first number-1 single on the Billboard Hot Country Songs chart with "Joshua" in 1970 and went on to receive numerous accolades throughout her career, including Country Music Association Awards for Female Vocalist of the Year and Entertainer of the Year and a Grammy Award for "Here You Come Again";

Whereas Dolly Parton used the success she achieved throughout her career to give back to the communities and people who shaped her life, establishing a legacy of philanthropy rooted in her home State of Tennessee;

Whereas, in 1986, Dolly Parton opened Dollywood in the Great Smoky Mountains of East Tennessee, establishing a world-class theme park that has become a premier tourist destination, creating jobs and drawing millions of visitors to the region each year;

Whereas Dolly Parton established The Dollywood Foundation in 1988 in Sevier County, Tennessee, as a nonprofit organization initially dedicated to improving educational achievement and reducing high school dropout rates among children in her home community;

Whereas, through The Dollywood Foundation, Dolly Parton established the Buddy Program in Sevier County to encourage students to remain in school including by awarding financial incentives to participating students who successfully graduated, demonstrating her early commitment to creating educational opportunities for young Tennesseans;

Whereas, in 1995, Dolly Parton established Dolly Parton's Imagination Library through The Dollywood Foundation, inspired by her father, Robert Lee Parton, who could not read or write;

Whereas the Imagination Library began by providing books to children in Dolly Parton's home county and grew into an international book-gifting program providing free, age-appropriate books to children from birth to age 5 regardless of family income;

Whereas the Imagination Library expanded from the mountains of East Tennessee to communities throughout the United States and around the world, demonstrating how an act of service beginning in a rural Tennessee community can improve the lives of millions of children and families;

Whereas, in 2014, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library was recognized through the Library of Congress Literacy Awards for its

work promoting literacy, and, in 2018, Dolly Parton donated the 100,000,000th book distributed through the program to the Library of Congress;

Whereas Dolly Parton extended her commitment to the people of East Tennessee to health care, helping raise \$1,000,000 in 2007 for the birthing unit at LeConte Medical Center in Sevier County, an effort that contributed to the establishment of the Dolly Parton Center for Women's Services and expanded health care resources for women and families in the region;

Whereas Dolly Parton also supported the Pediatric Cancer Program at Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt, further demonstrating her longstanding commitment to improving the health and well-being of children;

Whereas Dolly Parton later continued her support for medical research in Tennessee by donating an additional \$1,000,000 to Vanderbilt University Medical Center in 2022 to support pediatric infectious disease research;

Whereas Dolly Parton's philanthropy extended to the protection of wildlife and the natural heritage of Tennessee, and, beginning in 1991, Dollywood partnered with the American Eagle Foundation to advance the conservation, care, and public understanding of bald eagles and other birds of prey;

Whereas Eagle Mountain Sanctuary at Dollywood became home to non-releasable bald eagles and provided millions of visitors with opportunities to learn about the conservation of the national bird and other wildlife;

Whereas the partnership between Dollywood and the American Eagle Foundation contributed to decades of conservation and education efforts, during which the American Eagle Foundation successfully released more than 400 bald eagles into the wild;

Whereas, following the wildfires that devastated Sevier County and the Great Smoky Mountains region in November 2016, destroying homes and displacing families in the community where she was raised, Dolly Parton directed The Dollywood Foundation to establish the My People Fund;

Whereas The Dollywood Foundation created the My People Fund within weeks of the fires to provide direct financial assistance to families who had lost their primary residences;

Whereas the My People Fund ultimately distributed more than \$12,000,000 to families affected by the Sevier County wildfires and provided additional assistance, including scholarships for graduating seniors whose homes had been destroyed;

Whereas Dolly Parton continued to respond to the needs of her fellow Tennesseans and neighboring communities throughout her life, including following Hurricane Helene in 2024, when Dolly Parton and her associated businesses and organizations committed more than \$2,000,000 to support relief and recovery efforts in Tennessee and North Carolina;

Whereas Dolly Parton died on August 25, 2026, at the age of 80, leaving behind an extraordinary legacy of music, philanthropy, service, generosity, and love for her fellow Tennesseans and Americans;

Whereas, despite achieving international fame, Dolly Parton remained deeply connected to Sevier County and the State of Tennessee and repeatedly directed her resources, influence, and time toward improving the lives of the people of her home State;

Whereas Dolly Parton's philanthropic service reflected a consistent commitment to children, education, health, families facing hardship, disaster recovery, wildlife conservation, and the communities of East Tennessee;

Whereas Dolly Parton's life demonstrated that success is measured not only by personal achievement, but by the opportunities created for others and by a willingness to serve neighbors in times of need;

Whereas Dolly Parton embodied the values of faith, hard work, perseverance, generosity, kindness, creativity, and service to others that are deeply rooted in the history and character of Tennessee, the Volunteer State; and

Whereas the life of Dolly Parton represents both an extraordinary American story and a uniquely Tennessee story, demonstrating how faith, talent, determination, generosity, and an enduring love of home can change lives throughout the world: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) mourns the passing of Dolly Parton and extends its deepest condolences to her family, friends, loved ones, and the people of Tennessee;

(2) honors the extraordinary life and legacy of Dolly Parton and her contributions to the State of Tennessee and the United States;

(3) recognizes Dolly Parton's lasting contributions to American music, songwriting, entertainment, education, childhood literacy, health care, medical research, disaster relief, conservation, and philanthropy;

(4) recognizes The Dollywood Foundation and Dolly Parton's Imagination Library as enduring expressions of Dolly Parton's commitment to providing children and families with opportunities to learn, thrive, and build better lives;

(5) recognizes Dolly Parton's extraordinary devotion to Tennessee, the Volunteer State, and her decades of service to the communities that shaped her life;

(6) recognizes Dolly Parton's extraordinary and enduring contributions to American culture and philanthropy, including her induction into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 1999, receipt of the Library of Congress Living Legend Medal in 2004, and receipt of the Carnegie Medal of Philanthropy in 2022, honoring her remarkable legacy of artistic achievement, generosity, and service to others;

(7) recognizes that Dolly Parton used her success and national platform not merely for personal achievement, but to serve others, including children learning to read, families rebuilding after natural disasters, patients benefitting from medical research, and communities preserving America's natural heritage;

(8) encourages the people of the United States to honor Dolly Parton's memory by carrying forward her example of charity, kindness, service, perseverance, and love of community; and

(9) honors Dolly Parton's lifelong commitment to her dream to, in her words, "make as many people happy as I could in this life," and recognizes that her extraordinary life and legacy fulfilled that dream for generations of Americans.

SENATE RESOLUTION 863—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 13 THROUGH 19, 2026, AS "NATIONAL ADULT EDUCATION AND FAMILY LITERACY WEEK"

Mr. REED (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KING, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. DURBIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pension:

S. RES. 863

Whereas recent data from the Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies indicate that 28 percent of adults in the United States performed at Level 1 or below in literacy and 34 percent of adults in the United States performed at Level 1 or below in numeracy;

Whereas data from the 2023 American Community Survey indicate that nearly 21,000,000 adults in the United States lack a high school credential and more than 20,000,000 adults have limited English proficiency;

Whereas the literacy, numeracy, English-language, digital, and workforce skills of the people of the United States are essential to the economic strength, competitiveness, and national security of the United States;

Whereas a skilled and adaptable workforce is critical to meeting the evolving needs of employers, strengthening local and regional economies, and maintaining the competitive position of the United States in the global economy;

Whereas adult education and literacy programs provide individuals with the foundational skills necessary to access employment, career advancement, postsecondary education and training, career technical education, and apprenticeship opportunities;

Whereas adult education plays an essential role in a skills-based economy by helping individuals develop, demonstrate, and communicate the skills needed to succeed in education, the workforce, and their communities;

Whereas literacy, numeracy, digital literacy, and the ability to effectively use artificial intelligence and emerging technologies are increasingly important for individuals to navigate a rapidly changing economy, access education and training, and participate fully in the workplace and society;

Whereas English-language acquisition programs help individuals strengthen their English proficiency, prepare for and advance in employment, pursue education and training, and contribute their skills and talents to the economy and communities of the United States;

Whereas adult education serves as a critical on-ramp to the workforce development system, career and technical education, integrated education and training, pre-apprenticeship and registered apprenticeship programs, and postsecondary education;

Whereas employers across the United States need access to a skilled and adaptable workforce, and adult education programs help expand the talent pool of the United States by equipping adults with the foundational, workforce, and durable skills necessary to meet evolving workforce needs;

Whereas adult education and literacy programs support economic mobility by helping individuals strengthen their skills, earn secondary and industry-recognized credentials, transition to postsecondary education and training, enter employment, and advance along career pathways;

Whereas the educational skills of parents and caregivers have a significant impact on the educational success and well-being of children;

Whereas family literacy programs strengthen the skills of parents and caregivers, increase engagement in the education of their children, and support educational and economic opportunity across generations;

Whereas strong literacy, numeracy, digital, and English-language skills help individuals access and understand health information, financial services, public resources, and other information necessary to make informed decisions for themselves and their families;

Whereas adult education provides individuals of all ages and backgrounds with opportunities to build skills throughout their lives and adapt to changing workplace, technological, and economic demands;

Whereas partnerships among adult education providers, workforce development systems, employers, career and technical education programs, postsecondary education institutions, community-based organizations, and other public and private partners strengthen pathways to economic opportunity and help address local, regional, and national workforce needs;

Whereas investments in adult education and family literacy strengthen individuals, families, employers, communities, and the economy of the United States; and

Whereas National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week highlights the essential role of adult education and literacy in ensuring that individuals across the United States have the skills and opportunities necessary to succeed at home, at work, and in their communities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of the week of September 13 through 19, 2026, as “National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week” to raise public awareness of the essential role of adult education and family literacy in strengthening workforce skills, economic mobility, families, communities, and the economy of the United States;

(2) recognizes adult education and family literacy as essential components of the education, workforce development, and economic opportunity infrastructure of the United States;

(3) recognizes the importance of expanding access to high-quality adult education, literacy, numeracy, English-language acquisition, digital literacy, workforce preparation, and family literacy services;

(4) encourages stronger partnerships among adult education providers, workforce development systems, employers, career and technical education programs, postsecondary institutions, community-based organizations, and other public and private partners to create effective pathways to education, training, employment, career advancement, and economic mobility; and

(5) calls on public, private, and nonprofit entities to support and expand access to adult education and family literacy programs so that individuals across the United States can develop the skills needed to thrive in a changing economy and contribute to strong families, communities, and the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 864—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 19 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 26, 2026, AS “NATIONAL ESTUARIES WEEK”

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. COONS, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KIM, Mr. KING, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. REED, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHIFF, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works:

S. RES. 864

Whereas estuary regions cover only 4 percent of the land area in the continental United States but contain nearly 40 percent of the population, 39 percent of the jobs, and 47 percent of the economic output of the United States;

Whereas the oceans, estuaries, and Great Lakes of the United States continue to fuel economic growth across the United States, with employment from the estuarine and ocean economy growing at 4.5 percent in 2023, compared to the national average employment growth of 2 percent;

Whereas the estuary, ocean, and Great Lakes economic sectors created 111,000 new jobs between 2022 and 2023, employed 2,600,000 people, and contributed \$511,000,000,000 to the 2023 gross domestic product;

Whereas the commercial and recreational fishing industries support over 2,100,000 jobs in the United States;

Whereas, in 2023—

(1) commercial and recreational saltwater fishing in the United States generated \$319,000,000,000 in sales;

(2) angler trip expenditures totaled approximately \$14,400,000,000; and

(3) saltwater recreational fishing supported over 694,041 jobs, generated \$145,400,000,000 in sales impacts across the economy, and contributed \$47,100,000,000 in income impacts and \$78,400,000,000 in value-added impacts to the United States;

Whereas estuaries provide vital habitats, nurseries, and migration stopovers for—

(1) countless species of fish and wildlife, including more than 68 percent of the commercial fish catch in the United States by value and 80 percent of the recreational fish catch in the United States by weight; and

(2) many species that are listed as threatened or endangered, including birds integral to the health of estuaries, such as the Snowy Plover and Saltmarsh Sparrow;

Whereas estuaries provide critical ecosystem services that protect human health and public safety, including water filtration, flood control, shoreline stabilization, erosion prevention, and the protection of coastal communities during hurricanes, storms, and other extreme weather events;

Whereas restored wetlands in the United States have been shown to remove up to 80 percent of nitrogen and 70 percent of phosphorus from runoff waters;

Whereas mangrove ecosystems in Florida are estimated to reduce storm surge losses to properties by \$67,500,000 annually;

Whereas coastal wetlands from Maine to North Carolina prevented \$625,000,000 in property damage during Hurricane Sandy;

Whereas areas with healthy salt marshes in New Jersey experience 16 percent lower annual flood losses than areas without healthy salt marshes;

Whereas, by the 1980s, the United States had already lost more than 50 percent of the wetlands that existed in the Thirteen Original Colonies;

Whereas the degradation and loss of estuaries has led to the collapse of some bays in the United States that were once filled with fish and oysters and have now become dead zones filled with excess nutrients, chemical waste, and marine debris;

Whereas harmful algal blooms are hurting fish, wildlife, and human health and are causing serious ecological and economic harm to many estuaries;

Whereas changes in sea level can affect estuarine water quality and estuarine habitats;

Whereas section 320 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1330) (commonly known as the “Clean Water Act”) authorizes the development of comprehensive