

Whereas the efforts of the Force along the seas and skies of Europe were critical in repelling the advance of Nazi Germany and liberating numerous communities in France and Italy;

Whereas the bond between the members of the Force from the United States and those from Canada has endured over the decades, as the members meet every year for a reunion, alternating between the United States and Canada; and

Whereas the traditions and honors exhibited by the Force are carried on by 2 outstanding active units of 2 great democracies, the Special Forces of the United States and the Canadian Special Operations Regiment: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate recognizes and honors the superior service of the First Special Service Force during World War II.

SENATE RESOLUTION 578—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF RED RIBBON WEEK, 2012

Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MORAN, and Mr. BEGICH) submitted the following resolution; which was:

S. RES. 578

Whereas the Red Ribbon Campaign was established to commemorate the service of Enrique “Kiki” Camarena, a special agent of the Drug Enforcement Administration for 11 years who was murdered in the line of duty in 1985 while engaged in the battle against illicit drugs;

Whereas the Red Ribbon Campaign was established by the National Family Partnership to preserve the memory of Special Agent Camarena and further the cause for which he gave his life;

Whereas the Red Ribbon Campaign has been nationally recognized since 1988 and is now the oldest and largest drug prevention program in the United States, reaching millions of young people each year during Red Ribbon Week;

Whereas the Drug Enforcement Administration, established in 1973, aggressively targets organizations involved in the growing, manufacturing, and distribution of controlled substances and has been a steadfast partner in commemorating Red Ribbon Week;

Whereas the Governors and attorneys general of the States, the National Family Partnership, Parent Teacher Associations, Boys and Girls Clubs of America, PRIDE Youth Programs, Young Marines, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and hundreds of other organizations throughout the United States annually celebrate Red Ribbon Week during the period of October 23 through October 31;

Whereas the objective of Red Ribbon Week is to promote the creation of drug-free communities through drug prevention efforts, education, parental involvement, and community-wide support;

Whereas drug abuse is one of the major challenges that the United States faces in securing a safe and healthy future for families in the United States;

Whereas drug abuse and alcohol abuse contribute to domestic violence and sexual assault and place the lives of children at risk;

Whereas emerging drug threats and growing epidemics demand attention, with a particular focus on prescription medications, the second most abused drug by young people in the United States, and synthetic drugs;

Whereas, since the majority of teenagers abusing prescription medications get the medications from family, friends, and home

medicine cabinets, the Drug Enforcement Administration will host a National Take Back Day on September 29, 2012, for the public to safely dispose of unused or expired prescription medications that can lead to accidental poisoning, overdose, and abuse;

Whereas synthetic marijuana, also known as “K2” or “Spice”, has become especially popular, particularly among teenagers and young adults, and in 2011 poison centers across the United States responded to about 6,960 calls related to synthetic marijuana, up from approximately 2,900 calls in 2010;

Whereas Congress recently enacted the Food and Drug Administration Safety and Innovation Act (Public Law 112-144; 126 Stat. 993), which adds 26 synthetic drugs to the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 801 et seq.), including the drugs commonly found in products marketed as K2, Spice, and bath salts; and

Whereas parents, young people, schools, businesses, law enforcement agencies, religious institutions, service organizations, senior citizens, medical and military personnel, sports teams, and individuals throughout the United States will demonstrate their commitment to healthy, productive, and drug-free lifestyles by wearing and displaying red ribbons during the week-long celebration of Red Ribbon Week: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of Red Ribbon Week, 2012;

(2) encourages children and teenagers to choose to live drug-free lives; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States—

(A) to promote the creation of drug-free communities; and

(B) to participate in drug prevention activities to show support for healthy, productive, and drug-free lifestyles.

SENATE RESOLUTION 579—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 24 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 28, 2012, AS “NATIONAL HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES WEEK”

Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. BURR, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. COBURN, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CORNYN, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. ISAKSON, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. MANCHIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WEBB, Mr. WICKER, Mr. LEVIN, and Mr. CARDIN) submitted the following resolution; which was:

S. RES. 579

Whereas there are 105 historically Black colleges and universities in the United States;

Whereas historically Black colleges and universities provide the quality education essential to full participation in a complex, highly technological society;

Whereas historically Black colleges and universities have a rich heritage and have played a prominent role in the history of the United States;

Whereas historically Black colleges and universities allow talented and diverse students, many of whom represent underserved populations, to attain their full potential through higher education; and

Whereas the achievements and goals of historically Black colleges and universities are

deserving of national recognition: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of September 24 through September 28, 2012, as “National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week”; and

(2) calls on the people of the United States and interested groups to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs to demonstrate support for historically Black colleges and universities in the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 580—DESIGNATING THE WEEK BEGINNING ON OCTOBER 14, 2012, AS “NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE WEEK”

Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Ms. SNOWE, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. REED, Mr. COCHRAN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. KERRY, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. BINGAMAN, and Ms. COLLINS) submitted the following resolution; which was:

S. RES. 580

Whereas, in 1903, President Theodore Roosevelt established the first national wildlife refuge on Florida’s Pelican Island;

Whereas, in 2012, the National Wildlife Refuge System, administered by the Fish and Wildlife Service, is the premier system of lands and waters to conserve wildlife in the world, and has grown to more than 150,000,000 acres, 558 national wildlife refuges, and 38 wetland management districts in every State and territory of the United States;

Whereas national wildlife refuges are important recreational and tourism destinations in communities across the United States, and these protected lands offer a variety of recreational opportunities, including 6 wildlife-dependent uses that the National Wildlife Refuge System manages: hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, photography, environmental education, and interpretation;

Whereas more than 360 units of the National Wildlife Refuge System have hunting programs and more than 300 units of the National Wildlife Refuge System have fishing programs, averaging more than 2,500,000 hunting visits and more than 7,000,000 fishing visits each year;

Whereas the National Wildlife Refuge System experienced more than 30,000,000 wildlife observation visits during fiscal year 2012;

Whereas national wildlife refuges are important to local businesses and gateway communities;

Whereas, for every \$1 appropriated, national wildlife refuges generate \$4 in economic activity;

Whereas the National Wildlife Refuge System experiences approximately 47,000,000 visits each year, which generated nearly \$2,100,000,000 and more than 35,000 jobs in local economies during fiscal year 2012;

Whereas the National Wildlife Refuge System encompasses every kind of ecosystem in the United States, including temperate, tropical, and boreal forests, wetlands, deserts, grasslands, arctic tundras, and remote islands, and spans 12 time zones from the Virgin Islands to Guam;

Whereas national wildlife refuges are home to more than 700 species of birds, 220 species

of mammals, 250 species of reptiles and amphibians, and more than 1,000 species of fish;

Whereas national wildlife refuges are the primary Federal lands that foster production, migration, and wintering habitat for waterfowl;

Whereas, since 1934, the sale of the Federal Duck Stamp to outdoor enthusiasts has generated more than \$850,000,000 in funds, which has enabled the purchase or lease of more than 5,500,000 acres of waterfowl habitat in the National Wildlife Refuge System;

Whereas 59 refuges were established specifically to protect imperiled species, and of the more than 1,300 federally listed threatened and endangered species in the United States, 280 species are found on units of the National Wildlife Refuge System;

Whereas national wildlife refuges are cores of conservation for larger landscapes and resources for other agencies of the Federal Government and State governments, private landowners, and organizations in their efforts to secure the wildlife heritage of the United States;

Whereas more than 42,000 volunteers and approximately 220 national wildlife refuge "Friends" organizations contribute nearly 1,600,000 hours annually, the equivalent of 766 full-time employees, and provide an important link to local communities;

Whereas national wildlife refuges provide an important opportunity for children to discover and gain a greater appreciation for the natural world;

Whereas, because there are national wildlife refuges located in several urban and suburban areas and 1 refuge located within an hour's drive of every metropolitan area in the United States, national wildlife refuges employ, educate, and engage young people from all backgrounds in exploring, connecting with, and preserving the natural heritage of the United States;

Whereas, since 1995, refuges across the United States have held festivals, educational programs, guided tours, and other events to celebrate National Wildlife Refuge Week during the second full week of October;

Whereas the Fish and Wildlife Service will continue to seek stakeholder input on the implementation of "Conserving the Future: Wildlife Refuges and the Next Generation", an update to the strategic plan of the Fish and Wildlife Service for the future of the National Wildlife Refuge System;

Whereas the week beginning on October 14, 2012, has been designated as "National Wildlife Refuge Week" by the Fish and Wildlife Service; and

Whereas the designation of National Wildlife Refuge Week by the Senate would recognize more than a century of conservation in the United States, raise awareness about the importance of wildlife and the National Wildlife Refuge System, and celebrate the myriad recreational opportunities available to enjoy this network of protected lands: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week beginning on October 14, 2012, as "National Wildlife Refuge Week";

(2) encourages the observance of National Wildlife Refuge Week with appropriate events and activities;

(3) acknowledges the importance of national wildlife refuges for their recreational opportunities and contribution to local economies across the United States;

(4) pronounces that national wildlife refuges play a vital role in securing the hunting and fishing heritage of the United States for future generations;

(5) identifies the significance of national wildlife refuges in advancing the traditions of wildlife observation, photography, environmental education, and interpretation;

(6) recognizes the importance of national wildlife refuges to wildlife conservation and the protection of imperiled species and ecosystems, as well as compatible uses;

(7) acknowledges the role of national wildlife refuges in conserving waterfowl and waterfowl habitat pursuant to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (40 Stat. 755, chapter 128);

(8) reaffirms the support of the Senate for wildlife conservation and the National Wildlife Refuge System; and

(9) expresses the intent of the Senate—
(A) to continue working to conserve wildlife; and

(B) to manage the National Wildlife Refuge System for current and future generations.

SENATE RESOLUTION 581—DESIGNATING OCTOBER 26, 2012, AS "DAY OF THE DEPLOYED"

Mr. HOEVEN (for himself, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. BLUNT) submitted the following resolution; which was:

S. RES. 581

Whereas more than 2,500,000 people serve as members of the United States Armed Forces; Whereas several hundred thousand members of the Armed Forces rotate each year through deployments to 150 countries in every region of the world;

Whereas more than 2,300,000 members of the Armed Forces have deployed to the area of operations of the United States Central Command since the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks;

Whereas the United States is kept strong and free by the loyal military personnel who protect our precious heritage through their positive declaration and actions;

Whereas members of the Armed Forces serving at home and abroad have courageously answered the call to duty to defend the ideals of the United States and to preserve peace and freedom around the world;

Whereas members of the Armed Forces personify the virtues of patriotism, service, duty, courage, and sacrifice;

Whereas the families of members of the Armed Forces make important and significant sacrifices for the United States;

Whereas in 2010, 40 States designated October 26 as "Day of the Deployed" following the first recognition of a "Day of the Deployed" by North Dakota on October 26, 2006; and

Whereas the Senate designated October 26, 2011, as "Day of the Deployed": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the members of the United States Armed Forces who are deployed;

(2) calls on the people of the United States to reflect on the service of those members of the United States Armed Forces, wherever they serve, past, present, and future;

(3) designates October 26, 2012, as "Day of the Deployed"; and

(4) encourages the people of the United States to observe "Day of the Deployed" with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 582—RECOGNIZING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH AND CELEBRATING THE HERITAGE AND CULTURE OF LATINOS IN THE UNITED STATES AND THE IMMENSE CONTRIBUTIONS OF LATINOS TO THE UNITED STATES

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr.

BEGICH, Mr. HELLER, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. ENZI, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BENNET, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. RUBIO, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. INOUE, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. REED, Mr. BINGAMAN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) submitted the following resolution; which was:

S. RES. 582

Whereas beginning on September 15, 2012, through October 15, 2012, the United States celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month;

Whereas the Census Bureau estimates the Hispanic population in the United States at over 52,000,000 people, making Hispanic Americans the largest racial or ethnic minority group within the United States overall and in 25 individual States;

Whereas Latinos accounted for over 1/2 of all population growth from July 1, 2010, to July 1, 2011;

Whereas the Hispanic population in the United States is projected to grow to 132,800,000 by July 1, 2050, at which point the Hispanic population will comprise 30 percent of the total population in the United States;

Whereas nearly 1 in 4 United States public school students is Hispanic, and the total number of Hispanic students enrolled in public schools in the United States is expected to reach 28,000,000 by 2050;

Whereas 16.5 percent of all college students between the age of 18 and 24 years old are Hispanics, making Hispanics the largest racial or ethnic minority group on college campuses in the United States, including both 2-year community colleges and 4-year colleges and universities;

Whereas the purchasing power of Hispanic Americans was \$1,000,000,000,000 in 2010 and is expected to grow 50 percent to \$1,500,000,000 by 2015;

Whereas there are approximately 2,300,000 Hispanic-owned firms in the United States, supporting millions of employees nationwide and greatly contributing to the economic sector, especially retail trade, wholesale trade, food services, and construction;

Whereas as of June 2012, nearly 25,000,000 Hispanic workers represented 16 percent of the total labor force in the United States, with the share of Latino labor force participation expected to grow to 18 percent by 2018;

Whereas Hispanic Americans serve in all branches of the Armed Forces and have bravely fought in every war in the history of the United States;

Whereas as of July 2012, 143,054 Hispanic active duty service members served with distinction in the United States Armed Forces in fiscal year 2012;

Whereas as of June 30, 2012, there were 19,752 Hispanics serving in Afghanistan;

Whereas as of May 7, 2012, 645 United States military fatalities in Iraq and Afghanistan have been Hispanic;

Whereas more than 80,000 Hispanics served in the Vietnam War, representing 5.5 percent of individuals who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country in that conflict even though Hispanics comprised only 4.5 percent of the United States population at the time;

Whereas 140,000 Hispanic soldiers served in the Korean War;

Whereas as of September 2012, there are approximately 1,300,000 living Hispanic veterans of the United States Armed Forces;

Whereas 44 Hispanic Americans have received the Congressional Medal of Honor, the highest award for valor in action against an