

Whereas the United States is a great and prosperous country, and public service employees contribute significantly to that greatness and prosperity;

Whereas the United States benefits daily from the knowledge and skills of these highly trained individuals;

Whereas public servants—

(1) defend our freedom and advance the interests of the United States around the world;

(2) provide vital strategic support functions to our military and serve in the National Guard and Reserves;

(3) fight crime and fires;

(4) ensure equal access to secure, efficient, and affordable mail service;

(5) deliver Social Security and Medicare benefits;

(6) fight disease and promote better health;

(7) protect the environment and the parks of the United States;

(8) enforce laws guaranteeing equal employment opportunity and healthy working conditions;

(9) defend and secure critical infrastructure;

(10) help the people of the United States recover from natural disasters and terrorist attacks;

(11) teach and work in our schools and libraries;

(12) develop new technologies and explore the Earth, the Moon, and space to help improve our understanding of how our world changes;

(13) improve and secure our transportation systems;

(14) promote economic growth; and

(15) assist the veterans of our country;

Whereas members of the uniformed services and civilian employees at all levels of government make significant contributions to the general welfare of the United States, and are on the front lines in the fight to defeat terrorism and maintain homeland security;

Whereas public servants work in a professional manner to build relationships with other countries and cultures in order to better represent the interests and promote the ideals of the United States;

Whereas public servants alert Congress and the public to government waste, fraud, and abuse, and of dangers to public health;

Whereas the men and women serving in the Armed Forces of the United States, as well as those skilled trade and craft Federal employees who provide support to their efforts, are committed to doing their jobs regardless of the circumstances, and contribute greatly to the security of the country and the world;

Whereas public servants have bravely fought in armed conflict in defense of this country and its ideals, and deserve the care and benefits they have earned through their honorable service;

Whereas government workers have much to offer, as demonstrated by their expertise and innovative ideas, and serve as examples by passing on institutional knowledge to train the next generation of public servants; and

Whereas the week of May 6 through 12, 2012, marks the 28th anniversary of Public Service Recognition Week: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of the week of May 6 through 12, 2012, as “Public Service Recognition Week”;

(2) commends public servants for their outstanding contributions to this great country during Public Service Recognition Week and throughout the year;

(3) salutes government employees for their unyielding dedication to and spirit for public service;

(4) honors those government employees who have given their lives in service to their country;

(5) calls upon a new generation to consider a career in public service as an honorable profession; and

(6) encourages efforts to promote public service careers at all levels of government.

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, today I rise to honor our Nation’s public servants and once again submit a resolution recognizing our public servants during Public Service Recognition Week.

This is the 28th year we will honor our public servants with Public Service Recognition Week during the first full week of May, this year from May 6–12. I am proud to once again take a moment to highlight the importance of the work of our public servants and to thank them for all that they do for this country.

As a life-long public servant, I have worked with so many talented, hard-working people who have dedicated their lives to helping others. I have been inspired by meeting countless men and women who come to work every day to serve the communities and their country. Our way of life would not exist without the work of these admirable men and women who provide so many vital services to the American people, including caring for our wounded warriors, teaching our children, protecting our communities, and keeping our nation safe.

Public Service Recognition Week provides an opportunity not only to honor those who serve, but also to hear about the wide variety of careers in public service. Public employees use the week to educate their fellow Americans about how government serves them, and how government services make life better for us all. It is always my hope that people will hear about these great opportunities to give back to their communities and be encouraged to consider a career in public service.

While we have designated a week to pay tribute to government employees, it is so important that we continue to honor the work of our public servants throughout the year. We face many challenges both here at home and abroad, and our public servants play an integral role in moving our country forward. It is important that we do not lose sight of all they do to keep our country strong.

To all the dedicated men and women currently serving our Nation, mahalo nui loa, thank you very much, for all that you do. I encourage my colleagues to join me in recognizing the public servants in their states.

SENATE RESOLUTION 420—DESIGNATING APRIL 5, 2012, AS “GOLD STAR WIVES DAY”

Mr. BURR (for himself and Mrs. MURRAY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 420

Whereas the Senate honors the sacrifices made by the spouses and families of the fallen members of the Armed Forces of the United States;

Whereas Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. represents the spouses and families of the members and veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States who have died on active duty or as a result of a service-connected disability;

Whereas the primary mission of Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. is to provide services, support, and friendship to the spouses of the fallen members and veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States;

Whereas, in 1945, Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. was organized with the help of Eleanor Roosevelt to assist the families left behind by the fallen members and veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States;

Whereas the first meeting of Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. was held on April 5, 1945;

Whereas April 5, 2012, marks the 67th anniversary of the first meeting of Gold Star Wives of America, Inc.;

Whereas the members and veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States bear the burden of protecting the freedom of the people of the United States; and

Whereas the sacrifices of the families of the fallen members and veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States should never be forgotten: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates April 5, 2012, as “Gold Star Wives Day”;

(2) honors and recognizes—

(A) the contributions of the members of Gold Star Wives of America, Inc.; and

(B) the dedication of the members of Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. to the members and veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe Gold Star Wives Day to promote awareness of—

(A) the contributions and dedication of the members of Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. to the members and veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States; and

(B) the important role Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. plays in the lives of the spouses and families of the fallen members and veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 421—DESIGNATING APRIL 20 THROUGH 22, 2012, AS “GLOBAL YOUTH SERVICE DAY”

Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. BEGICH, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. COONS, and Mr. UDALL of Colorado) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 421

Whereas Global Youth Service Day is an annual event that celebrates and mobilizes the millions of children and young people who improve their communities each day of the year through community service and service-learning projects;

Whereas Global Youth Service Day, a program of Youth Service America, is the largest and longest-running service event in the world dedicated to engaging youth ages 5 through 25;

Whereas, in 2012, Global Youth Service Day is being observed for the 24th consecutive year in the United States and for the 13th year globally in more than 100 countries;

Whereas nearly $\frac{1}{3}$ of the population of the United States (approximately 104,000,000 people) and nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ of population of the world is under the age of 25;

Whereas Global Youth Service Day assists children and young people to position themselves as active citizens and community leaders as they apply their knowledge, skills, idealism, energy, creativity, and unique perspectives to serve their communities and help address a myriad of critical issues;

Whereas thousands of students and teachers in conjunction with local schools, colleges, and universities are planning Global Youth Service Day activities as part of a Semester of Service, an extended service-learning campaign launched on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service, in which young people spend the semester addressing a meaningful community need connected to intentional learning goals or academic standards over the course of not less than 70 hours;

Whereas Global Youth Service Day participants are serving in conjunction with other community events, including Earth Day, J-Serve, Great American Bake Sale National Challenge Weekend, National Volunteer Week, Kiwanis One Day, Alpha Phi Omega's Spring Youth Service Day, Sigma Alpha Epsilon's True Gentleman Day of Service, National Day of Silence, National Environmental Education Week, National Park Week, National Student Leadership Week, and World Malaria Day;

Whereas Global Youth Service Day engages millions of young people worldwide with the support of the Global Youth Service Network of Youth Service America, including more than 200 National and Global Partners, 125 State and local Lead Agencies and Lead Organizers, and thousands of local schools, after-school programs, youth development organizations, community organizations, faith-based organizations, government agencies, businesses, neighborhood associations, tribes, and families;

Whereas Youth Service America will provide support to more than 800 schools and community organizations, including State Farm GYSD Lead Agency and Good Neighbor grants, UnitedHealth Heroes grants, Sodexo Foundation Youth, Lead Organizer, and School Engagement grants, Disney Friends for Change grants, and Learn and Serve America STEMester of Service grants;

Whereas, in 2011, youth volunteers who engaged in Global Youth Service Day projects served an estimated 1,417,000 hours of service that benefitted at least 885,000 individuals and contributed \$30,267,120 worth of time to their communities;

Whereas high-quality community service and service-learning programs increase—

(1) the academic engagement and achievement of young people;

(2) the workforce readiness and 21st century skills of young people;

(3) the civic knowledge and engagement of young people;

(4) the intercultural understanding and global citizenship of young people; and

(5) the connectedness and commitment of young people to their communities; and

Whereas the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12501 et seq.) calls on the Corporation for National and Community Service, other Federal agencies and departments, and the President of the United States to recognize and support youth-led activities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes and commends the significant contributions of young people of the United States and the world and encourages the continued engagement and support of young people dedicated to serving their neighbors, their communities, and their countries;

(2) designates April 20 through 22, 2012, as “Global Youth Service Day”; and

(3) calls on the people of the United States to observe Global Youth Service Day by—

(A) encouraging young people to participate in community service and service-learning projects and to join their peers in those projects;

(B) recognizing the volunteer efforts of the young people of the United States throughout the year; and

(C) supporting the volunteer efforts of young people and engaging them in meaningful community service, service-learning, and decision-making opportunities as an investment in the future of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 422—COM- MENDING AND CONGRATU- LATING THE UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM FOR WINNING ITS EIGHTH DIVISION I NATIONAL COLLE- GIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself and Mr. PAUL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 422

Whereas on April 2, 2012, the University of Kentucky Wildcats defeated the University of Kansas Jayhawks, 67 to 59, in the final game of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (referred to in this preamble as “NCAA”) Division I Men's Basketball Tournament in New Orleans, Louisiana;

Whereas the Kentucky Wildcats have won 8 national titles, the second most in NCAA Division I men's basketball history;

Whereas the Kentucky Wildcats are the only men's Division I college basketball program to have won NCAA national championships under 5 different coaches;

Whereas freshman center Anthony Davis was—

(1) the recipient of the John R. Wooden Award, the Naismith Trophy, and the Adolph F. Rupp Trophy, all for national player of the year;

(2) named the United States Basketball Writers Association player of the year, Associated Press player of the year, and Basketball Times player of the year; and

(3) selected to the Associated Press All-America first team and as the Most Outstanding Player of the NCAA Final Four tournament;

Whereas forward Michael Kidd-Gilchrist, guard Doron Lamb, and center Anthony Davis were selected as members of the NCAA Final Four All-Tournament team;

Whereas senior guard Darius Miller of Maysville, Kentucky set a school record for career games played with the Kentucky Wildcats men's basketball team at 152;

Whereas each player, coach, athletic trainer, and staff member of the University of Kentucky basketball team dedicated their season and their tireless efforts to the successful season of the team and the NCAA championship;

Whereas residents of the Commonwealth of Kentucky and Wildcats fans worldwide are commended for their long-standing support, perseverance, and pride in the team; and

Whereas Coach John Calipari and the University of Kentucky Wildcats have brought pride and honor to the Commonwealth of Kentucky, which is rightly known as the college basketball capital of the world: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends and congratulates the University of Kentucky Wildcats on its outstanding accomplishment; and

(2) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit a copy of this resolution to the president of the University of Kentucky.

SENATE RESOLUTION 423—CON- GRATULATING WESTERN WASH- INGTON UNIVERSITY FOR WIN- NING THE 2012 NATIONAL COLLE- GIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION DIVISION II MEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. CANTWELL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 423

Whereas, on March 24, 2012, for the first time in the 110-year history of the Western Washington University men's basketball program, the Western Washington University Vikings won the National Collegiate Athletic Association (commonly referred to as the “NCAA”) Division II Men's Basketball Championship with a victory over the University of Montevallo by a score of 72 to 65;

Whereas Western Washington University guard John Allen, one of the most accurate free-throw shooters in the country, with a free-throw percentage of 88.7 percent, made 4 free throws in a row to end a late comeback by the University of Montevallo in the fourth quarter;

Whereas the Vikings finished the 2012 season with an impressive record of 31 wins and 5 losses;

Whereas head coach Brad Jackson was named the National Association of Basketball Coaches Division II Coach of the Year;

Whereas the members of the 2012 Western Washington University men's basketball team are excellent representatives of a university that, as one of the premier academic institutions in the State of Washington, produces many outstanding student-athletes, leaders, and scholars; and

Whereas the members of the 2012 Western Washington University men's basketball team have brought great honor to themselves, their families, Western Washington University, and the State of Washington: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates Western Washington University for winning the 2012 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II Men's Basketball Championship;

(2) recognizes the achievements of the players, coaches, students, and staff whose hard work and dedication helped Western Washington University win the championship; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) Bruce Shepard, President of Western Washington University;

(B) Lynda Goodrich, Director of Athletics of Western Washington University; and

(C) Brad Jackson, head coach of the Western Washington University men's basketball team.