

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.

GLOBAL YOUTH SERVICE DAY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 421.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 421) designating April 20 through 22, 2012, as “Global Youth Service Day.”

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

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I rise to speak about a resolution I have submitted designating April 20 through 22, 2012, as Global Youth Service Day.” My resolution 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 Friday, April 20, 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 serv-

ice 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 Senate encourage youth to engage in community service and to congratulate them for the service they provide.

In an effort to recognize and support youth volunteers in my State, I am proud to acknowledge some of the young people who have participated in community service activities over the past year. Last year, the members of the Youth Advisory Board for Anchorage’s Promise partnered with various community and faith-based organizations in Anchorage and held a “Solidarity Sleep Out” event that taught both middle school and high school students what it means to be homeless and what can be done to help. I am told that the impact of this event was huge and long-lasting. This year, these young leaders have decided to focus on the problems of suicide and bullying—two major issues facing Anchorage and our entire State. Their goal is to find ways to bring more awareness, resources, and funding to these two issues.

In addition to these efforts, young people from across my home State and this country have and will continue to engage in projects such as helping the homeless, the hungry, and the elderly. In fact, young people from across Alaska turn their energy and initiative to projects such as restoring salmon streams, combating domestic violence, raising money for community needs,

and providing other significant acts of service for their peers and for adults.

I am so proud of all of these young Alaskans. 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 learn about and applaud the selfless and creative youth who are contributing in their own States this year.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent 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. 421) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

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 1/3 of the population of the United States (approximately 104,000,000 people) and nearly 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, afterschool 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.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 422, which was submitted earlier today.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 422) commending and congratulating the University of Kentucky Men's Basketball Team for winning its eighth Division I National Collegiate Athletic Association Championship.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. 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. 422) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

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.

CONGRATULATING WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 423, which was submitted earlier today.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 423) congratulating Western Washington University for winning

the 2012 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II Men's Basketball Championship.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. 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 statement related to the measure be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 423) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

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.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18, 2012

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until Wednesday, April 18, at 9:30