

Mr. GOODWIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the 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 resolution (S. Res. 627) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 627

Whereas, on September 16, 1919, Congress issued to the American Legion a Federal charter as a wartime veterans service organization;

Whereas the American Legion remains active in communities at the national, State, and local levels;

Whereas members of the American Legion (commonly referred to as "Legionnaires") provide millions of hours of volunteer service to medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs and State homes for veterans throughout the United States;

Whereas the American Legion continues to sponsor activities for children and youth, including the National Oratorical Contest, Boy Scouts, American Legion Baseball, Boys State, and Boys Nation;

Whereas the American Legion awards millions of dollars in college scholarships to young men and women;

Whereas the American Legion National Emergency Fund provides financial assistance to Legionnaires displaced by natural disasters;

Whereas the American Legion Family Support Network provides assistance to members of the Armed Forces of the United States and their families;

Whereas the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation has provided millions of dollars to programs focused on youth in the United States, including the Special Olympics and the Children's Miracle Network;

Whereas the American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance provides grants to veterans with children experiencing financial hardships;

Whereas the American Legion remains second to none in steadfast support of strong national defense;

Whereas the American Legion supports maintaining a viable and principled foreign relations agenda;

Whereas the American Legion is a staunch advocate for the principal missions of the Department of Veterans Affairs;

Whereas the American Legion wrote the original draft of the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 (58 Stat. 284, chapter 268), commonly referred to as the "G. I. Bill of Rights";

Whereas the American Legion continues to support employment programs and opportunities for veterans; and

Whereas Legionnaires believe that a veteran's service to the United States continues long after the veteran is honorably discharged from the Armed Forces of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate designates September 16, 2010, as "The American Legion Day".

RECOGNIZING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL BOOK FESTIVAL

Mr. GOODWIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 628, submitted earlier

today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 628) recognizing the 10th anniversary of the National Book Festival.

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

Mr. GOODWIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution and preamble be agreed to en bloc, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc, 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. 628) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 628

Whereas the National Book Festival is a great national treasure that fosters the joy of reading;

Whereas the first National Book Festival held on September 8, 2001, was organized and sponsored by the Library of Congress and hosted by First Lady Laura Bush;

Whereas the first National Book Festival, held on the grounds of the Library of Congress and the United States Capitol, was such a success that it has become an annual event;

Whereas the National Book Festival has grown in popularity, in recent years bringing over 130,000 book lovers to the National Mall;

Whereas, each year, the National Book Festival has featured more than 70 award-winning and nationally known authors, illustrators, poets, and storytellers;

Whereas the National Book Festival invites readers from around the United States to celebrate books, reading, and creativity;

Whereas the National Book Festival convenes the "Pavilion of the States" which includes representatives from all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the territories and possessions of the United States who discuss and distribute materials about their respective reading and literacy promotion programs;

Whereas this year the Festival has reached a milestone for both the Library of Congress and the Nation; and

Whereas the 10th National Book Festival will be held on September 25, 2010, on the National Mall, and supported by Honorary Co-Chairs President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes and emphasizes the important historic and ongoing role of the National Book Festival; and

(2) encourages the celebration of "A Decade of Words and Wonder" on Saturday, September 25, 2010.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. GOODWIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 629, submitted earlier today.

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 629) recognizing Hispanic Heritage Month and celebrating the heritage and culture of Latinos in the United States and their immense contributions to the Nation.

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

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, I rise today to recognize September 15 through October 15 as Hispanic Heritage Month. America has always celebrated its diverse heritage with pride. It has always honored those who have contributed and made this Nation great.

Irish Americans, Italian Americans, African Americans, Asian Americans—all Americans—have come to this Nation and added to the rich and colorful patchwork quilt of American democracy.

This resolution recognizes Hispanic Americans for the contributions they have made to the rich fabric of America. It designates the next 30 days as Hispanic Heritage Month and in so doing celebrates the long history of Latinos in the United States and the extraordinary contribution they have made to this Nation throughout our history. That history is clear—written boldly but sometimes little known. But this is our history in America, and it is America's history.

Latinos have proudly served this Nation, helped build it and defend it, and continue to serve today.

We have been contributing to and have been part of the American tapestry for hundreds of years. Hispanics fought for freedom alongside the patriots in the American Revolution.

Increasingly, we find references to those who came before us—Bernardo de Galvez, a Spanish army officer—the Governor of Louisiana from 1775 to 1785—who played a role in blocking British advances against George Washington in the American Revolution. And Jorge Farragut, a Spanish ship captain who came to America and fought for the colonies against the British.

He was the father of the Civil War hero ADM David Farragut, known for his famous rallying cry, "Damn the torpedoes, full steam ahead."

I would imagine that few who walk past Farragut Square in Washington—not far from this Chamber—realize that Admiral Farragut was of Hispanic origin.

Latinos fought and died on both sides of the Civil War and have participated in every war since. There were at least 10,000 Mexican Americans fighting for the Union during the Civil War and a number of others fighting for the Confederacy.

In one of the folkloric tales of the Civil War, there was the story of Loretta Velasquez who was born in Cuba and claimed that she disguised herself as a male lieutenant and fought against Union forces at several battles, including Bull Run, and later claimed to have worked as a spy for the Confederacy.

Even in the Spanish-American War, a dozen Latinos were among Teddy Roosevelt's Rough Riders.

In World War I, an Army pilot, David Cantu Barkley of Laredo, TX, of Mexican decent volunteered to penetrate German lines in France. With a comrade, he drew maps of German positions and supplies.

Barkley drowned on the return trip, but his partner survived and carried back the logistical information. Praised by General Pershing, Barkley won the Medal of Honor. Among the heroes of World War II was marine PFC Guy "Gabby" Gabaldon who won the Navy Cross for capturing more than a thousand enemy soldiers in the South Pacific during the summer of 1944.

The honor and patriotism of these brave soldiers cannot be overstated.

The story of Alejandro Ruiz, an Army private who fought in Okinawa, epitomizes their commitment to this Nation and the tragedy some of them endured.

Private Ruiz's Medal of Honor citation noted his "conspicuous gallantry above and beyond the call of duty."

... When an enemy soldier charged him his rifle jammed. Undaunted Private Ruiz whirled on his opponent and clubbed him down ...

... Leaping from one opening to another, he sent burst after burst into the pillbox, killing 12 of the enemy and completely destroying the position ...

... Private Ruiz's heroic conduct in the face of overwhelming odds, saved the lives of many of his comrades and eliminated an obstacle that long would have checked his unit's advance."

Private Ruiz wrote in a letter: "I never questioned my duty because I believe that as Americans we have a responsibility to serve our country and preserve our way of life and freedoms. All I can say is I did what I had to do."

Private Ruiz served this Nation with honor. Madam President, 14,000 Hispanic soldiers served in Korea and more than 300 died; 80,000 Hispanics served in the Vietnam war, representing 5.5 percent of those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country in those years—even though, at the time, Latinos comprised only 4.5 percent of the population.

As we speak, 28,000 Latinos currently serve with distinction in Afghanistan and Iraq; 561 casualties in Iraq and Afghanistan have been Hispanic casualties.

In fact, there are almost 1.5 million Hispanic veterans of the Armed Forces in this country today who also served with honor.

And of the Hispanics who have served in uniform, 41 of them have been awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, including David Cantu Barkley and Private Ruiz.

This month we celebrate the contribution of all Latinos to the history of this Nation.

We celebrate the contribution of the many community leaders and local heroes in our neighborhoods, our cities, and towns, and in every State in America.

All across this Nation, the Latino population is growing. We are now the largest minority group in the country—contributing to the community, the economy, and the political debate.

Today, Hispanics hold 29 seats in the U.S. Congress, 2 in the Cabinet, and 1 on the Supreme Court.

We are no longer on the outside looking in. We are at the table on every major issue before Congress—every major issue before the courts.

I stand here, a United States Senator, a lawyer, a Hispanic American who took his seat on the floor of this Chamber not long ago and proudly cast my vote for Justice Sonia Sotomayor, the first Hispanic Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

That was a historic moment for me, a historic moment for the Hispanic American community, one we will never forget, but I can say with some measure of confidence, I believe it is only the beginning.

This month let us celebrate not only Hispanic Heritage but let us proudly celebrate and proclaim the history of Hispanics in America going back to the Revolution, and then let us recognize the role a new generation of young Latinos will play in making this, the 21st century, another American century.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and join with me in celebrating the heritage and culture of Latinos in the United States and their immense contributions to this Nation.

Mr. GOODWIN. Madam 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. 629) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 629

Whereas, from September 15, 2010, through October 15, 2010, the United States celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month;

Whereas the Census Bureau estimates the Hispanic population in the United States at almost 47,800,000 people, making Hispanic Americans the largest ethnic minority within the United States;

Whereas 1 in 5 United States public school students is Hispanic, and the total number of Hispanic students enrolled in public schools in the United States is expected to reach 28,000,000 by 2050;

Whereas the purchasing power of Hispanic Americans is nearly \$1,000,000,000,000, and there are more than 2,300,000 Hispanic-owned firms in the United States, supporting millions of employees nationwide and greatly contributing to the economic sector, especially retail trade, wholesale trade, food services, and construction;

Whereas Hispanic Americans serve in all branches of the Armed Forces and have bravely fought in every war in the history of the United States;

Whereas more than 28,000 Hispanics currently serve with distinction in Afghanistan and Iraq;

Whereas 140,000 Hispanic soldiers served in the Korean War;

Whereas more than 80,000 Hispanics served in the Vietnam War, representing 5.5 percent of individuals who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country in that conflict although they comprised only 4.5 percent of the United States population at the time;

Whereas, as of August 7, 2010, 561 United States military fatalities in Iraq and Afghanistan have been Hispanic;

Whereas, as of September 30, 2009, there were approximately 1,332,033 Hispanic veterans of the Armed Forces;

Whereas 41 Hispanic Americans have received the Congressional Medal of Honor, the highest award for valor in action against an enemy force which can be bestowed upon an individual serving in the United States Armed Forces;

Whereas Hispanic Americans are dedicated public servants, holding posts at the highest levels of government, including 1 seat on the Supreme Court, 1 seat in the Senate, 28 seats in the House of Representatives, and 2 seats in the Cabinet; and

Whereas Hispanic Americans harbor a deep commitment to family and community, an enduring work ethic, and a perseverance to succeed and contribute to society: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15, 2010, through October 15, 2010;

(2) esteems the integral role of Latinos and their manifold heritage in the economy, culture, and identity of the United States; and

(3) urges the people of the United States to observe Hispanic Heritage Month with appropriate programs and activities that appreciate the cultural contributions of Latinos to American life.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 3793

Mr. GOODWIN. Madam President, I understand that S. 3793, introduced earlier today by Senator BAUCUS, is at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title for the first time.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3793) to extend expiring provisions, and for other purposes.

Mr. GOODWIN. Madam President, I now ask for its second reading and object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2010

Mr. GOODWIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 2 p.m. on Monday, September 20; that following the prayer and 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; that following any leader remarks, the Senate proceed to a period for the transaction of morning