

(1) helps protect against identity theft and fraud;

(2) provides easier access to funds during emergencies and natural disasters; and

(3) provides citizens of the United States with more control over their money;

Whereas the Department of the Treasury and the Federal Reserve Banks have launched "Go Direct", a national campaign organized to encourage the people of the United States to use direct deposit for the receipt of social security and other Federal benefits; and

Whereas, by working with financial institutions, advocacy groups, and community organizations, the sponsors of "Go Direct" are educating the people of the United States about the advantages of using direct deposit and assisting people during the enrollment process: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of "Go Direct";

(2) designates March 2007 as "Go Direct Month";

(3) commends Federal, State, and local governments, and the private sector, for promoting March as "Go Direct Month"; and

(4) encourages the people of the United States to—

(A) participate in events and awareness initiatives held during the month of March;

(B) become informed about the convenience and safety of direct deposit; and

(C) consider signing up for direct deposit of social security or other Federal benefits.

COMMENDING THE MISS AMERICA ORGANIZATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to S. Res. 68, which was submitted earlier today.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 68) commending the Miss America organization for its longstanding commitment to quality education and the character of women in the United States.

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

Mr. REID. It is late, but everyone should know the Miss America Pageant is in Las Vegas this year.

I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 68) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 68

Whereas the Miss America Organization was formed in 1921;

Whereas, in 1945, the organization established a scholarship program to assist young women achieve their personal and professional goals;

Whereas contestants in the Miss America Pageant must first succeed in local and State pageants;

Whereas the 52 young women who participated in the Miss America Pageant showed great poise and accomplishment;

Whereas Lauren Nelson, of Lawton, Oklahoma, was crowned Miss America 2007, the sixth Oklahoman in history and the second in a row;

Whereas Oklahoma now joins only 2 other States in boasting 6 Miss America crowns and 3 other States in holding consecutive crowns; and

Whereas the Senate family is also proud of Kate Michael of Senator Johnny Isakson's office, who represented the District of Columbia in the Miss America Pageant: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the Miss America Organization for its longstanding commitment to quality education and the character of women in the United States;

(2) congratulates Miss America 2007, Lauren Nelson of Lawton, Oklahoma, the 80th woman crowned Miss America; and

(3) directs the Secretary of the Senate to transmit a copy of this resolution to Lauren Nelson in care of the Miss America Organization.

NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELING WEEK

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 23, and that the Senate proceed to its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 23) designating February 5 through February 9, 2007, as "National School Counseling Week."

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 23) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 23

Whereas the American School Counselor Association has declared the week of February 5 through February 9, 2007, as "National School Counseling Week";

Whereas the Senate has recognized the importance of school counseling through the inclusion of elementary and secondary school counseling programs in the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965;

Whereas school counselors have long advocated that the education system of the United States must leave no child behind and must provide opportunities for every student;

Whereas personal and social growth results in increased academic achievement;

Whereas school counselors help develop well-rounded students by guiding them through their academic, personal, social, and career development;

Whereas school counselors have been instrumental in helping students, teachers, and parents deal with the trauma that was

inflicted upon them by hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma;

Whereas students face myriad challenges every day, including peer pressure, depression, and school violence;

Whereas school counselors are among the few professionals in a school building that are trained in both education and mental health;

Whereas the roles and responsibilities of school counselors are often misunderstood, and the school counselor position is often among the first to be eliminated in order to meet budgetary constraints;

Whereas the national average ratio of students to school counselors of 478-to-1 is more than double the 250-to-1 ratio recommended by the American School Counselor Association, the American Counseling Association, the American Medical Association, the American Psychological Association, and other organizations; and

Whereas the celebration of National School Counseling Week would increase awareness of the important and necessary role school counselors play in the lives of students in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of February 5 through February 9, 2007, as "National School Counseling Week"; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies and activities that promote awareness of the role school counselors perform in the school and the community at large in preparing students for fulfilling lives as contributing members of society.

HONORING PERCY LAVON JULIAN

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 34, at the desk and just received from the House.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 34) to honor the life of Percy Lavon Julian, a pioneer in the field of organic chemistry research and development and the first and only African American chemist to be inducted into the National Academy of Sciences.

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

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, without any intervening action or debate.

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

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 34) was agreed to.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2007

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask consent when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 2 p.m. Monday, February 5; on Monday, following the prayer and the pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be

deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; there be a period of morning business until 4 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each; and that during morning business, Senator BYRD be recognized to speak for up to 60 minutes; that at 4 p.m. the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 19, S. 470, the Iraq legislation.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we are waiting to hear word on a small business matter.

In the meantime, I notice that the Senate overwhelmingly passed H.R. 2, the minimum wage legislation. I congratulate the floor managers for their excellent work. I congratulate the Republican leader for working with us to get this important piece of legislation passed.

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. On Monday, the Senate will conduct a rollcall vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to S. 470 at 5:30, and that will be the first vote of the day.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

EXTENSION OF CERTAIN AUTHORITIES OF THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION—Continued

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we have been in touch with Senator KERRY's office today—in fact, just this minute—and he does say there is some confusion in this regard. He has spoken to Senator SNOWE. Because of this confusion at this time, I have no alternative but to seek adoption of the unanimous consent request regarding the small business matter that I enunciated some time ago.

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

The amendment (No. 229) was agreed to as, follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 229

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. ADDITIONAL TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION OF PROGRAMS UNDER THE SMALL BUSINESS ACT AND THE SMALL BUSINESS INVESTMENT ACT OF 1958.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1 of the Act entitled “An Act to extend temporarily certain authorities of the Small Business Administration”, approved October 10, 2006 (Public Law 109-316; 120 Stat. 1742), is amended by striking “February 2, 2007” each place it appears and inserting “July 31, 2007”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on February 2, 2007.

The amendment (No. 230) was agreed to, as follows:

Amend the title to read as follows: “An Act to provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 through July 31, 2007, and for other purposes”.

The amendments were ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill (H.R. 434), as amended, was read the third time and passed.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I appreciate the Republican leader bringing this to my attention. I personally will work on this tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2007, AT 2 P.M.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate today, I ask unanimous consent the Senate stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:43 p.m. adjourned until Monday, February 5, 2007, at 2 p.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate Thursday, February 1, 2007:

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

IRVING A. WILLIAMSON, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION FOR THE TERM EXPIRING JUNE 16, 2014.

DEAN A. PINKERT, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION FOR THE TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 16, 2015.

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

MICHAEL J. ASTRUE, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SECURITY FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 19, 2013.

THE ABOVE NOMINATIONS WERE APPROVED SUBJECT TO THE NOMINEES' COMMITMENT TO RESPOND TO REQUESTS TO APPEAR AND TESTIFY BEFORE ANY DULY CONSTITUTED COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE.

THE JUDICIARY

LAWRENCE JOSEPH O'NEILL, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA.

VALERIE L. BAKER, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA.

GREGORY KENT FRIZZELL, OF OKLAHOMA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA.