

United States, have turned National Women's History Month into a major local learning experience and celebration;

Whereas the popularity of women's history celebrations has sparked a new interest in uncovering women's forgotten heritage;

Whereas the President's Commission on the Celebration of Women in American History was established to consider how best to acknowledge and celebrate the roles and accomplishments of women in the history of the United States;

Whereas the National Women's History Museum was founded in 1996 as an institution dedicated to preserving, interpreting, and celebrating the diverse historic contributions of women, and integrating this rich heritage fully into the Nation's teachings and history books; and

Whereas the theme of National Women's History Month for 2010 is writing women back into history: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes March 2010 as National Women's History Month;

(2) supports the goals and ideals of National Women's History Month; and

(3) recognizes and honors the women and organizations in the United States that have fought for and continue to promote the teaching of women's history.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3718. Mr. KAUFMAN (for Mr. DODD) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 4573, to urge the Secretary of the Treasury to instruct the United States Executive Directors at the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and other multilateral development institutions to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States to cancel immediately and completely Haiti's debts to such institutions, and for other purposes.

SA 3719. Mr. KAUFMAN (for Mr. BAUCUS) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 427, designating the first week of April 2010 as "National Asbestos Awareness Week".

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3718. Mr. KAUFMAN (for Mr. DODD) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 4573, to urge the Secretary of the Treasury to instruct the United States Executive Directors at the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and other multilateral development institutions to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States to cancel immediately and completely Haiti's debts to such institutions, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 3, line 4, insert " , before February 1, 2015," after "provision".

On page 3, lines 18 and 19, strike "relief" and all that follows through "Haiti." and insert "relief and debt service relief for Haiti and, before February 1, 2015, to provide grants for Haiti."

On page 4, line 7, insert "and future generations" after "Haiti's future".

SA 3719. Mr. KAUFMAN (for Mr. BAUCUS) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 427, designating the first week of April 2010 as "National Asbestos Awareness Week"; as follows:

Strike the 8th whereas clause of the preamble.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 26, 2010, at 9 a.m.

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

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Randy Aussenberg and Ivie English of the Finance Committee staff be accorded the privilege of the floor for today's session.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLARIFYING MINIMUM ESSENTIAL COVERAGE

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Veterans Affairs Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 3162 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3162) to clarify the health care provided by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs that constitutes minimum essential coverage.

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

Mr. KAUFMAN. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements related to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (S. 3162) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 3162

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CLARIFICATION OF HEALTH CARE PROVIDED BY THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS THAT CONSTITUTES MINIMUM ESSENTIAL COVERAGE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Clause (v) of section 5000A(f)(1)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as added by section 1501(b) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, is amended to read as follows:

"(v) chapter 17 or 18 of title 38, United States Code, or otherwise under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, of an individual entitled to coverage under such chapter or laws for essential health benefits (as defined by the Secretary for purposes of section 1302(b) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act) insofar as such benefits are available under such chapter or laws; or".

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect as if

included in section 1501(b) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and shall be executed immediately after the amendments made by such section 1501(b).

PROTECTING THE INTEGRITY OF THE CENSUS ACT

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4621, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4621) to protect the integrity of the constitutionality mandated United States census and prohibit deceptive mail practices that attempt to exploit the decennial census.

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

Mr. KAUFMAN. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements related to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (H.R. 4621) was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed.

HAITI DEBT RELIEF AND EARTHQUAKE RECOVERY ACT OF 2010

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 4573, which was received from the House.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4573) to urge the Secretary of the Treasury to instruct the United States Executive Directors at the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and other multilateral development institutions to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States to cancel immediately and completely Haiti's debts to such institutions, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a Dodd amendment, which is at the desk, be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed; the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements related to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

The amendment (No. 3718) was agreed to, as follows:

On page 3, line 4, insert " , before February 1, 2015," after "provision".

On page 3, lines 18 and 19, strike "relief" and all that follows through "Haiti." and insert "relief and debt service relief for Haiti

and, before February 1, 2015, to provide grants for Haiti.”.

On page 4, line 7, insert “and future generations” after “Haiti’s future”.

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill (H.R. 4573), as amended, was read the third time, and passed.

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING THE BLINDED VETERANS ASSOCIATION

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.J. Res. 80, which was received from the House and is at the desk.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (H.J. Res. 80) recognizing and honoring the Blinded Veterans Association on its 65th anniversary of representing blinded veterans and their families.

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

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, today I ask our colleagues to support a joint resolution honoring and recognizing the Blinded Veterans Association for its 65 years of dedication to blinded veterans, and their families.

On March 28, 1945, during the closing stages of World War II, a group of nearly 100 blinded veterans were recuperating at the Old Farms Army Convalescent Hospital near Avon, Connecticut. These men discussed the challenges they had faced and those they were yet to experience, and decided to form an organization with the express purpose of helping other fellow blinded veterans. It was on that day that the Blinded Veterans Association was born.

The war-blinded population is one with unique needs and as such, requires specialized care and support. BVA has filled an essential role, serving as an ardent advocate and engaging in outreach efforts, to ensure these men and women regain independence and confidence, and experience a smooth transition into civilian life.

After 65 years of service, BVA continues to actively contribute to the betterment of blinded veterans' lives. BVA conducts two programs that help to reintegrate newly blinded veterans of our current wars back into their communities. The Field Service Program strategically places legally blind veteran representatives in different geographical areas, to ensure newly blinded veterans are aware of what health care services they qualify for, and are equipped with the necessary skills and tools to deal with life after sight loss. Operation Peer Support links returning blinded OEF/OIF veterans with blinded veterans of previous wars who faced similar challenges, thereby providing role models and necessary support. BVA further supports

this important community by offering academic scholarships each year to a limited number of blinded veteran dependents.

Blinded veterans have sacrificed much for this nation and deserve the best care and support. As their voice, BVA has helped Congress ensure we are doing everything within our reach to assist these brave men and women as they adapt to a new life after service.

Mr. President, I urge passage of this joint resolution honoring BVA on its 65th anniversary of advocacy on behalf of blinded veterans, on March 28, 2010.

Mr. KAUFMAN. I ask unanimous consent the joint resolution be read three times and passed, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

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

The joint resolution (H.J. Res. 80) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

The preamble was agreed to.

COMMEMORATING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE

DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2010 AS “NATIONAL CHILDHOOD OBESITY AWARENESS MONTH”

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 117 and S. Res. 412 en bloc, and the Senate proceed to their immediate consideration en bloc.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 117) commemorating the 80th anniversary of the Daughters of Penelope, a preeminent international women's association and affiliate organization of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA).

A resolution (S. Res. 412) designating September 2010 as “National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month”.

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

Mr. KAUFMAN. I ask unanimous consent the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate en bloc, and any statements related to the resolutions be printed in the RECORD at the appropriate place.

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

The resolutions (S. Res. 117) and (S. Res. 412) were agreed to en bloc.

The preambles were agreed to en bloc.

The resolutions, with their preambles, read as follows:

S. RES. 117

Whereas the Daughters of Penelope is a leading international organization of women

of Hellenic descent and Philhellenes, founded November 16, 1929, in San Francisco, California, to improve the status and well-being of women and their families and to provide women the opportunity to make significant contributions to their community and country;

Whereas the mission of the Daughters of Penelope is to promote the ideals of ancient Greece, philanthropy, education, civic responsibility, good citizenship, and family and individual excellence, through community service and volunteerism;

Whereas the chapters of the Daughters of Penelope sponsor affordable and dignified housing to the Nation's senior citizen population by participating in the Department of Housing and Urban Development's section 202 housing program (12 U.S.C. 1701q);

Whereas Penelope House, a domestic violence shelter for women and their children sponsored by the Daughters of Penelope, is the first of its kind in the State of Alabama and is recognized as a model shelter for others to emulate throughout the United States;

Whereas the Daughters of Penelope Foundation, Inc. supports the educational objectives of the Daughters of Penelope by providing tens of thousands of dollars annually for scholarships, sponsoring educational seminars, and donating children's books to libraries, schools, shelters, and churches through the “Open Books” program;

Whereas the Daughters of Penelope is the first ethnic organization to submit oral history tapes to the Library of Congress, providing an oral history of first generation Greek-American women in the United States;

Whereas the Daughters of Penelope promotes awareness of cancer research, such as thalassemia (Cooley's anemia), lymphangioleiomyomatosis (LAM), Alzheimer's disease, muscular dystrophy, and others;

Whereas the Daughters of Penelope provides financial support for many medical research and charitable organizations such as the University of Miami Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center (formerly the Papanicolaou Cancer Center), the Alzheimer's Foundation of America, the American Heart Association, the Special Olympics, the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy, the Children's Wish Foundation International, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Habitat for Humanity, St. Basil Academy, and others; and

Whereas the Daughters of Penelope provides support and financial assistance to victims and communities affected by natural disasters such as hurricanes, earthquakes, and forest fires: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the significant contributions of people of Greek ancestry, and of Philhellenes, to the United States; and

(2) commemorates the 80th anniversary of the Daughters of Penelope in 2009, applauds its mission, and commends the many charitable contributions of its members to organizations and communities around the world.

S. RES. 412

Whereas during the past 4 decades, obesity rates have soared among all age groups, increasing more than four-fold among children ages 6 to 11;

Whereas 31.8 percent or 23,000,000 children and teenagers ages 2 to 19 are obese or overweight, a statistic that health and medical experts consider an epidemic;

Whereas significant disparities exist among the obesity rates of children based on race and poverty;

Whereas the financial implications of childhood obesity pose a tremendous financial threat to our economy and health care