

(3) recognizes the need for additional research into early diagnosis and treatment for stomach cancer; and

(4) encourages the people of the United States and interested groups to observe and support November 2010 as "Stomach Cancer Awareness Month" through appropriate programs and activities to promote public awareness of, and potential treatments for, stomach cancer.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE INAUGURAL USA SCIENCE & ENGINEERING FESTIVAL

The resolution (S. Res. 656) expressing support for the inaugural USA Science & Engineering Festival was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 656

Whereas the global economy of the future will require a workforce that is educated in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (referred to in this preamble as "STEM");

Whereas a new generation of American students educated in STEM is crucial to ensure continued economic growth;

Whereas advances in technology have resulted in significant improvements in the daily lives of the people of the United States;

Whereas scientific discoveries are critical to curing diseases, solving global challenges, and expanding our understanding of the world;

Whereas strengthening the interest of American students, particularly young women and underrepresented minorities, in STEM education is necessary to maintain the global competitiveness of the United States;

Whereas countries around the world have held science festivals that have brought together hundreds of thousands of visitors to celebrate science;

Whereas the inaugural 2009 San Diego Science Festival attracted more than 500,000 participants and inspired a national STEM effort;

Whereas the mission of the USA Science & Engineering Festival is to reinvigorate the interest of the young people of the United States in STEM by producing exciting and educational science and engineering gatherings; and

Whereas thousands of individuals from universities, museums and science centers, STEM professional societies, educational societies, government agencies and laboratories, community organizations, K-12 schools, volunteers, corporate and private sponsors, and nonprofit organizations have come together to organize the inaugural USA Science & Engineering Festival across the United States, including a 2-day exposition on the National Mall that will feature more than 1,500 hands-on activities and more than 75 stage shows: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses the support of the Senate for the inaugural USA Science & Engineering Festival to be held in October 2010 in Washington, D.C.;

(2) commends the Nobel Laureates, institutions of higher education, corporate sponsors, and all the various organizations whose efforts will make the USA Science & Engineering Festival possible; and

(3) encourages students and their families to participate in the activities which will take place on the National Mall and across the United States at satellite locations as

part of the inaugural USA Science & Engineering Festival.

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to express my support for the inaugural USA Science & Engineering Festival.

As the only serving Senator who has worked as an engineer, I am proud to sponsor a resolution acknowledging the importance of science and engineering education.

I would also like to thank Majority Leader REID and Senators AKAKA, BAUCUS, and ROCKEFELLER for joining me in introducing this resolution.

I have spoken many times on the Senate floor about the need to inspire a new generation of graduates educated in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, or STEM. According to a report released last week by the National Academy of Sciences, the United States ranks 27th among developed nations in the proportion of college students receiving undergraduate degrees in engineering or science. This trend must be reversed.

Last year, the science community of greater San Diego recognized this need and launched the inaugural San Diego Science Festival. According to the festival's Web site, part of its mission was to demonstrate to students that careers in STEM are "interesting, accessible, and a pathway to a better future." By all accounts, the San Diego Science Festival was sensational and attracted more than 500,000 participants which inspired a national STEM effort—the USA Science & Engineering Festival.

Hosted by Lockheed Martin, the USA Science & Engineering Festival is a grassroots collaboration of over 500 of the Nation's leading science organizations, including professional science and engineering societies, universities, government agencies, industry partners, and K-12 schools working to reinvigorate young people's interest in STEM. It also has a strong advisory board including Nobel Laureates, leaders of Fortune 100 technology and science companies, innovators, scientists, and STEM educators.

The festival launches in the Washington, DC area on October 10 and culminates in a 2-day expo on the National Mall on October 23 and 24. It will feature more than 1,500 hands-on activities and more than 75 stage shows. At the same time, dozens of satellite locations will be hosting festival events across the country. This first-ever national science festival is gearing up to be an extremely successful event.

I believe that encouraging more students to pursue careers in the STEM fields, particularly young women and underrepresented minorities, is necessary to maintaining our economic and global competitiveness. Countries around the world have held science festivals in support of STEM education and I am so pleased that the United States is on the eve of doing the same. I commend those individuals who are

working hard to make the USA Science & Engineering Festival a success and I encourage students and families across the country to participate in this extraordinary event.

CELEBRATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEDICATION OF THE HOOVER DAM

The resolution (S. Res. 657) celebrating the 75th anniversary of the dedication of the Hoover Dam was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 657

Whereas the Hoover Dam, a concrete arch-gravity storage dam, was built in the Black Canyon of the Colorado River between the States of Nevada and Arizona, forever changing how water is managed across the West;

Whereas, on September 30, 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt dedicated the Hoover Dam;

Whereas the construction of the Hoover Dam created Lake Mead, a reservoir that can store an amount of water that is equal to 2 years average flow of the Colorado River;

Whereas the construction of the Hoover Dam provided vitally critical flood control, water supply, and electrical power and helped to create and support the economic growth and development of the Southwestern United States;

Whereas the Hoover Dam has prevented an estimated \$50,000,000,000 in flood damages in the Lower Colorado River Basin;

Whereas the Hoover Dam provides water for more than 18,000,000 people and 1,000,000 acres of farmland in the States of Arizona, California, and Nevada and 500,000 acres of farmland in Mexico, as well as produces an average of 4,000,000,000 kilowatt-hours of hydroelectric power each year;

Whereas the Hoover Dam, an engineering marvel at 726.4 feet from bedrock to crest, was the highest dam in the world at the time the Hoover Dam was constructed;

Whereas the Hoover Dam is an enduring symbol of the ingenuity of the United States and the persistence of hardworking Americans during the Great Depression;

Whereas the Hoover Dam is the model for major water management projects around the world; and

Whereas the Hoover Dam is registered as a National Historic Landmark on the National Register of Historic Places and is considered 1 of 7 modern engineering wonders by the American Society of Civil Engineers: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) celebrates and acknowledges the thousands of workers and families that overcame difficult working conditions and great challenges to make construction of the Hoover Dam possible;

(2) celebrates and acknowledges the economic, cultural, and historic significance of the Hoover Dam;

(3) recognizes the past, present, and future benefits of the construction of the Hoover Dam to the agricultural, industrial, and urban development of the Southwestern United States; and

(4) joins the States of Arizona, California, Nevada, and the people of the United States in celebrating the 75th anniversary of the dedication of the Hoover Dam.

NATIONAL CHARACTER COUNTS WEEK

The resolution (S. Res. 658) designating the week beginning October 17, 2010, as "National Character Counts Week" was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 658

Whereas the well-being of the United States requires that the young people of the United States become an involved, caring citizenry of good character;

Whereas the character education of children has become more urgent, as violence by and against youth increasingly threatens the physical and psychological well-being of the people of the United States;

Whereas more than ever, children need strong and constructive guidance from their families and their communities, including schools, youth organizations, religious institutions, and civic groups;

Whereas the character of a nation is only as strong as the character of its individual citizens;

Whereas the public good is advanced when young people are taught the importance of good character and the positive effects that good character can have in personal relationships, in school, and in the workplace;

Whereas scholars and educators agree that people do not automatically develop good character and that, therefore, conscientious efforts must be made by institutions and individuals that influence youth to help young people develop the essential traits and characteristics that comprise good character;

Whereas although character development is, first and foremost, an obligation of families, the efforts of faith communities, schools, and youth, civic, and human service organizations also play an important role in fostering and promoting good character;

Whereas Congress encourages students, teachers, parents, youth, and community leaders to recognize the importance of character education in preparing young people to play a role in determining the future of the United States;

Whereas effective character education is based on core ethical values, which form the foundation of a democratic society;

Whereas examples of character are trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, citizenship, and honesty;

Whereas elements of character transcend cultural, religious, and socioeconomic differences;

Whereas the character and conduct of our youth reflect the character and conduct of society, and, therefore, every adult has the responsibility to teach and model ethical values and every social institution has the responsibility to promote the development of good character;

Whereas Congress encourages individuals and organizations, especially those that have an interest in the education and training of the young people of the United States, to adopt the elements of character as intrinsic to the well-being of individuals, communities, and society;

Whereas many schools in the United States recognize the need, and have taken steps, to integrate the values of their communities into their teaching activities; and

Whereas the establishment of "National Character Counts Week", during which individuals, families, schools, youth organizations, religious institutions, civic groups, and other organizations focus on character education, is of great benefit to the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week beginning October 17, 2010, as "National Character Counts Week"; and

(2) calls upon the people of the United States and interested groups—

(A) to embrace the elements of character identified by local schools and communities, such as trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship; and

(B) to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies, programs, and activities.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, today Senator GRASSLEY and I resubmitted a resolution designating the third week of October as National Character Counts Week. Last year, Senator GRASSLEY and I worked together on the issue of character education, and I am pleased to continue to designate a special week to this cause. I hope that with this resolution we may highlight the importance of character building activities in schools not only this week but all year long.

Since 1994, when the Partnerships in Character Education Pilot Project was first established, I have worked to commemorate National Character Counts Week. Character Counts was founded on a simple notion: our core ethical values are not just important to us as individuals—they form the very foundation of democratic society. We know that in order to face our challenges as communities and as a Nation, we need our children to be both well-educated and trained—and that begins with instilling character in our children. Trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship—these are the six pillars of character.

Character education provides students a context within which to learn those values and integrate them into our daily lives. Indeed, if we view education simply as the imparting of knowledge to our children, then we not only miss an opportunity, but we also jeopardize our future.

The American public wants character education in our schools, too. Studies show that approximately 90 percent of Americans support schools teaching character education. Character education programs work. Currently, there are character education programs across all 50 States in rural, urban and suburban areas at every grade level. Schools across the country that have adopted strong character education programs report better student performance, fewer discipline problems, and increased student involvement within the community.

This renewed focus on character sends a wonderful message to Americans and will help reinvigorate our efforts to get communities and schools involved. With this resolution, it is my hope that even more communities will make character education a part of every child's life. I hope that my colleagues will support this important effort.

SUPPORTING "LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL"

The resolution (S. Res. 659) supporting "Lights On Afterschool," a national celebration of afterschool programs, was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 659

Whereas high-quality afterschool programs provide safe, challenging, engaging, and fun learning experiences that help children and youth develop their social, emotional, physical, cultural, and academic skills;

Whereas high-quality afterschool programs support working families by ensuring that the children in such families are safe and productive after the regular school day ends;

Whereas high-quality afterschool programs build stronger communities by involving students, parents, business leaders, and adult volunteers in the lives of the youth of the Nation, thereby promoting positive relationships among children, youth, families, and adults;

Whereas high-quality afterschool programs engage families, schools, and diverse community partners in advancing the well-being of the children in the United States;

Whereas "Lights On Afterschool", a national celebration of afterschool programs held on October 21, 2010, highlights the critical importance of high-quality afterschool programs in the lives of children, their families, and their communities;

Whereas more than 28,000,000 children in the United States have parents who work outside the home and 15,100,000 children in the United States have no place to go after school; and

Whereas many afterschool programs across the United States are struggling to keep their doors open and their lights on: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate supports the goals and ideals of "Lights On Afterschool", a national celebration of afterschool programs.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, today Senator ENSIGN and I have submitted a resolution designating October 21, 2010, Lights On Afterschool Day. Lights On Afterschool brings students, parents, educators, lawmakers, and community and business leaders together to celebrate afterschool programs. This year, more than 1 million Americans are expected to attend about 7,500 events designed to raise awareness and support for these much needed programs.

In America today, one in four youth—more than 15 million children—go home alone after the school day ends. This includes more than 40,000 kindergartners and almost 4 million middle school students in grades six to eight. On the other hand, only 8.4 million children, or approximately 15 percent of school-aged children, participate in afterschool programs. An additional 18.5 million would participate if a quality program were available in their community.

Lights On Afterschool, a national celebration of afterschool programs, is celebrated every October in communities nationwide to call attention to the importance of afterschool programs for America's children, families and communities. Lights On Afterschool was launched in October 2000