

DESIGNATING NOVEMBER 17, 2011,
AS FEED AMERICA DAY

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND
IDEALS OF AMERICAN DIABETES
MONTH

DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF NO-
VEMBER 14 THROUGH 20, 2011, AS
GLOBAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP
WEEK/USA

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL NATIVE
AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH
AND CELEBRATING HERITAGES
AND CULTURES OF NATIVE
AMERICANS AND CONTRIBUTIONS
OF NATIVE AMERICANS
TO THE UNITED STATES

DESIGNATING JANUARY 27, 2012,
AS NATIONAL DAY OF REMEM-
BRANCE FOR AMERICANS WHO
WORKED AND LIVED DOWNWIND
FROM NUCLEAR TESTING SITES
DURING THE COLD WAR

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration en bloc of the following resolutions which were submitted earlier today: S. Res. 326, S. Res. 327, S. Res. 328, S. Res. 329, and S. Res. 330.

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

Mr. AKAKA. Madam President, as chairman of the Committee on Indian Affairs, I am sponsoring a resolution, cosponsored by Majority Leader REID, Vice Chairman BARRASSO, and several members of the committee, designating November as Native American Heritage Month and November 25 of this year as Native American Heritage Day.

This resolution recognizes the contributions of Native Americans. We see the influence of the Iroquois Confederacy on the Founding Fathers of our country as they drafted the Constitution. And today, Native American contributions in modern agriculture, medicine, music, language, and art are undeniable. In that tradition of service, Native Americans have had the highest representation, per capita, in our Armed Forces in every war since World War II.

As a veteran of World War II and as a Native Hawaiian, I celebrate the heroic work of the Code Talkers, and the countless American military victories that were achieved in both World Wars with the unbreakable military code founded on indigenous languages and cultures.

As we reflect on Native American Heritage Month, it is important to remember our history and the promises we made. It is time to account for those promises, kept and unkept.

As a nation, we were built on the highest principles. Our Founding Fa-

thers embraced equality, liberty, and justice and incorporated them into the very fabric of our Constitution. They contemplated the unique role of indigenous peoples in our country, and acknowledge their sovereignty in article I, section 8 of the Constitution.

The Founding Fathers set a high standard. As Americans and as Members of this body, it is our duty to continue to legislate policies in keeping with our founding principles. For this reason, I applaud President Obama's recent commitment of U.S. support for the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples—an international standard that I have been championing for more than a decade.

In the Committee on Indian Affairs, I held an oversight hearing on domestic policy implications of the declaration. We found that while the United States is a world leader in recognizing and protecting the rights of indigenous peoples, there is more work to do. The rights of self-determination and self-governance contained in the declaration are American ideas, ones we have embraced as official Federal policy for more than 45 years. I am committed to working with my colleagues to enact legislation that gives real meaning to the high principles expressed in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

In the United States, November—Native American Heritage Month—is a time when we reflect and give thanks. I encourage my fellow Americans to learn more about the Native peoples of this land and celebrate Native American Heritage Day on the day after Thanksgiving.

As we honor the contributions of Native Americans, let us recommit ourselves to the high principles of self-determination and self-governance and strive for what is “pono,” just and right, for all, including our first Americans.

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

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

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

The resolutions, with their preambles, read as follows:

S. RES. 326

Whereas Thanksgiving Day celebrates the spirit of selfless giving and an appreciation for family and friends;

Whereas the spirit of Thanksgiving Day is a virtue upon which the United States was founded;

Whereas, according to the Department of Agriculture, roughly 48,000,000 people in the United States, including 16,200,000 children, continue to live in households that do not have an adequate supply of food; and

Whereas selfless sacrifice breeds a genuine spirit of thanksgiving, both affirming and restoring fundamental principles in our society: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates Thursday, November 17, 2011, as “Feed America Day”; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to sacrifice 2 meals on Thursday, November 17, 2011, and to donate the money that would have been spent on that food to the religious or charitable organization of their choice for the purpose of feeding the hungry.

S. RES. 327

Whereas according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (referred to in this preamble as “CDC”), nearly 26,000,000 people of the United States have diabetes and 79,000,000 people of the United States have pre-diabetes

Whereas diabetes is a serious chronic condition that affects people of every age, race, ethnicity, and income level;

Whereas the CDC reports that Hispanic, African, Asian, and Native Americans are disproportionately affected by diabetes and suffer from diabetes at rates that are much higher than the general population;

Whereas according to the CDC, someone is diagnosed with diabetes every 17 seconds;

Whereas each day, approximately 5,082 people are diagnosed with diabetes;

Whereas in 2010, the CDC estimated that approximately 1,900,000 individuals aged 20 and older were newly diagnosed with diabetes;

Whereas a joint National Institutes of Health and CDC study found that approximately 15,000 youth in the United States are diagnosed with type 1 diabetes annually and approximately 3,600 youth are diagnosed with type 2 diabetes annually;

Whereas according to the CDC, between 1980 and 2007, diabetes prevalence in the United States increased by more than 300 percent;

Whereas the CDC reports that over 27 percent of individuals with diabetes are undiagnosed;

Whereas the National Diabetes Fact Sheet issued by the CDC states that more than 11 percent of adults of the United States and 26.9 percent of people of the United States age 60 and older have diabetes;

Whereas the CDC estimates as many as 1 in 3 American adults will have diabetes in 2050 if present trends continue;

Whereas the CDC estimates that as many as 1 in 2 Hispanic, African, Asian, and Native American adults will have diabetes in 2050 if present trends continue;

Whereas according to the American Diabetes Association, in 2007, the total cost of diagnosed diabetes in the United States was \$174,000,000,000, and 1 in 10 dollars spent on health care was attributed to diabetes and its complications;

Whereas according to a Lewin Group study, in 2007, the total cost of diabetes (including both diagnosed and undiagnosed diabetes, pre-diabetes, and gestational diabetes) was \$218,000,000,000;

Whereas a Mathematica Policy Research study in 2007 found that, for each fiscal year, total expenditures for Medicare beneficiaries with diabetes comprise 32.7 percent of the Medicare budget;

Whereas according to the CDC, diabetes was the seventh leading cause of death in 2007 and contributed to the deaths of over 230,000 Americans in 2007;

Whereas there is not yet a cure for diabetes;

Whereas there are proven means to reduce the incidence of, and delay the onset of, type 2 diabetes;

Whereas with the proper management and treatment, people with diabetes live healthy, productive lives; and

Whereas American Diabetes Month is celebrated in November: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of American Diabetes Month, including—

(A) encouraging the people of the United States to fight diabetes through public awareness about prevention and treatment options; and

(B) increasing education about the disease;

(2) recognizes the importance of early detection of diabetes, awareness of the symptoms of diabetes, and the risk factors that often lead to the development of diabetes, including—

(A) being over the age of 45;

(B) having a specific racial and ethnic background;

(C) being overweight;

(D) having a low level of physical activity level;

(E) having high blood pressure; and

(F) having a family history of diabetes or a history of diabetes during pregnancy; and

(3) supports decreasing the prevalence of type 1, type 2, and gestational diabetes in the United States through increased research, treatment, and prevention.

S. RES. 328

Whereas research has shown that between 1980 and 2005 the majority of jobs in the United States were created by entrepreneurs and the young companies of those entrepreneurs;

Whereas the economy and society of the United States, as well as the country as a whole, have greatly benefitted from the everyday use of breakthrough innovations developed and brought to market by entrepreneurs;

Whereas Global Entrepreneurship Week/USA is an initiative to celebrate the innovators and job creators who launch startups that bring ideas to life, drive economic growth, and improve human welfare;

Whereas Global Entrepreneurship Week/USA helps existing and aspiring entrepreneurs to acquire the knowledge, skills, and networks needed to create vibrant enterprises that will improve the lives and communities of the entrepreneurs;

Whereas, in 2010, more than 445,896 individuals participated in the more than 3,200 entrepreneurial activities held in the United States alone during Global Entrepreneurship Week;

Whereas, in 2010, more than 1,300 partner organizations participated in Global Entrepreneurship Week/USA, including startup accelerators, business incubators, chambers of commerce, institutions of higher education, high schools, businesses, and State and local governments; and

Whereas, in 2011, thousands of organizations in the United States will join in the celebration by planning activities designed to inspire, connect, mentor, and engage the next generation of entrepreneurs throughout Global Entrepreneurship Week/USA: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of November 14 through 20, 2011, as “Global Entrepreneurship Week/USA”; and

(2) supports the goals of Global Entrepreneurship Week/USA, including—

(A) inspiring young people everywhere to embrace innovation, imagination, and creativity; and

(B) training the next generation of entrepreneurial leaders.

S. RES. 329

Whereas from November 1, 2011, through November 30, 2011, the United States celebrates National Native American Heritage Month;

Whereas Native Americans are descendants of the original, indigenous inhabitants of what is now the United States;

Whereas the United States Bureau of the Census estimated in 2009 that there were almost 5,000,000 individuals in the United States of Native American descent;

Whereas Native Americans maintain vibrant cultures and traditions and hold a deeply rooted sense of community;

Whereas Native Americans have moving stories of tragedy, triumph, and perseverance that need to be shared with future generations;

Whereas Native Americans speak and preserve indigenous languages, which have contributed to the English language by being used as names of individuals and locations throughout the United States;

Whereas Congress has recently reaffirmed its support of tribal self-governance and its commitment to improving the lives of all Native Americans by enhancing health care services, increasing law enforcement resources, and approving settlements of litigation involving Indian tribes and the United States;

Whereas Congress is committed to improving the housing conditions and socioeconomic status of Native Americans;

Whereas the United States is committed to strengthening the government-to-government relationship that it has maintained with the various Indian tribes;

Whereas Congress has recognized the contributions of the Iroquois Confederacy, and its influence on the Founding Fathers in the drafting of the Constitution of the United States with the concepts of freedom of speech, the separation of governmental powers, and the system of checks and balances between the branches of government;

Whereas with the enactment of the Native American Heritage Day Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–33; 123 Stat. 1922), Congress—

(1) reaffirmed the government-to-government relationship between the United States and Native American governments; and

(2) recognized the important contributions of Native Americans to the culture of the United States;

Whereas Native Americans have made distinct and important contributions to the United States and the rest of the world in many fields, including the fields of agriculture, medicine, music, language, and art, and Native Americans have distinguished themselves as inventors, entrepreneurs, spiritual leaders, and scholars;

Whereas Native Americans have served with honor and distinction in the Armed Forces of the United States, and continue to serve in the Armed Forces in greater numbers per capita than any other group in the United States;

Whereas the United States has recognized the contribution of the Native American code talkers in World War I and World War II, who used indigenous languages as an unbreakable military code, saving countless Americans; and

Whereas the people of the United States have reason to honor the great achievements and contributions of Native Americans and their ancestors: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the month of November 2011 as National Native American Heritage Month;

(2) recognizes the Friday after Thanksgiving as “Native American Heritage Day” in accordance with the Native American Heritage Day Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–33; 123 Stat. 1922); and

(3) urges the people of the United States to observe National Native American Heritage Month and Native American Heritage Day with appropriate programs and activities.

S. RES. 330

Whereas on January 27, 1951, the first of years of nuclear weapons tests was conducted at a site known as the Nevada Proving Ground, located approximately 65 miles northwest of Las Vegas, Nevada;

Whereas the extensive testing at the Nevada Proving Ground came just years after the first ever nuclear weapon test, which was conducted on July 16, 1945, at what is known as the Trinity Atomic Test Site, located approximately 35 miles south of Socorro, New Mexico;

Whereas many Americans who, during the Cold War, worked and lived downwind from nuclear testing sites (referred to in this preamble as “downwinders”) were adversely affected by the radiation exposure generated by the above ground nuclear weapons testing, and some of the downwinders sickened as a result of the radiation exposure;

Whereas the downwinders paid a high price for the development of a nuclear weapons program for the benefit of the United States; and

Whereas the downwinders deserve to be recognized for the sacrifice they have made for the defense of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates January 27, 2012, as a national day of remembrance for Americans who, during the Cold War, worked and lived downwind from nuclear testing sites and were adversely affected by the radiation exposure generated by the above ground nuclear weapons testing; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to support and participate in appropriate ceremonies, programs, and other activities to commemorate January 27, 2012.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2011

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, the Senate stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Thursday, November 17, 2011; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business for 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the Republicans controlling the first half and the majority controlling the final half; and that following morning business, the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. 1867, the Department of Defense Authorization Act, under the previous order.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, we expect to receive the conference report, which contains the continuing resolution, from the House tomorrow. Senators will be notified when votes are scheduled.