

S. RES. 157

Whereas the goal of PowerTalk 21 Day is to encourage parents and caregivers to embrace their important role in influencing the decisions of the young people of the United States about drinking alcohol;

Whereas high school students who use alcohol or other substances are 5 times more likely to drop out of school or believe good grades are not important;

Whereas teen alcohol use kills about 6,000 people each year, more than all other illegal drugs combined; and

Whereas 74 percent of kids say that their parents are their primary influence when it comes to decisions about drinking alcohol: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates April 21, 2011, as “PowerTalk 21 Day”;

(2) recognizes the importance of parents talking with their teens about alcohol; and

(3) urges all people of the United States to join in the efforts to raise awareness of the importance of parents and teens talking together about alcohol in order to reduce the risks and dangers posed to teens and communities by underage drinking.

GLOBAL YOUTH SERVICE DAYS

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I wish to speak about a resolution designating April 15 through 17, 2011, as Global Youth Service Days that recognizes and commends the significant community service efforts that youth are making in communities across the country and around the world on this weekend in April and every day. This resolution also encourages the citizens of the United States to acknowledge and support these volunteer efforts. Passage of this resolution sends a very strong message of support to the thousands of youth across our great nation who are contributing positively to their communities—your efforts are recognized and appreciated.

Beginning this Friday, April 15, youth from across the United States and around the world will carry out community service projects in areas ranging from hunger to literacy to the environment. Through this service, many will embark on a lifelong path of service and civic engagement in more than 100 countries around the world.

Mr. President, the participation of youth in service to their communities is more than just a way to spend a Saturday afternoon. All year long, young people across America—indeed across the globe—identify and address the needs of their communities, make positive differences in the world around them, learn leadership and organizational skills, and gain insights into the problems of their fellow citizens.

The positive effects of this service are not limited to the projects our young people complete. Youth who are engaged in volunteer service and service-learning activities do better in school than their classmates who do not volunteer because they see a direct connection to what they are learning and the real world in which they live. Youth who engage in volunteering and other positive activities are also more likely to avoid risky behaviors, such as drug and alcohol use, crime, and promiscuity. Service within the community

also contributes positively to young people's character development, civic participation, and philanthropic activity as adults.

Youth service also plays a role in encouraging our young people to stay in school. A survey by Civic Enterprises found that 47 percent of high school dropouts reported that boredom in school was a primary reason why they dropped out. High quality service-learning activities can, however, help young people see that school matters to them personally.

It is important, therefore, that the U.S. Senate encourage youth to engage in community service and to congratulate them for the service they provide. I thank Senators BEGICH, FEINSTEIN, AKAKA, MIKULSKI, LEVIN, STABENOW, COCHRAN, MURRAY, and MARK UDALL for joining with me in cosponsoring this resolution and all other Senators for supporting passage of it.

In an effort to recognize and support youth volunteers in my State, I am proud to acknowledge some of the activities that will occur this year in Alaska in observance of National and Global Youth Service Days:

Anchorage's Promise, which works to mobilize all sectors of the community to build the character and competence of Anchorage's children and youth, will sponsor the annual Kids' Day three-day events in Anchorage again this year. Youth will provide significant service to their peers and to adults who will attend Kids' Day activities this weekend.

Over 100 youth and AmeriCorps members will spend their day volunteering at Kids' Day in order to help make it a safe, fun, and successful event.

Teens will serve as greeters, pass out bags, help vendors set up their booths, and clean up during and after the event.

Kindness for Kids, Inc. will provide students with materials to stuff and sew pillows which will later be delivered to the children in the hospital.

Adults and youth will be able to make cards to express support for our troops.

Youth who formed the Japan Relief Fund will sell bracelets they have made the benefit the relief efforts of the Red Cross in Japan.

Anchorage's Promise Youth Advisory Board will present Teen City Center Stage, a positive, judgment-free space where teens can create graffiti art, join youth-led organizations, and enjoy entertainment.

Students from Chugiak High School's Family Career and Community Leaders of America program will present a family meal toolkit that will contain healthy family meal recipes that incorporate simple, affordable, and healthy food choices.

Volunteer students from the Anchorage School district will read to their younger peers as part of “Wild About Reading”. The child will then get to take the book home.

Youth volunteers with Volunteers of America Alaska and Communities Mobilizing for Change on Alcohol will provide an art project and information on underage drinking.

The Anchorage Public Library Teen Advisory Board will help kids decorate banners that will be put on display in the library.

In addition to the Kids' Day events, young people from every region of

Alaska will serve their many ways, including:

Students at Pacific Northern Academy have donated hand-made fleece scarves, hats, blankets, greeting cards, meal, and decorations to various local agencies in Anchorage.

Youth volunteers, coordinated by the Anchorage Public Library, will help organize summer reading celebration materials.

Members of the St. John's United Methodist Church youth group spent their spring break volunteering at the Food Bank of Alaska in Anchorage.

Last November, the Wrangell Community Youth Action Group collected and donated over 10,000 pounds of food for needy families and Thanksgiving dinners in their community.

Hundreds of Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts participated in “Scouting for Food” last weekend by distributing flyers about their food drive in neighborhoods, and then going door-to-door collecting the donations.

The St. Francis Xavier Youth Group held a cake auction to raise \$2,590 to support a mission in Jamaica that helps the poor with food, transportation, and education.

The Anchorage's Promise Youth Advisory Board volunteered at Covenant House Alaska to assist them in preparing for First Friday, a monthly art walk that takes place in downtown Anchorage. YAB members put together sandwiches, made name tags, and made labels for the art work that was displayed.

Members of the Chugiak Family Career and Community Leaders of America held a Christmas party for the homeless teens at Anchorage's Covenant House.

Youth from Two Rivers donated clothing items to Big Brothers Big Sisters of America.

Youth in Dillingham have created a “Chain of Kindness” to which people from the community contribute links when they observe acts of kindness. The chain is hung in the entrance of the local high school.

The Alaska Youth for Environmental Action has created a resolution for the Anchorage assembly on beginning an annual “Week without Bags,” to encourage consumers to bring their own bags to the grocery store and encourage retailers to provide incentive for customers that do so.

Mr. President, I am so proud of all of these young people and many more across my State of Alaska. I value their idealism, energy, creativity, and unique perspectives as they volunteer to make their communities better and assist those in need.

Many similarly wonderful activities will be taking place all across the nation. I encourage all of my colleagues to visit the Youth Service America Web site www.ysa.org to find out about the selfless and creative youth who are contributing in their own States this year.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

DISCHARGE AND REFERRAL—S. 375

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry be discharged from further consideration of S. 375 and the bill be referred to the Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

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

APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, pursuant to Public Law 100-696, appoints the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) as a member of the United States Capitol Preservation Commission, vice the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI).

The Chair announces, on behalf of the majority leader, pursuant to Public Law 101-509, the reappointment of Steve Zink of Nevada to the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress.

The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore and upon the recommendation of the majority leader, pursuant to Public Law 106-554, appoints the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) to the Board of Directors of the Vietnam Education Foundation, vice the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WEBB).

The Chair, on behalf of the President of the Senate, and after consultation with the majority leader, pursuant to Public Law 106-286, appoints the following Members to serve on the Congressional-Executive Commission on the People's Republic of China: the Honorable MAX BAUCUS of Montana, the Honorable CARL LEVIN of Michigan, the Honorable DIANNE FEINSTEIN of California, the Honorable SHERROD BROWN of Ohio, and the Honorable JEFF MERKLEY of Oregon.

SIGNING AUTHORITY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that during the adjournment of the Senate, the majority leader or Senator ROCKEFELLER be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions.

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

APPOINTMENT AUTHORITY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the upcoming recess or adjournment of the Senate, the President pro tempore and the majority and minority leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences, or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses, or by order of the Senate.

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

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, MAY 2, 2011

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn under the provisions of H. Con. Res. 43, the adjournment resolution, until 2 p.m. on Monday, May 2; 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 the Senate proceed to a period for the transaction of morning business for debate only until 4:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each; further, that following morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session under the previous order.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, therefore, the first rollcall vote will be at 5:30 p.m. when we return. That vote will be on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 76, the nomination of Kevin Hunter Sharp to be U.S. District Judge for the Middle District of Tennessee.

I appreciate everyone's patience, including the Presiding Officer, in completing the business of the Senate for this period of time. I hope everyone has a good work period. Some will go a long way away, maybe as far as Alaska.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY,
MAY 2, 2011, AT 2 P.M.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:55 p.m., adjourned until Monday, May 2, 2011, at 2 p.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

JONATHAN DON FARRAR, OF CALIFORNIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF NICARAGUA.

STUART E. JONES, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE HAHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN.

LISA J. KUBISKE, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF HONDURAS.

DEREK J. MITCHELL, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE AND POLICY COORDINATOR FOR BURMA, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR. (NEW POSITION)

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WILLIAM CHARLES OSTENDORFF, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION FOR THE TERM OF FIVE YEARS EXPIRING JUNE 30, 2016. (REAPPOINTMENT)

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

ROBERT J. ZIMMER, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE BOARD, NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION, FOR A TERM EXPIRING MAY 10, 2016, VICE JON C. STRAUSS, TERM EXPIRED.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate, April 14, 2011:

OFFICE OF SPECIAL COUNSEL

CAROLYN N. LERNER, OF MARYLAND, TO BE SPECIAL COUNSEL, OFFICE OF SPECIAL COUNSEL, FOR THE TERM OF FIVE YEARS.

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

KELVIN K. DROEGEMEIER, OF OKLAHOMA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE BOARD, NATIONAL

SCIENCE FOUNDATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING MAY 10, 2016.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

KATHRYN D. SULLIVAN, OF OHIO, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE.

MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

FRANCES M.D. GULLAND, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING MAY 13, 2012.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ANN D. BEGEMAN, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 31, 2015.

FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

MARIO CORDERO, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSIONER FOR THE TERM EXPIRING JUNE 30, 2014.

REBECCA F. DYE, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE A FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSIONER FOR THE TERM EXPIRING JUNE 30, 2015.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

PETER BRUCE LYONS, OF NEW MEXICO, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF ENERGY (NUCLEAR ENERGY).

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

NILS MAARTEN PARIN DAULAIRE, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES ON THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION. JOSEPH M. TORSSELLA, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS FOR U.N. MANAGEMENT AND REFORM, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR.

JOSEPH M. TORSSELLA, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SESSIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS, DURING HIS TENURE OF SERVICE AS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS FOR U.N. MANAGEMENT AND REFORM.

KURT WALTER TONG, OF MARYLAND, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, FOR THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR DURING HIS TENURE OF SERVICE AS UNITED STATES SENIOR OFFICIAL FOR THE ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION (APEC) FORUM.

SUZAN D. JOHNSON COOK, OF NEW YORK, TO BE AMBASSADOR AT LARGE FOR INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.

ROBERT PATTERSON, OF NEW YORK, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO TURKMENISTAN.

JONATHAN SCOTT GRATION, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA.

MICHELLE D. GAVIN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

RAFAEL BORRAS, OF MARYLAND, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY FOR MANAGEMENT, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY.

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be general

LT. GEN. ROBERT W. CONE

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. DAVID S. FAROK

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be general

LT. GEN. DAVID M. RODRIGUEZ

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be brigadier general

COLONEL NORVELL V. COOTS
COLONEL DENNIS D. DOYLE
COLONEL BRIAN C. LEIN

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

KATHARINE G. ABRAHAM, OF IOWA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS.