

and article I, section 9 declared that Congress could prohibit the importation of slaves into the United States in the year 1808;

Whereas, in 1794, the United States Congress passed "An Act to prohibit the carrying on the Slave Trade from the United States to any foreign place or country", approved March 22, 1794 (1 Stat. 347), thus beginning the efforts of the United States to halt the slave trade;

Whereas, on May 10, 1800, Congress enacted a law that outlawed all participation by people in the United States in the international trafficking of slaves and authorized the United States Navy to seize vessels flying the flag of the United States engaged in the slave trade;

Whereas, on March 2, 1807, President Thomas Jefferson signed into law "An Act to prohibit the importation of slaves into any port or place within the jurisdiction of the United States, from and after the first of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eight" (2 Stat. 426);

Whereas, on January 1, 1808, the prohibition on the importation of slaves into the United States took effect;

Whereas, on March 3, 1819, Congress authorized the Navy to cruise the coast of Africa to suppress the slave trade, declaring that Africans on captured ships be placed under Federal jurisdiction and authorizing the President to appoint an agent in Africa to facilitate the return of captured Africans to the continent;

Whereas, in 1819, the Royal Navy of Great Britain established the West Coast of Africa as a separate naval station and actively plied the waters in pursuit of slave ships, and Great Britain negotiated with many other countries to obtain the right to search vessels suspected of engaging in the slave trade;

Whereas, on May 15, 1820, Congress declared the trading of slaves to be an act of piracy and that those convicted of trading slaves were subject to the death penalty;

Whereas the Webster-Ashburton Treaty between Great Britain and the United States, signed August 9, 1842, provided that both countries would maintain separate naval squadrons on the coast of Africa to enforce their respective laws against the slave trade;

Whereas, in 1843, the newly formed United States African Squadron sailed for Africa and remained in operation until the Civil War erupted in 1861;

Whereas, in 1859, the USS Constellation, the last all-sail vessel designed and built by the United States Navy, sailed to West Africa as the flagship of the United States African Squadron, which consisted of 8 ships, including 4 steam-powered vessels suitable for chasing down and capturing slave ships;

Whereas, on December 21, 1859, the USS Constellation captured the brig Delicia after a 10-hour chase, and although the Delicia had no human cargo on board upon capture, the crew had been preparing the ship to take on slaves;

Whereas, on the night of September 25, 1860, the USS Constellation spotted the barque Cora near the mouth of the Congo River and, after a dramatic moonlit chase, captured the slave ship with 705 Africans crammed into her permanent "slave deck";

Whereas after capturing the Cora, a detachment of the Constellation's crew sailed the surviving Africans to Monrovia, Liberia, a colony founded for the settlement of free African-Americans, which became the destination for all Africans freed on slave ships captured by the United States Navy;

Whereas, on May 21, 1861, the USS Constellation captured the brig Triton, and although the Triton did not have Africans captured for slavery on board when intercepted by the Constellation, a search confirmed

that the ship had been prepared to take on slaves;

Whereas the Triton, registered in Charleston, South Carolina, was one of the first Union naval captures of the Civil War;

Whereas, from 1859 to 1861, the USS Constellation and the United States African Squadron captured 14 slave ships and liberated nearly 4,000 Africans destined for a life of servitude in the Americas, a record unsurpassed by the squadron under previous commanders; and

Whereas, on September 25, 2008, the USS Constellation Museum will hold a ceremony to commemorate the bicentennial of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade aboard the same ship that, 148 years before, forced the capitulation of the slave ship Cora and freed the 705 Africans confined within: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the historical and educational significance of the USS Constellation, a 153-year-old warship berthed in Baltimore, Maryland, as a reminder of both the participation of the United States in the slave trade and the efforts of the United States Government to suppress the inhumane practice;

(2) applauds the preservation of the historic vessel and the efforts of the USS Constellation Museum to engage people from all over the world with this vital part of our history; and

(3) supports the USS Constellation as an appropriate site for the Nation to commemorate the bicentennial of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade in 2008.

HONORING THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Con. Res. 101, which was submitted earlier today.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 101) honoring the University of Nebraska at Omaha for its 100 years of commitment to higher education.

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

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 101) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

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

S. CON. RES. 101

Whereas local leaders in the Omaha area formed a corporation known as the University of Omaha on October 8, 1908, for the promotion of sound learning and education;

Whereas, on September 14, 1909, the first 26 University of Omaha students gathered in Redick Hall, located west of 24th and Pratt Streets in the city of Omaha;

Whereas, during the first 10 years of existence, the key division of the University of Omaha was Liberal Arts College, designed to

produce a well-rounded and informed student;

Whereas, in 1910, the University of Nebraska announced it would accept all University of Omaha coursework as equivalent to its own, a milestone in terms of recognition for the new institution and acknowledgement of its substantial and respected curriculum;

Whereas, in December 1916, the University of Omaha students had a farewell party for Redick Hall and moved into their new building, a 3-story, 30-classroom building named Joslyn Hall;

Whereas, in 1929, the University of Omaha board of trustees and the people of Omaha voted to create the new Municipal University of Omaha to replace the old University of Omaha on May 30, 1930;

Whereas, in 1936, the Municipal University of Omaha acquired 20 acres of land north of Elmwood Park and south of West Dodge Street, which would become the site of the present-day campus;

Whereas the University dedicated its beautiful Georgian-style administration building in November 1938, capable of accommodating a student body of 1,000;

Whereas the increased enrollment of World War II veterans in 1945 due to the Montgomery GI Bill led to the completion of several new buildings, including a field house, library, student center, and engineering building;

Whereas, in 1950, the College of Education was separated from the College of Arts and Sciences, and within 3 years 1/3 of all teachers in Omaha public schools held degrees from the Municipal University;

Whereas the College of Business Administration was founded in 1952, and the business community responded by creating internship programs for accounting, insurance, real estate, and retailing at major firms and for students interested in the field of television at station KMTV;

Whereas 12,000 members of the military, including 15 who rose to the rank of general, were able to receive a Bachelor of General Education degree through the College of Adult Education "Bootstrap" program;

Whereas the University received a Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) unit in July 1951;

Whereas Municipal University became a leader in radio-television journalism by founding its own radio station in 1951, and in 1952 became the first institution in the Midwest to offer courses by television;

Whereas Municipal University became part of the University of Nebraska system in July 1968, and was renamed the University of Nebraska at Omaha, its present-day name;

Whereas, in 1977, the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools gave the University of Nebraska at Omaha the highest rating possible;

Whereas, in an effort to gain a more suitable location for conferences and an off-campus class site, the University opened the Peter Kiewit Conference Center in 1980;

Whereas the University has established innovative programs that enrich the community through service learning, support of the arts, outreach programs for business, education, and government, and creation of dual-enrollment programs for Nebraska high school students;

Whereas the University has 90,000 graduates, with nearly half of those still residing, raising families, and building careers in the Omaha metropolitan area; and

Whereas the year 2008 is the 100th anniversary of the founding of the University of Nebraska at Omaha, and the activities to commemorate its founding will begin on October 8, 2008: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress congratulates the University of Nebraska at Omaha on its 100 years of outstanding service to the city of Omaha, the State of Nebraska, the United States, and the world in fulfilling its mission of providing sound learning and education.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL OVARIAN CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 678, submitted earlier today by Senator STABENOW.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 678) supporting the goals and ideals of National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month.

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

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements related to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 678) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 678

Whereas ovarian cancer is the deadliest of all gynecological cancers, and the reported incidence of ovarian cancer is increasing over time;

Whereas ovarian cancer is the 5th leading cause of cancer deaths among women in the United States;

Whereas all women are at risk for ovarian cancer, and 90 percent of women diagnosed with ovarian cancer do not have a family history that puts them at higher risk;

Whereas the Pap smear is sensitive and specific to the early detection of cervical cancer, but not to ovarian cancer;

Whereas there is currently no reliable and easy-to-administer screening test used for the early detection of ovarian cancer;

Whereas many people are unaware that the symptoms of ovarian cancer often include bloating, pelvic or abdominal pain, difficulty eating or feeling full quickly, and urinary symptoms, among several other symptoms that are easily confused with other diseases;

Whereas due to the lack of a reliable early screening test, 75 percent of cases of ovarian cancer are detected at an advanced stage, when the 5-year survival rate is only 50 percent, a much lower rate than for many other cancers;

Whereas if ovarian cancer is diagnosed and treated at an early stage before the cancer spreads outside of the ovary, the treatment is potentially less costly, and the survival rate is as high as 90 percent;

Whereas there are factors that are known to reduce the risk for ovarian cancer and play an important role in the prevention of the disease;

Whereas awareness and early recognition of ovarian cancer symptoms are currently the best way to save women's lives;

Whereas the Ovarian Cancer National Alliance, during the month of September, holds a number of events to increase public awareness of ovarian cancer; and

Whereas September 2008 has been designated by the President as National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate supports the goals and ideals of National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEAS OF NATIONAL SPINA BIFIDA AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the HELP Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 661, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 661) supporting the goals and ideals of National Spina Bifida Awareness Month.

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

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today to support, with Senator WICKER, a resolution to raise awareness about spina bifida, the most common, permanently disabling birth defect. This often devastating birth defect occurs during the first month of pregnancy when the spine fails to close completely, leaving a permanent opening and resulting in a multitude of serious medical complications.

Thanks to modern medicine and technological advances, most babies born with spina bifida—1,500 to 2,000 a year—survive, and many are now living longer than ever before. It is estimated that in the United States no less than 70,000 people, and possibly as many as 130,000 people, currently live with spina bifida. This is wonderful progress, but there are substantial hurdles that can prevent those with spina bifida from reaching their full potential.

For a person with spina bifida, the body, mind, and spirit are all under assault. Most children with the worst form of spina bifida must undergo a surgery to insert a permanent shunt to drain fluid from the brain for the duration of their lives. People with spina bifida may endure any combination of full or partial paralysis, seizures, bladder and bowel problems, latex allergies, learning disabilities, depression, and other psychosocial issues. The promise of an extended life expectancy for individuals with spina bifida may be dampened by the new challenges they face in education, job training, independent living, health care for secondary conditions and aging concerns. Far more needs to be done to improve the quality of life for those suffering with spina bifida.

I applaud the groups that labor so diligently to offer support to the many Americans with spina bifida and their families. In particular, I extend my gratitude to the Spina Bifida Association, which has been dedicated to this important issue for more than three decades. They are steadfast advocates for those whose lives have been touched by spina bifida, working across our Nation to improve lives through education, research, and service.

The Spina Bifida Association, together with the National Spina Bifida Program at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other groups, is working hard to spread the word to the 65 million women at risk of having a baby born with spina bifida. On any given day in the United States, eight births are affected by spina bifida or a similar birth defect of the brain and spine. It is estimated that 70 percent of birth defects such as spina bifida are preventable by consuming an adequate amount of folic acid prior to pregnancy. This is a simple step that women can take to reduce their risk, but far more outreach and education is required to reach women with this important message.

It is time to renew our efforts to prevent spina bifida and help the many individuals and families living with spina bifida. The resolution we will adopt today calls for a greater commitment to spina bifida prevention and to improving the quality of life of those affected by it, increased funding for evidence-based spina bifida research, and further development of the National Spina Bifida Patient Registry. Taken together, these efforts will help decrease the incidence of spina bifida and improve available treatments and quality of life for those living with it. I wholeheartedly urge my colleagues to join with me in support of this resolution.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 661) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 661

Whereas spina bifida is the most common, permanently disabling birth defect;

Whereas spina bifida occurs during the first month of pregnancy and leaves a permanent opening in the spinal column that subsequently impacts nearly every organ system;

Whereas an estimated 70,000 to 130,000 people in the United States currently live with spina bifida;

Whereas all women of childbearing age are at risk of having a spina bifida affected pregnancy;

Whereas an estimated 70 percent of neural tube defects such as spina bifida can be prevented if a woman consumes adequate