

(3) Congress supports the goals and ideals of National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month.

S. RES. 108

Whereas throughout American history, cowboy poets have played a large part in framing the landscape of the American West through written and oral poetry;

Whereas the endurance of these tales and poems demonstrates that cowboy poetry is still a living art;

Whereas recognizing the contributions of these poets dates as far back as cowboys themselves; and

Whereas it is necessary to recognize the importance of cowboy poetry for future generations: Now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates that week of April 21 through April 27, 2003, as “National Cowboy Poetry Week”; and

(2) requests the President to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to celebrate the week with the appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs.

S. RES. 111

Whereas many nations throughout the world, and especially within the Western hemisphere, celebrate “Día de los Niños” on the 30th of April, in recognition and celebration of their country’s future—their children;

Whereas children represent the hopes and dreams of the people of the United States;

Whereas children are the center of American families;

Whereas children should be nurtured and invested in to preserve and enhance economic prosperity, democracy, and the American spirit;

Whereas Hispanics in the United States, the youngest and fastest growing ethnic community in the Nation, continue the tradition of honoring their children on this day, and wish to share this custom with the rest of the Nation;

Whereas 1 in 4 Americans is projected to be of Hispanic descent by the year 2050, and there are, in 2003, approximately 12.3 million Hispanic children in the United States;

Whereas traditional Hispanic family life centers largely on children;

Whereas the primary teachers of family values, morality, and culture are parents and family members, and we rely on children to pass on these family values, morals, and culture to future generations;

Whereas more than 500,000 children drop out of school each year and Hispanic dropout rates are unacceptably high;

Whereas the importance of literacy and education are most often communicated to children through family members;

Whereas families should be encouraged to engage in family and community activities that include extended and elderly family members and encourage children to explore, develop confidence, and pursue their dreams;

Whereas the designation of a day to honor the children of the Nation will help affirm for the people of the United States the significance of family, education, and community;

Whereas the designation of a day of special recognition of children of the United States will provide an opportunity for children to reflect on their future, to articulate their dreams and aspirations, and find comfort and security in the support of their family members and communities;

Whereas the National Latino Children’s Institute, serving as a voice for children, has worked with cities throughout the country to declare April 30 as “Día de los Niños: Celebrating Young Americans”—a day to bring together Latinos and other communities na-

tionwide to celebrate and uplift children; and

Whereas the children of a nation are the responsibility of all its people, and people should be encouraged to celebrate the gifts of children to society—their curiosity, laughter, faith, energy, spirit, hopes, and dreams: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates April 30, 2003, as “Día de los Niños: Celebrating Young Americans”; and

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to join with all children, families, organizations, communities, churches, cities, and States across the Nation to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies, including—

(A) activities that center around children, and are free or minimal in cost so as to encourage and facilitate the participation of all our people;

(B) activities that are positive, uplifting, and that help children express their hopes and dreams;

(C) activities that provide opportunities for children of all backgrounds to learn about one another’s cultures and share ideas;

(D) activities that include all members of the family, and especially extended and elderly family members, so as to promote greater communication among the generations within a family, enabling children to appreciate and benefit from the experiences and wisdom of their elderly family members;

(E) activities that provide opportunities for families within a community to get acquainted; and

(F) activities that provide children with the support they need to develop skills and confidence, and find the inner strength—the will and fire of the human spirit—to make their dreams come true.

S. RES. 111

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, nations throughout the world, especially within Latin America, celebrate Día De los Niños on the 30th of April, in recognition and celebration of their country’s future—their children. Many American Hispanic families continue the tradition of honoring their children on this day by celebrating Día De los Niños in their homes.

The designation of a day to honor the children of the Nation will help affirm for the people of the United States the significance of family, education, and community. This special recognition of children will provide us with an opportunity to reflect on our future, articulate our dreams and aspirations, and find comfort and security in the support of our family members and communities. This resolution calls on the American people to join with all children, families, organizations, communities, churches, cities, and States across the Nation to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

I thank my colleagues for supporting America’s youth by supporting this resolution designating April 30, 2003, Día De los Niños: Celebrating Young Americans.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE LABORERS’ INTERNATIONAL UNION OF NORTH AMERICA

Mr. SUNUNU. I ask unanimous consent the Senate immediately proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 68, S. Res. 117.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 117) recognizing the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Laborers’ International Union of North America, and congratulating members and officers of the Laborers’ International Union of North America for the union’s many achievements.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SUNUNU. I ask unanimous consent the Hatch amendment to the resolution be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; that the resolution as amended be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; that the preamble be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements relating to this matter be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 531) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To honor and commend the contributions of all labor organizations within the United States)

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following: “That the Senate—

“(1) recognizes the founding and establishment of labor organizations, which have made a tremendous contribution to the structural development and building of the United States, and to the well-being of countless workers;

“(2) congratulates labor organizations for their many achievements and the strength of their membership; and

“(3) expects that labor organizations will continue their dedicated work and will have an even greater impact in the 21st century and beyond, and will enhance the standard of living and work environment for laborers and other workers in generations to come.”.

The resolution (S. Res. 117), as amended, was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, as amended, with its preamble, reads as follows:

(The bill will be printed in a future edition of the RECORD.)

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING THE BLUE STAR SERVICE BANNER AND THE GOLD STAR

Mr. SUNUNU. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Con. Res. 36, submitted earlier today by Senators DASCHLE, FRIST, HAGEL, JOHNSON, and STEVENS.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 36) expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the blue star service banner and the gold star.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. DASCHLE. Madam President, today I join with my colleague, Senator HAGEL, to urge adoption of a Senate concurrent resolution on behalf of our troops and their families. Specifically, the resolution encourages families of military personnel to display the Blue Star Service Banner, a tradition dating back to World War I. The Blue Star Service Banner indicates that a loved one is serving our country in the active duty military, and honors their devotion and sacrifice.

The Blue Star Service Banner has its origins in World War I, when mothers of soldiers often sewed blue stars onto white flags by hand, in order to express their love, pride, and concern for their sons serving abroad. The practice was widespread throughout the two World Wars, coming to serve not only as a symbol of pride but also as a reminder to our Nation's citizens of their call to support the war effort. The flying flag urged civilians to remember their commitment to ration gas and food, to buy war bonds, or to work in the factories producing much-needed materials, all in support of the brave men who were placing their lives on the line in defense of our country.

Today, as a new generation of brave men and women faces grave personal risk on the front lines of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, let us renew this time-honored tradition and again hoist flags in support of our troops. Let the families of these men and women display their love, pride, and concern for their loved ones, who have made such tremendous commitments to our country. And let these flags remind American citizens of the ways we can support our troops' efforts abroad: by expressing our gratitude, by making personal sacrifices through donations or volunteer efforts, and by continuing to demonstrate liberty and democracy to the world through vigorous debate and civic participation in the institutions that make our country great.

Our Nation's active-duty military now consists of more than a million men and women, supported by even more families and households, and I introduce this bill today out of respect and solidarity with them all. In particular, I would like to pay tribute to my colleague from South Dakota, Senator TIM JOHNSON, who is Congress' only "Blue Star Parent." As you might imagine, given our relationship, I am particularly well acquainted with this family and their son, Brooks, a sergeant in the Army's 101st Airborne Division, now engaged in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Thank you, Barbara and TIM JOHNSON, and thank you, Brooks, for your contribution to our nation's security.

As images of the conflict in Iraq fill up our television screens and newspapers, many Americans feel helpless and distant, and we long for a way to support our troops. The Blue Star Service Banner allows military families to demonstrate their support, their pride, and their concern for the young men and women who serve our nation with such dedication. I urge you to support the passage of this important resolution and to join with me in calling upon the military families among your constituents to fly the Blue Star flag high and proudly.

Mr. SUNUNU. I ask unanimous consent the concurrent resolution and preamble be agreed to en bloc, the motions to reconsider be laid on the table en bloc, and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 36) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. CON. RES. 36

Whereas the Blue Star Service Banner was patented and designed in 1917, during the height of the First World War, by Army Captain Robert L. Queissner of the 5th Ohio Infantry, who had two sons serving on the front lines;

Whereas the banner quickly became the symbol for a family member serving the Nation and families began proudly displaying these banners in their front windows during the First World War;

Whereas each Blue Star on the banner represents a family member serving in the Armed Services and symbolizes hope and pride;

Whereas beginning in 1918, the Blue Star would signify the living, and a smaller Gold Star would be placed on top of the Blue Star, forming a blue border, if the family member was killed or died while on active duty, to symbolize his or her sacrifice for the cause of freedom;

Whereas the placement of a Gold Star on top of a Blue Star recognizes that those who served together and came home, as well as their families, will always remember the sacrifice of those who died and honor their families;

Whereas the banners were displayed widely during the Second World War;

Whereas many of the banners displayed during the First and Second World Wars were hand-made by the mothers of those serving in the Armed Forces;

Whereas the legacy of the banner continued during the Korean, Vietnam, and Persian Gulf Wars and other periods of conflict, as well as in times of peace;

Whereas the Blue Star Service Banner is the official banner authorized by law to be displayed in honor of a family member serving the United States, while the Gold Star may be displayed in honor of a family member who has made the ultimate sacrifice for the Nation;

Whereas for over 85 years, families have proudly displayed the Blue Star Service Banner showing service men and women the honor and pride that is taken in their sacrifices for freedom;

Whereas the banner may be displayed by members of the immediate family of a loved one serving in the Armed Forces, including active duty service in a unit of the National Guard, Merchant Marine, or the Reserves;

Whereas the banner may be flown by families with a service member stationed either domestically or overseas;

Whereas the display of the banner in the front window of a home shows a family's pride in their loved one and is a reminder that preserving America's freedom demands great sacrifice; and

Whereas this reminder is especially timely during the current conflict with Iraq and the war on terrorism: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That the Congress—

(1) calls on all Americans to honor the men and women of the United States Armed Forces and their families;

(2) honors the men and women of the United States Armed Forces and their families;

(3) encourages these families to proudly display the Blue Star Service Banner or, if their loved one has made the ultimate sacrifice, the Gold Star; and

(4) calls on the media to recognize the importance of the Blue Star Service Banner and its symbolism of the devotion and service of the men and women of the United States Armed Forces.

SEC. 2. The authority on which this resolution rests is the authority of Congress to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper as provided in Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE CONGRESS REGARDING THE BLUE STAR FLAG AND THE GOLD STAR

Mr. SUNUNU. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Armed Services Committee be discharged from further consideration of H. Con. Res. 109 and that the Senate then proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 109) expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the Blue Star Flag and the Gold Star.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. SUNUNU. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution and preamble be agreed to en bloc, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc, and that any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD, without intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 109) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

BIRCH BAYH FEDERAL BUILDING AND UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

Mr. SUNUNU. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 65, S. 763.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows: