

the Foreign Service, and other Federal Government agencies, for their service, sacrifices, and heroism in Iraq; and

- (9) commends the people of Iraq for—
- (A) the courage they have shown;
- (B) the sacrifices they have endured; and
- (C) the hard-won gains they have made in fighting terrorism, finding peace, and building democracy.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 438—DESIGNATING MARCH 2, 2010, AS “READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY”

Mr. REED (for himself and Ms. COLLINS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 438

Whereas reading is a basic requirement for quality education and professional success, and is a source of pleasure throughout life;

Whereas the people of the United States must be able to read if the United States is to remain competitive in the global economy;

Whereas Congress, through the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (Public Law 107-110) and the Reading First, Early Reading First, and Improving Literacy Through School Libraries programs, has placed great emphasis on reading intervention and providing additional resources for reading assistance; and

Whereas more than 50 national organizations concerned about reading and education have joined with the National Education Association to use March 2, the anniversary of the birth of Theodor Geisel, also known as Dr. Seuss, to celebrate reading: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates March 2, 2010, as “Read Across America Day”;

(2) honors Theodor Geisel, also known as Dr. Seuss, for his success in encouraging children to discover the joy of reading;

(3) honors the 13th anniversary of Read Across America Day;

(4) encourages parents to read with their children for at least 30 minutes on Read Across America Day in honor of the commitment of the Senate to building a Nation of readers; and

(5) encourages the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 439—RECOGNIZING THE EXEMPLARY SERVICE, DEVOTION TO COUNTRY, AND SELFLESS SACRIFICE OF SPECIAL WARFARE OPERATORS 2ND CLASS MATTHEW McCABE AND JONATHAN KEEFE AND SPECIAL WARFARE OPERATOR 1ST CLASS JULIO HUERTAS IN CAPTURING AHMED HASHIM ABED, ONE OF THE MOST-WANTED TERRORISTS IN IRAQ, AND PLEDGING TO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES SERVING IN HARM’S WAY

Mr. ENSIGN submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

S. RES. 439

Whereas in September 2009, Special Warfare Operators 2nd Class Matthew McCabe and Jonathan Keefe and Special Warfare Operator 1st Class Julio Huertas successfully

captured Ahmed Hashim Abed, one of the most-wanted terrorists in Iraq;

Whereas Ahmed Hashim Abed is the alleged planner of the March 21, 2004, ambush of a supply convoy in Fallujah, Iraq, which resulted in the brutal killing of 4 Blackwater security contractors;

Whereas Ahmed Hashim Abed evaded capture in Iraq for more than 5 years until his capture by the 3 Navy SEALs;

Whereas Special Warfare Operators 2nd Class Matthew McCabe and Jonathan Keefe and Special Warfare Operator 1st Class Julio Huertas are exceptional sailors who accomplished their mission in the finest tradition of the Navy SEALs and the United States Armed Forces while defending their country and protecting the citizens of Iraq;

Whereas the capture of Ahmed Hashim Abed serves as an important reminder that the United States is still engaged in a Global War on Terror; and

Whereas it is because of the efforts of these courageous Navy SEALs and other members of the Armed Forces that Americans continue to be free: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the exemplarily service, devotion to country, and selfless sacrifice of Special Warfare Operators 2nd Class Matthew McCabe and Jonathan Keefe and Special Warfare Operator 1st Class Julio Huertas; and

(2) pledges to continue to support members of the United States Armed Forces serving in harm’s way.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 440—IMPROVING THE SENATE CLOTURE PROCESS

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

S. RES. 440

Whereas the Senate rules regarding cloture serve the legitimate purpose of protecting the rights of the minority;

Whereas the Senate has never been intended to operate solely on the basis of majority rule; and

Whereas the Senate rules should not be abused for the purpose of delaying or otherwise preventing the business of the Senate: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*,

##### SECTION 1. MOTIONS TO PROCEED.

Paragraph 2 of rule VIII of the Standing Rules of the Senate is amended to read as follows:

“2. All motions to proceed to the consideration of any matter shall be determined without debate, except motions to proceed to a proposal to change the Standing Rules which shall be debatable.”.

##### SEC. 2. PROCESS FOR ENDING THE DEBATE.

(a) MOTION TO REDUCE TIME FOR CLOTURE PETITION TO RIPEN.—The first sentence of paragraph 2 of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate is amended by inserting after “but one” the following: “(unless by two-thirds affirmative vote of the Senators duly chosen and sworn the Senate has agreed to a motion to reduce time)”.

(b) ALLOWING FOR A MOTION TO REDUCE TIME POSTCLOTURE.—The fourth undesignated paragraph of paragraph 2 of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate is amended by striking the second and third sentences and inserting: “The thirty hours may be increased or decreased by the adoption of a motion, decided without debate, by a three-fifths affirmative vote of the Senators present and voting, and any such time

thus agreed upon shall be equally divided and controlled by the Majority and Minority Leaders or their designees. However, only one motion to reduce or extend time, specified above, may be made in any one calendar day.”.

(c) MINORITY MUST VOTE IN THE NEGATIVE, OR ELSE CLOTURE IS INVOKED.—The second undesignated paragraph of paragraph 2 of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate is amended by striking “And if that question shall be decided in the affirmative by three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn” and inserting “And if that question is decided in the affirmative and there are not negative votes by at least forty-one hundredths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn”.

(d) ENCOURAGING BIPARTISAN NEGOTIATIONS AND BIPARTISAN COALITION BUILDING.—Paragraph 2 of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate is amended by inserting at the end the following:

“In the event that 3 attempts to bring the debate to a close on any particular measure, motion, other matter pending before the Senate, or the unfinished business, have not received the requisite number of votes to bring the debate to a close under this paragraph, then for any subsequent attempt to bring the debate to a close on that particular measure, motion, other matter pending before the Senate, or the unfinished business, the threshold required of those voting in the negative in order to prevent the debate from coming to a close shall be 45 hundredths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn, unless at least one of the Senators present and voting in the negative, caucuses with the party of the Majority Leader, in which case the threshold required of those voting in the negative in order to prevent the debate from coming to a close shall remain 41 hundredths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn. If there is one member of the Majority voting to maintain the filibuster for purposes of the preceding sentence maintaining the threshold for blocking cloture at 41 hundredths, the threshold shall be raised to 45 hundredths if 3 of those voting in the affirmative to bring debate to a close caucus with the party of the Minority Leader. For purposes of this undesignated paragraph, only those Senators permitted to caucus with the party of the Majority Leader, by the Majority Leader, shall be considered to caucus with the party of the Majority Leader. The Majority Leader shall request that a list of Senators caucusing with the party of the Majority Leader be listed in the Congressional Record, and any time that the Majority Leader shall regard composition of such list as having changed, the Majority Leader shall request that a new and updated list be printed in the Congressional Record.”.

##### SEC. 3. HOLDS.

The Standing Rules of the Senate are amended by inserting at the end the following:

“RULE XLV

“PROCESS FOR HOLDS

“1. A Senator who provides notice either to leadership or during open public debate in the full Senate of intention to object to proceeding to a motion or matter shall disclose the objection in the Congressional Record not later than 2 session days after the date of such notice. Upon the placement of the disclosure of objection in the Congressional Record, the Senate shall only continue to recognize the objection if the objection is raised as provided in this paragraph at least by one Senator who caucuses with the party of the Majority Leader and by one Senator who caucuses with the party of the Minority Leader. Under no circumstance shall a particular objection to a nomination be recognized for more than 30 days.

"2. If a second objection is raised to a nomination, no additional time beyond the 30-day limit of the first objection to the nominee shall be in order unless the second objection is raised by both at least one Senator who caucuses with the party of the Majority Leader but who did not raise the first objection, and also at least one Senator who caucuses with the party of the Minority Leader but who did not raise the first objection.

"3. In this rule, the term 'with the party of the Majority Leader' has the same meaning as in rule XXII. The process for determining what Senator caucuses with the party of the Minority Leader under this rule shall be at the discretion of the Minority Leader but shall follow the analogous rule XXII process."

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 441—RECOGNIZING THE HISTORY AND CONTINUED ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF WOMEN IN THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES

Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. MURRAY, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. BURRIS, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. STABENOW, and Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. BYRD, and Mr. SCHUMER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

##### S. RES. 441

Whereas women of diverse ethnic, religious, socioeconomic, and racial backgrounds have made extraordinary contributions to each service of the Armed Forces;

Whereas today women volunteer to serve the Nation and distinguish themselves in the active and reserve components of the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard;

Whereas the contributions of generations of women have contributed to the collective success of women in military service and the freedom and security of the United States;

Whereas women have served with honor, courage, and a pioneering spirit in every major military campaign in the history of the United States since the Revolutionary War;

Whereas Dr. Mary E. Walker was the first, and remains the only, woman awarded the Medal of Honor for her contributions to military medicine and selfless actions during the Civil War;

Whereas the role of women expanded during World War I, with women serving as medical professionals and telephone operators and in other support roles that were critical to the war effort;

Whereas, during World War II, women served in every military service and in every theater and received awards for their gallantry, including four Silver Stars;

Whereas the Women's Armed Services Integration Act of 1948 (62 Stat. 356, chapter 449) established permanent positions and granted veterans benefits for women in the Armed Forces and allowed women to serve during the Korean War as regular members of the military;

Whereas, during the Vietnam War, roughly 7,500 women served in the Armed Forces in Southeast Asia as Nurse Corps officers and in other vital capacities where they saved lives and supported their fellow service members;

Whereas, in 1976, the service academies first admitted women, and in 1980, the first women graduated from the United States Military Academy, the United States Naval

Academy, the United States Air Force Academy, and the United States Coast Guard Academy;

Whereas women were assigned to the first gender-integrated units during the 1980s, with women serving alongside men in Operation Urgent Fury in Grenada and Operation Just Cause in Panama;

Whereas an unprecedented 40,000 women deployed as uniformed members of the Armed Forces in support of Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield;

Whereas, in 1991, Congress repealed laws prohibiting women from flying combat missions and in 1993 repealed the restriction on women serving on combat vessels;

Whereas, on June 16, 2005, Sergeant Leigh Ann Hester, an Army National Guard Military Police Soldier, became the first woman to receive the Silver Star since World War II for exceptional valor during an ambush on her convoy in Iraq;

Whereas, on November 14, 2008, General Ann Dunwoody became the first woman in the military to achieve the rank of four-star general;

Whereas, according to the Department of Defense, there are currently 203,375 women on active duty in the Armed Forces, many of whom have been deployed in harm's way;

Whereas, as of January 2, 2010, 104 military women have lost their lives in Operation Iraqi Freedom and 20 military women have lost their lives in Operation Enduring Freedom;

Whereas, as of February 6, 2010, 616 military women have been wounded in action in Iraq, and 50 military women have been wounded in action in Afghanistan;

Whereas, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs, as of February 1, 2010, there were 1,824,000 women veterans of the Armed Forces;

Whereas women help make the military of the United States the finest in the world by serving frequent and lengthy deployments under the most difficult conditions;

Whereas women in the Armed Forces frequently balance the rigors of a military career with the responsibilities of maintaining a healthy family;

Whereas women serving in combat theaters have been exposed to the same hazards and harsh conditions as male service members, and have sustained grave injuries and have given their lives in service to our Nation;

Whereas all service members, both men and women, deserve fair compensation for service related injuries, proper health care and rehabilitation, and the respect of a grateful Nation for their selfless service, sacrifice, and loyalty; and

Whereas women have made our Nation safer and more secure, while representing the values that we hold dear: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) acknowledges the contributions of women to our national defense and their importance in the rich history of the United States;

(2) celebrates the role that women have played in securing our Nation and defending our freedom;

(3) recognizes the unique challenges that women have overcome to expand the role of women in military service;

(4) agrees that programs available for women service members and veterans should be strengthened and enhanced, including for those who are dealing with invisible wounds of war; and

(5) strongly encourages the people of the United States to honor women veterans who have served our Nation and to elevate their stature in our national conscience.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 442—CONGRATULATING THE PEOPLE OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA ON THE ACT OF THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF THE STATE OF LITHUANIA, OR ACT OF MARCH 11, AND CELEBRATING THE RICH HISTORY OF LITHUANIA

Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. LUGAR, and Mr. BYRD) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

##### S. RES. 442

Whereas the name "Lithuania" first appeared in European records in the year 1009, when it was mentioned in the German manuscript "Annals of Quedlinburg";

Whereas the February 16, 1918, Act of Independence of Lithuania led to the establishment of Lithuania as a sovereign and democratic State;

Whereas, under the German-Soviet Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Demarcation, on June 15, 1940, Lithuania was forcibly incorporated into the Soviet Union in violation of preexisting peace treaties;

Whereas, during 50 years of Soviet occupation of the Baltic States, Congress strongly, consistently, and on a bipartisan basis refused to legally recognize the incorporation of Latvia, Estonia, and Lithuania by the Soviet Union;

Whereas, on March 11, 1990, the Republic of Lithuania was restored and Lithuania became the first Soviet republic to declare independence;

Whereas, on September 2, 1991, the United States Government formally recognized Lithuania as an independent and sovereign nation;

Whereas Lithuania has successfully developed into a free and democratic country, with a free market economy and respect for the rule of law;

Whereas Lithuania is a full and responsible member of the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the European Union, and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization;

Whereas Lithuania assumed Presidency of the Community of Democracies in September 2009, and will hold this position until 2011;

Whereas, in 2010, the United States Government and the Government of Lithuania celebrated 88 years of continuous diplomatic relations;

Whereas the United States Government welcomes and appreciates efforts by the Government of Lithuania to maintain international peace and stability in Europe and around the world by contributing to international civilian and military operations in Afghanistan, Iraq, Bosnia, Kosovo, and Georgia; and

Whereas Lithuania is a strong and loyal ally of the United States, and the people of Lithuania share common values with the people of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate hereby—

(1) congratulates the people of the Republic of Lithuania on the occasion of the Act of the Re-Establishment of the State of Lithuania;

(2) commends the Government of Lithuania for its success in implementing political and economic reforms, for establishing political, religious, and economic freedom, and for its commitment to human rights;

(3) recognizes the close and enduring relationship between the United States Government and the Government of Lithuania; and

(4) calls on the President to continue to build on the close and mutually beneficial