

TOMBALL VETERANS POST OFFICE

The bill (H.R. 2660) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 122 North Holderrieth Boulevard in Tomball, Texas, as the "Tomball Veterans Post Office" was ordered to a third reading, read the third time, and passed.

WILLIAM T. TRANT POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 2767) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 8 West Silver Street in Westfield, Massachusetts, as the "William T. Trant Post Office Building" was ordered to a third reading, read the third time, and passed.

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS ALEJANDRO R. RUIZ POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 3004) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 260 California Drive in Yountville, California, as the "Private First Class Alejandro R. Ruiz Post Office Building" was ordered to a third reading, read the third time, and passed.

SPECIALIST PETER J. NAVARRO POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 3246) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 15455 Manchester Road in Ballwin, Missouri, as the "Specialist Peter J. Navarro Post Office Building" was ordered to a third reading, read the third time, and passed.

LANCE CORPORAL MATTHEW P. PATHENOS POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 3247) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1100 Town and Country Commons in Chesterfield, Missouri, as the "Lance Corporal Matthew P. Pathenos Post Office Building" was ordered to a third reading, read the third time, and passed.

LANCE CORPORAL DREW W. WEAVER POST OFFICE BUILDING

The bill (H.R. 3248) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 112 South 5th Street in Saint Charles, Missouri, as the "Lance Corporal Drew W. Weaver Post Office Building" was ordered to a third reading, read the third time, and passed.

PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we proceed to Calendar No. 369, S. Res. 419.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 419) expressing the sense of the Senate that public servants should be commended for their dedication and continued service to the United States during Public Service Recognition Week.

Without objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent 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 any related statements be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 419) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 419

Whereas the week of May 6 through 12, 2012, has been designated as "Public Service Recognition Week" to honor the employees of the Federal Government and State and local governments of the United States of America;

Whereas Public Service Recognition Week provides an opportunity to recognize and promote the important contributions of public servants and honor the diverse men and women who meet the needs of the United States through work at all levels of government;

Whereas millions of individuals work in government service in every city, county, and State across the United States and in hundreds of cities abroad;

Whereas public service is a noble calling involving a variety of challenging and rewarding professions;

Whereas the Federal Government and State and local governments are responsive, innovative, and effective because of the outstanding work of public servants;

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.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 441, S. Res. 442, S. Res. 443, S. Res. 444, and S. Res. 445, which were submitted earlier today.

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

The Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, the motions to reconsider 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 (S. Res. 441, S. Res. 442, S. Res. 443, S. Res. 444, and S. Res. 445) were agreed to en bloc.

The preambles were agreed to en bloc.

The resolutions, with their preambles, read as follows:

S. RES. 441

(Expressing support for the designation of May 2012 as National Youth Traffic Safety Month)

Whereas motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for youth in the United States;

Whereas thousands of youth are injured or die each year in motor vehicle crashes;

Whereas on average, 11 youths die each day in motor vehicle crashes;

Whereas on average, May through August is the deadliest period for youths on our nation's highways;

Whereas on average, 8 of the top 10 deadliest days for youths on our nation's highways were between May and August;

Whereas events such as prom and graduation, and the summer driving season, contribute to the risk of a motor vehicle crash due to an increase in the amount of time youth spend on the road and in celebratory activities;

Whereas it is essential to teach our youths that driving is a privilege and with that privilege comes risks and responsibilities;

Whereas this education is essential to preventing risky behaviors that can result in tragic crashes;

Whereas the National Organizations For Youth Safety (NOYS) established a national youth campaign and National Youth Traffic Safety Month to draw attention to the increased rate of motor vehicle crashes involving youth between May and August, to help enforce youth safe driving laws, and to support youth and community education on youth traffic safety; and

Whereas NOYS invites all youths, families, and communities to participate in National Youth Traffic Safety Month:

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses support for the designation of May 2012 as “National Youth Traffic Safety Month”;

(2) supports youth traffic safety awareness; and

(3) encourages people across the United States to observe National Youth Traffic Safety Month with appropriate programs, activities, and ceremonies.

S. RES. 442

(Celebrating the 140th anniversary of Arbor Day)

Whereas Arbor Day was founded in Nebraska City, Nebraska on April 10, 1872, to recognize the importance of planting trees;

Whereas it is estimated that on the first Arbor Day, more than 1,000,000 trees were planted in the State of Nebraska alone;

Whereas Arbor Day is observed in all 50 States and across the world;

Whereas participating in Arbor Day activities promotes civic participation and highlights the importance of planting and caring for trees and vegetation;

Whereas those activities provide an opportunity to convey to future generations the value of land and stewardship;

Whereas National Arbor Day is observed on the last Friday of April each year; and

Whereas April 27, 2012, marks the 140th anniversary of Arbor Day: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes April 27, 2012, as National Arbor Day;

(2) celebrates the 140th anniversary of Arbor Day;

(3) supports the goals and ideals of Arbor Day; and

(4) encourages the people of United States to participate in Arbor Day activities.

S. RES. 443

(Honoring the life and legacy of Auxiliary Bishop Agustín Román)

Whereas Agustín Román was appointed auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Miami, Florida in 1979, becoming the first Cuban to be appointed bishop in the United States;

Whereas Agustín Román was expelled from Cuba in 1961 by the regime of Fidel Castro, along with many other Roman Catholic priests;

Whereas Agustín Román ministered in Chile for 4 years before coming to Miami, Florida in 1966, where he quickly became a spiritual leader and advocate for the Cuban community in Miami, as well as for many other immigrant communities, including Haitian refugees;

Whereas Agustín Román was fluent in Latin, English, French, and Spanish, and served on the Bishops' Committee for Hispanic Affairs, worked as a hospital chaplain, and became episcopal vicar for the Spanish-speaking people of the Archdiocese of Miami;

Whereas Agustín Román was the son of humble Cuban peasants, which influenced his commitment to humility, tenacity, and unceasing devotion to his ministry in southern Florida;

Whereas Agustín Román was instrumental in the construction of the Shrine of Our Lady of Charity on Biscayne Bay, which serves as a monument to the patron saint of Cuba, the Virgin of Charity of Cobre, and attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors each year;

Whereas in 1980 Agustín Román served as a mediator during the Mariel boatlift incident, helping more than 100,000 Cubans flee the island and safely resettle in the United States;

Whereas Agustín Román helped negotiate a peaceful resolution to the 1987 riots of Mariel prisoner uprisings in Federal prisons, earning him national recognition for his compassion, gentility, and humble spirit;

Whereas after his retirement at the age of 75, Agustín Román remained active at the Shrine of Our Lady of Charity, greeting visitors and responding to letters from fellow Cuban exiles; and

Whereas Agustín Román passed away on Wednesday, April 11, 2012: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes and honors the life of Agustín Román;

(2) recognizes and honors the spiritual leadership of Agustín Román and his dedication to freedom and faith;

(3) offers heartfelt condolences to the family, friends, and loved ones of Agustín Román; and

(4) in memory of Agustín Román, calls on the United States to continue policies that promote respect for the fundamental principles of religious freedom, democracy, and human rights in Cuba, in a manner consistent with the aspirations of the people of Cuba.

S. RES. 444

(Designating the week of May 1 through May 7, 2012, as “National Physical Education and Sport Week”)

Whereas a decline in physical activity has contributed to the unprecedented epidemic of childhood obesity, which has more than tripled in the United States since 1980;

Whereas regular physical activity is necessary to support normal and healthy growth in children and is essential to the continued health and well-being of children;

Whereas according to the Centers for Disease Control, overweight adolescents have a

70- to 80-percent chance of becoming overweight adults, increasing their risk for chronic disease, disability, and death;

Whereas physical activity reduces the risk of heart disease, high blood pressure, diabetes, and certain types of cancers;

Whereas type 2 diabetes can no longer be referred to as “late in life” or “adult onset” diabetes because type 2 diabetes presently occurs in children as young as 10 years old;

Whereas the Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans issued by the Department of Health and Human Services recommend that children engage in at least 60 minutes of physical activity on most, and preferably all, days of the week;

Whereas according to the Centers for Disease Control, only 19 percent of high school students are meeting the goal of 60 minutes of physical activity each day;

Whereas children spend many of their waking hours at school and, as a result, need to be active during the school day to meet the recommendations of the Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans;

Whereas nationally, according to the Centers for Disease Control, 1 out of 4 children does not attend any school physical education classes, and fewer than 1 in 4 children get 20 minutes of vigorous activity every day;

Whereas teaching children about physical education and sports not only ensures that the children are physically active during the school day, but also educates the children on how to be physically active and the importance of physical activity;

Whereas according to a 2006 survey by the Department of Health and Human Services, 3.8 percent of elementary schools, 7.9 percent of middle schools, and 2.1 percent of high schools provide daily physical education (or an equivalent) for the entire school year, and 22 percent of schools do not require students to take any physical education courses at all;

Whereas according to that 2006 survey, 13.7 percent of elementary schools, 15.2 percent of middle schools, and 3.0 percent of high schools provide physical education (or an equivalent) at least 3 days per week for the entire school year for students in all grades in the school;

Whereas research shows that fit and active children are more likely to thrive academically;

Whereas increased time in physical education classes can help the attention, concentration, and achievement test scores of children;

Whereas participation in sports teams and physical activity clubs, often organized by the school and run outside of the regular school day, can improve grade point average, school attachment, educational aspirations, and the likelihood of graduation;

Whereas participation in sports and physical activity improves self-esteem and body image in children and adults;

Whereas children and youths who partake in physical activity and sports programs have increased motor skills, healthy lifestyles, social skills, a sense of fair play, strong teamwork skills, self-discipline, and avoidance of risky behaviors;

Whereas the social and environmental factors affecting children are in the control of the adults and the communities in which the children live, and therefore, the people of the United States share a collective responsibility in reversing the childhood obesity epidemic;

Whereas if efforts are made to intervene with unfit children to bring those children to physically fit levels, then there may also be a concomitant rise in the academic performance of those children; and

Whereas Congress strongly supports efforts to increase physical activity and participation of children and youth in sports: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of May 1 through May 7, 2012, as “National Physical Education and Sport Week”;

(2) recognizes National Physical Education and Sport Week and the central role of physical education and sports in creating a healthy lifestyle for all children and youth;

(3) supports the implementation of local school wellness policies (as that term is described in section 9A of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1758b)) that include ambitious goals for physical education, physical activity, and other activities that address the childhood obesity epidemic and promote child wellness; and

(4) encourages schools to offer physical education classes to students and work with community partners to provide opportunities and safe spaces for physical activities before and after school and during the summer months for all children and youth.

S. RES. 445

(Expressing support for the designation of May 1, 2012, as “Silver Star Service Banner Day”)

Whereas the Senate has always honored the sacrifices made by the wounded and ill members of the Armed Forces;

Whereas the Silver Star Service Banner has come to represent the members of the Armed Forces and veterans who were wounded or became ill in combat in the wars fought by the United States;

Whereas the Silver Star Families of America was formed to help the American people remember the sacrifices made by the wounded and ill members of the Armed Forces by designing and manufacturing Silver Star Service Banners and Silver Star Flags for that purpose;

Whereas the sole mission of the Silver Star Families of America is to evoke memories of the sacrifices of members and veterans of the Armed Forces on behalf of the United States through the presence of a Silver Star Service Banner in a window or a Silver Star Flag flying;

Whereas the sacrifices of members and veterans of the Armed Forces on behalf of the United States should never be forgotten; and

Whereas May 1, 2012, is an appropriate date to designate as “Silver Star Service Banner Day”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate supports the designation of May 1, 2012, as “Silver Star Service Banner Day” and calls upon the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

PROVIDING FOR A CONDITIONAL ADJOURNMENT OR RECESS OF THE SENATE AND ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Con. Res. 43, the adjournment resolution, which was submitted earlier today.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Con. Res. 43) providing for the conditional adjournment or recess of the

Senate and adjournment of the House of Representatives.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to and that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

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

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 43) was agreed to, as follows:

S. CON. RES. 43

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That when the Senate recesses or adjourns on any day from Thursday, April 26, 2012, through Sunday, May 6, 2012, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand recessed or adjourned until 12 noon on Monday, May 7, 2012, or such other time on that day as may be specified by its Majority Leader or his designee in the motion to recess or adjourn, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first; and that when the House adjourns on any legislative day through Friday, May 4, 2012, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned until 2:00 p.m. on Monday, May 7, 2012, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

SEC. 2. The Majority Leader of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, or their respective designees, acting jointly after consultation with the Minority Leader of the Senate and the Minority Leader of the House, shall notify the Members of the Senate and House, respectively, to reassemble at such place and time as they may designate if, in their opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

AUTHORITY TO SIGN DULY ENROLLED BILLS OR JOINT RESOLUTIONS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that from Thursday, April 26, through Monday, May 7, the majority leader be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions.

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

AUTHORITY TO MAKE APPOINTMENTS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the upcoming recess or adjournment of the Senate, the President 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.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE THROUGH MONDAY, MAY 7, 2012

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate

completes its business today, it adjourn and convene for pro forma sessions only, with no business conducted, on the following dates and times and that following each pro forma session, the Senate adjourn until the next pro forma session: Monday, April 30, at 10:30 a.m.; Thursday, May 3, at 8:30 a.m.; and that the Senate adjourn on Thursday, May 3, until 2 p.m. on Monday, May 7, unless the Senate has received a message from the House that it has adopted S. Con. Res. 43, which will be the adjournment resolution, and if the Senate has received such a message, the Senate adjourn until Monday, May 7, at 2 p.m. under the provisions of S. Con. Res. 43; 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 the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 2343, the Stop Student Loan Interest Rate Hike Act; and that at 4:30 p.m. the Senate proceed to executive session under the previous order.

Just so that everyone understands, we have in this the pro forma sessions possibility. I am confident the House will adopt our adjournment resolution, but just in case they don't, that is why we have that in there.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, there will be up to three rollcall votes on Monday, May 7. They will be on the confirmation of three judicial nominations—one U.S. circuit nomination and two U.S. district nominations.

CONDITIONAL ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, APRIL 30, 2012, AT 10:30 A.M.

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

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:13 p.m., adjourned until Monday, April 30, 2012, at 10:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

SEAN SULLIVAN, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 18, 2015, VICE LARRY W. BROWN, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

TIMOTHY M. BROAS, OF MARYLAND, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS.

RICHARD L. MORNINGSTAR, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN.

FOREIGN SERVICE

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED PERSONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE FOR APPOINTMENT AS FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS OF THE CLASSES STATED.