

awareness of the various tax-preferred retirement vehicles and increasing personal financial literacy.

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

Mr. PRYOR. I further ask that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 555) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 555

Whereas people in the United States are living longer, and the cost of retirement is increasing significantly;

Whereas Social Security remains the bedrock of retirement income for the great majority of the people of the United States but was never intended by Congress to be the sole source of retirement income for families;

Whereas recent data from the Employee Benefit Research Institute indicates that, in the United States, less than 3% of workers or their spouses are currently saving for retirement, and the actual amount of retirement savings of workers is much less than the amount needed to adequately fund their retirement years;

Whereas the financial literacy of workers in the United States is important to their understanding of the need to save for retirement;

Whereas saving for retirement is a key component to overall financial health and security during retirement years, and the importance of financial literacy in planning for retirement must be advocated;

Whereas many workers may not be aware of their options in saving for retirement or may not have focused on the importance of, and need for, saving for retirement;

Whereas many employees have available to them, through their employers, access to defined benefit and defined contribution plans to assist them in preparing for retirement, yet many of those employees may not be taking advantage of those plans at all or to the full extent allowed by Federal law;

Whereas the need to save for retirement is important even during economic downturns or market declines, which make continued contributions all the more important;

Whereas all workers, including public and private sector employees, employees of tax-exempt organizations, and self-employed individuals, can benefit from developing personal budgets and financial plans that include retirement savings strategies and taking advantage of tax-preferred retirement savings vehicles; and

Whereas October 21 through October 27, 2012, has been designated as "National Save for Retirement Week": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of "National Save for Retirement Week", including raising public awareness of the importance of saving adequately for retirement;

(2) supports the need to raise public awareness of the availability of a variety of ways to save for retirement which are favored under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and are utilized by many people in the United States, but which should be utilized by more; and

(3) calls on the States, localities, schools, universities, nonprofit organizations, busi-

nesses, other entities, and the people of the United States to observe National Save for Retirement Week with appropriate programs and activities, with the goal of increasing the retirement savings and personal financial literacy of all people in the United States.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF
HADASSAH

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the preamble of S. Res. 448 be agreed to.

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

The preamble was agreed to.

NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN
HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Indian Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 561 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 561) recognizing National Native American Heritage Month and celebrating the heritages and cultures of Native Americans and the contributions of Native Americans to the United States.

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

Mr. PRYOR. I further ask 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 any statements related to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 561) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 561

Whereas from November 1, 2012, through November 30, 2012, the United States celebrates National Native American Heritage Month;

Whereas Native Americans are descendants of the original, indigenous inhabitants of what is now the United States;

Whereas the United States Bureau of the Census estimated in 2009 that there were almost 5,000,000 individuals in the United States of Native American descent;

Whereas Native Americans maintain vibrant cultures and traditions and hold a deeply rooted sense of community;

Whereas Native Americans have moving stories of tragedy, triumph, and perseverance that need to be shared with future generations;

Whereas Native Americans speak and preserve indigenous languages, which have contributed to the English language by being used as names of individuals and locations throughout the United States;

Whereas Congress has recently reaffirmed its support of tribal self-governance and its commitment to improving the lives of all Native Americans by enhancing health care services, increasing law enforcement re-

sources, and approving settlements of litigation involving Indian tribes and the United States;

Whereas Congress is committed to improving the housing conditions and socioeconomic status of Native Americans;

Whereas the United States is committed to strengthening the government-to-government relationship that it has maintained with the various Indian tribes;

Whereas Congress has recognized the contributions of the Iroquois Confederacy, and its influence on the Founding Fathers in the drafting of the Constitution of the United States with the concepts of freedom of speech, the separation of governmental powers, and the system of checks and balances between the branches of government;

Whereas with the enactment of the Native American Heritage Day Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-33; 123 Stat. 1922), Congress—

(1) reaffirmed the government-to-government relationship between the United States and Native American governments; and

(2) recognized the important contributions of Native Americans to the culture of the United States;

Whereas Native Americans have made distinct and important contributions to the United States and the rest of the world in many fields, including the fields of agriculture, medicine, music, language, and art, and Native Americans have distinguished themselves as inventors, entrepreneurs, spiritual leaders, and scholars;

Whereas Native Americans have served with honor and distinction in the Armed Forces of the United States, and continue to serve in the Armed Forces in greater numbers per capita than any other group in the United States;

Whereas the United States has recognized the contribution of the Native American code talkers in World War I and World War II, who used indigenous languages as an unbreakable military code, saving countless Americans; and

Whereas the people of the United States have reason to honor the great achievements and contributions of Native Americans and their ancestors: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the month of November 2012 as National Native American Heritage Month;

(2) recognizes the Friday after Thanksgiving as "Native American Heritage Day" in accordance with the Native American Heritage Day Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-33; 123 Stat. 1922); and

(3) urges the people of the United States to observe National Native American Heritage Month and Native American Heritage Day with appropriate programs and activities.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration en bloc of the following resolutions which were submitted earlier today: S. Res. 576, S. Res. 577, S. Res. 578, S. Res. 579, S. Res. 580, S. Res. 581, S. Res. 582, S. Res. 583, S. Res. 584, S. Res. 585, S. Res. 586, S. Res. 587, S. Res. 588, and S. Res. 589.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. PRYOR. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the

table en bloc, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements related to the resolutions be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

The resolutions, with their preambles, read as follows:

S. RES. 576

Whereas October 10, 2012, marks the 50th anniversary of the signing of Public Law 87-788 (commonly known as the "McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Act") (16 U.S.C. 582a et seq.), which authorized the Secretary of Agriculture to encourage and assist States in conducting a program of forestry research;

Whereas the McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Act was named for the 2 primary, bipartisan sponsors of the Act, Representative Clifford G. McIntire of Maine and Senator John C. Stennis of Mississippi, who recognized that research in forestry is the "driving force behind progress in developing and utilizing the Nation's forests";

Whereas the McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Act recognized that forestry research would be more effective nationwide if efforts among State-supported institutions of higher education were partnered and more closely coordinated with forestry research activities in the Federal Government;

Whereas Congressman McIntire and Senator Stennis stated a clear intent to address the important need of the United States for increased numbers of highly trained forestry scientists and other research professionals;

Whereas the McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Act has provided 5 decades of base funding to establish and strengthen research and training capacity in forestry at State-supported institutions of higher education;

Whereas funds provided by the Act to State-supported institutions of higher education are highly leveraged with non-Federal funds;

Whereas university-based forestry research has provided an accumulated wealth of science-based knowledge, skills, and technologies that have been critical for sustaining United States forests for economic, ecological, and social benefits;

Whereas funds provided by the McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Act for forestry research at State-supported institutions of higher education have provided significant graduate student support over the last 50 years, resulting in 8,500 master's degrees and 2,600 doctoral degrees;

Whereas the State-supported institutions of higher education that receive funds under the McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Act conduct forestry research in all 50 States and 4 territories of the United States, and disseminate the results of those efforts locally, regionally, nationally, and globally for the betterment of the communities of the institutions, the United States, and the world; and

Whereas many State-supported institutions of higher education are celebrating and commemorating the 50th anniversary of the signing of the McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Act: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) celebrates the 50th anniversary of the signing of Public Law 87-788 (commonly known as the "McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Act") (16 U.S.C. 582a et seq.) by President John F. Kennedy;

(2) encourages the people of the United States to observe and celebrate the 50th anniversary of the signing of the McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Act with appropriate ceremonies and activities;

(3) affirms the continuing importance and vitality of the State-supported institutions of higher education conducting forestry research and training supported by the McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Act; and

(4) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit to the National Association of University Forest Resources Programs an enrolled copy of this resolution for appropriate display.

S. RES. 577

Whereas the First Special Service Force (referred to in this preamble as the "Force"), a military unit composed of volunteers from the United States and Canada, was activated in July 1942 at Fort Harrison near Helena, Montana;

Whereas the Force was initially intended to target military and industrial installations that were supporting the German war effort, including important hydroelectric plants, which would severely limit the production of strategic materials used by the Axis powers;

Whereas, from July 1942 through June 1943, volunteers of the Force trained in hazardous, arctic conditions in the mountains of western Montana, and in the waterways of Camp Bradford, Virginia;

Whereas the combat echelon of the Force totaled 1,800 soldiers, half from the United States and half from Canada;

Whereas the Force also contained a service battalion, composed of 800 members from the United States, that provided important support for the combat troops;

Whereas a special bond developed between the Canadian and United States soldiers, who were not segregated by country, although the commander of the Force was a United States colonel;

Whereas the Force was the only unit formed during World War II that consisted of troops from Canada and the United States;

Whereas, in October 1943, the Force went to Italy, where it fought in battles south of Cassino, including Monte La Difensa and Monte Majo, two mountain peaks that were a critical anchor of the German defense line;

Whereas, during the night of December 3, 1943, the Force ascended to the top of the precipitous face of Monte La Difensa, where the Force suffered heavy casualties and overcame fierce resistance to overtake the German line;

Whereas, after the battle for La Difensa, the Force continued to fight tough battles at high altitudes, in rugged terrain, and in severe weather;

Whereas, after battles on the strongly defended Italian peaks of Sammuero, Vischiataro, and Remetanea, the size of the Force had been reduced from 1,800 soldiers to fewer than 500;

Whereas, for 4 months in 1944, the Force engaged in raids and aggressive patrols at the Anzio Beachhead;

Whereas, on June 4, 1944, members of the Force were among the first Allied troops to liberate Rome;

Whereas, after liberating Rome, the Force moved to southern Italy and prepared to assist in the liberation of France;

Whereas, during the early morning of August 15, 1944, members of the Force made silent landings on Les Iles D'Hyeres, small islands in the Mediterranean Sea along the southern coast of France;

Whereas the Force faced a sustained and withering assault from the German garrisons as the Force progressed from the islands to the Franco-Italian border;

Whereas, after the Allied forces secured the Franco-Italian border, the United States Army ordered the disbandment of the Force on December 5, 1944, in Nice, France;

Whereas, during 251 days of combat, the Force suffered 2,314 casualties, or 134 percent of its authorized strength, captured thousands of prisoners, won 5 United States campaign stars and 8 Canadian battle honors, and never failed a mission;

Whereas the United States is forever indebted to the acts of bravery and selflessness of the troops of the Force, who risked their lives for the cause of freedom;

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 ½ 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 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 enemy force that can be bestowed on an individual serving in the United States Armed Forces;

Whereas Hispanic Americans are dedicated public servants, holding posts at the highest levels of government, including 1 seat on the Supreme Court, 2 seats in the Senate, 29 seats in the House of Representatives, and 2 seats in the Cabinet; and

Whereas Hispanic Americans harbor a deep commitment to family and community, an enduring work ethic, and a perseverance to succeed and contribute to society: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15, 2012, through October 15, 2012;

(2) esteems the integral role of Latinos and the manifold heritage of Latinos in the economy, culture, and identity of the United States; and

(3) urges the people of the United States to observe Hispanic Heritage Month with appropriate programs and activities that appreciate the cultural contributions of Latinos to American life.

S. RES. 583

Whereas a terrorist attack, natural disaster, or other emergency could strike any part of the United States at any time;

Whereas natural and manmade emergencies disrupt hundreds of thousands of lives each year, costing lives and causing serious injuries and billions of dollars in property damage;

Whereas Federal, State, and local officials, as well as private and nonprofit organizations, are working to mitigate against, prevent, and respond to all types of emergencies;

Whereas the people of the United States can help promote the overall emergency preparedness of the United States by being prepared for all types of emergencies;

Whereas National Preparedness Month provides an opportunity to highlight the importance of public emergency preparedness and to encourage the people of the United States to take steps to be better prepared for emergencies at home, work, and school;

Whereas the people of the United States can prepare for emergencies by taking steps, such as assembling emergency supply kits, creating family emergency plans, staying informed about possible emergencies, and obtaining reasonable levels of insurance; and

Whereas additional information about public emergency preparedness may be obtained through the Ready Campaign of the Department of Homeland Security at www.ready.gov or the American Red Cross at www.redcross.org/prepare: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 2012 as “National Preparedness Month”; and

(2) encourages the Federal Government, States, localities, schools, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and other applicable entities, along with the people of the United States, to observe National Preparedness Month with appropriate events and activities to promote emergency preparedness.

S. RES. 584

Whereas Jumpstart, a national early education organization, is working to ensure that every child in the United States enters school prepared to succeed;

Whereas Jumpstart delivers a year-round research-based and cost-effective program by training college students and community volunteers to serve preschool age children in low-income neighborhoods, helping them to

develop the language and literacy skills necessary to succeed in school and in life;

Whereas, since 1993, Jumpstart has trained nearly 25,000 college students and community volunteers to transform the lives of more than 42,000 preschool children in communities across the United States;

Whereas Jumpstart’s Read for the Record, presented in partnership with the Pearson Foundation, is a national campaign that culminates in one day of the year when millions of people in the United States come together to celebrate literacy and support Jumpstart in its efforts to promote early childhood education;

Whereas the goals of the campaign are to raise awareness in the United States of the importance of early childhood education, support Jumpstart’s early education programs in preschools in low-income neighborhoods through donations and sponsorship, and celebrate the commencement of Jumpstart’s program year;

Whereas October 4, 2012, is an appropriate date to designate as “Jumpstart’s Read for the Record Day” because it is the date Jumpstart aims to set the world record for the largest shared reading experience; and

Whereas Jumpstart hopes to engage more than 2,200,000 children in reading “Ladybug Girl and the Bug Squad” by David Soman and Jacky Davis during this record-breaking celebration of reading and service, all in support of preschool children in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 4, 2012, as “Jumpstart’s Read for the Record Day”;

(2) commends Jumpstart’s Read for the Record on its seventh year;

(3) encourages adults, including grandparents, parents, teachers, and college students—

(A) to join children in creating the world’s largest shared reading experience; and

(B) to show their support for literacy and Jumpstart’s early education programming for young children in low-income communities; and

(4) requests the Secretary of the Senate to transmit a copy of this resolution to Jumpstart, one of the leading nonprofit organizations in the United States in the field of early childhood education.

S. RES. 585

Whereas New Mexico has a rich heritage and history, dating as far back as 11,000 B.C. when the Clovis people left the earliest evidence of human existence in what is now New Mexico;

Whereas Santa Fe, the capital of New Mexico, was established in 1610 and is the oldest capital city in the United States, as well as the highest in elevation at 7,000 feet above sea level;

Whereas, on September 9, 1850, the portion of the Compromise of 1850 (9 Stat. 446) that created the New Mexico Territory was enacted;

Whereas, on January 6, 1912, President William Howard Taft signed the proclamation making New Mexico the 47th State of the Union;

Whereas the nickname of New Mexico is the “Land of Enchantment” because of its scenic beauty and rich history and culture;

Whereas the natural wonder of New Mexico is preserved by a broad range of national parks, forests, wilderness areas, and wildlife refuge centers;

Whereas the diverse cultural roots of New Mexico come from the many different groups of people who have inhabited the State, notably the strong tribal and Hispanic cultural influences in the State;

Whereas New Mexico has one of the richest indigenous tribal populations in the United

States, including 19 Pueblo nations, 2 Apache nations, and the Navajo Nation;

Whereas the Hispanic population of New Mexico has rich and distinct cultural roots in its historic land grants as recognized by the Treaty of Peace, Friendship, Limits, and Settlement between the United States and Mexico, signed at Guadalupe Hidalgo February 2, 1848, and entered into force May 30, 1848 (9. Stat. 922) (commonly referred to as the “Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo”);

Whereas New Mexico continues to derive strength from the new Hispanic communities in the State with roots in Latin America;

Whereas New Mexico has an extensive variety of prehistoric, tribal, and Hispanic archaeological ruins;

Whereas New Mexico has a long tradition of artistic expression inspired by its natural beauty, unique architecture, and diverse people;

Whereas the people of New Mexico have a proud history of military service, predating and continuing after statehood, including the participation of the people of New Mexico in every major war of the United States since the Civil War, with notable participation by the people of New Mexico in Teddy Roosevelt’s Rough Riders, the Navajo Code Talkers, the defense of Bataan and Corregidor, the wars in Korea and Vietnam, and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan;

Whereas New Mexico is a center for scientific innovation and laboratory research, serving as the home to the Los Alamos National Laboratory and Sandia National Laboratories;

Whereas, on July 16, 1945, the United States Army conducted the Trinity test, the first test of a nuclear weapon, which was developed at Los Alamos National Laboratory and tested at the White Sands Proving Ground in New Mexico;

Whereas, in 1980, New Mexico dedicated the Very Large Array, one of the world’s premier astronomical radio observatories that studies the history of the universe;

Whereas, in October 2011, New Mexico dedicated Spaceport America, propelling New Mexico into the future with the first commercial spaceport;

Whereas New Mexico is home to the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta, the largest hot air balloon event in the world, which is also considered to be the most photographed event in the world;

Whereas New Mexico has a long history of agricultural sustainability and productivity, supporting cattle and dairy, as well as many crops, including chile, corn, wheat, onions, peanuts, pistachios, pecans, hay, cotton, and beans;

Whereas the Hatch Valley of New Mexico, known as the “Chile Capital of the World”, is recognized worldwide for its bountiful chile crop; and

Whereas New Mexico celebrated the centennial anniversary of its admission to the Union as the 47th State of the United States on January 6, 2012: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate recognizes the extraordinary history and heritage of the State of New Mexico, and honors and commends the State of New Mexico and its people on its centennial anniversary.

S. RES. 586

Whereas the term “infant mortality” refers to the death of a baby before the first birthday of the baby;

Whereas the United States ranks 49th among countries in the rate of infant mortality;

Whereas high rates of infant mortality are especially prevalent in African American, Native American, Alaskan Native, Latino, Asian, and Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander communities, communities with high

rates of unemployment and poverty, and communities with limited access to safe housing and medical providers;

Whereas premature birth is a leading cause of infant mortality;

Whereas, according to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies, premature birth costs the United States more than \$26,000,000,000 annually;

Whereas infant mortality can be substantially reduced through community-based services, such as outreach, home visitation, case management, health education, and interconceptional care;

Whereas support for community-based programs to reduce infant mortality may result in lower future spending on medical interventions, special education, and other social services that may be needed for infants and children who are born with a low birth weight;

Whereas the Department of Health and Human Services, acting through the Office of Minority Health, has implemented the “A Healthy Baby Begins With You” campaign;

Whereas the Maternal and Child Health Bureau of the Health Resources and Services Administration has provided national leadership on the issue of infant mortality;

Whereas the Advisory Committee on Infant Mortality provides advice and recommendations to the Secretary of Health and Human Services on reducing infant mortality and improving the health status of infants and pregnant women;

Whereas the Advisory Committee on Infant Mortality provides advice and recommendations to the Secretary of Health and Human Services with respect to developing a national strategy for reducing infant mortality;

Whereas public awareness and education campaigns on infant mortality are held during the month of September each year; and

Whereas September 2012 has been designated as “National Infant Mortality Awareness Month”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports—

(A) the goals and ideals of National Infant Mortality Awareness Month, 2012;

(B) efforts to educate people in the United States about infant mortality and the factors that contribute to infant mortality; and

(C) efforts to reduce infant deaths, low birth weight, pre-term births, and disparities in perinatal outcomes;

(2) recognizes the critical importance of including efforts to reduce infant mortality and the factors that contribute to infant mortality as part of prevention and wellness strategies; and

(3) calls on the people of the United States to observe National Infant Mortality Awareness Month with appropriate programs and activities.

S. RES. 587

Whereas high-quality afterschool programs provide safe, challenging, engaging, and fun learning experiences that help children and youth develop social, emotional, physical, cultural, and academic skills;

Whereas high-quality afterschool programs support working families by ensuring that the children in those families are safe and productive after the regular school day ends;

Whereas high-quality afterschool programs build stronger communities by involving students, parents, business leaders, and adult volunteers in the lives of children in the United States, thereby promoting positive relationships among children, youth, families, and adults;

Whereas high-quality afterschool programs engage families, schools, and diverse community partners in advancing the well-being of children in the United States;

Whereas “Lights On Afterschool”, a national celebration of afterschool programs held on October 18, 2012, highlights the critical importance of high-quality afterschool programs in the lives of children, their families, and their communities;

Whereas more than 28,000,000 children in the United States have parents who work outside the home and approximately 15,100,000 children in the United States have no place to go after school; and

Whereas nearly 2 in 5 afterschool programs report that their budgets are in worse condition today than at the height of the recession in 2008, and more than 3 in 5 afterschool programs report that their level of funding is lower than it was 3 years ago, making it difficult for afterschool programs across the United States to keep their doors open and their lights on: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate supports “Lights On Afterschool”, a national celebration of afterschool programs held on October 18, 2012.

S. RES. 588

Whereas on September 11, 2012, 4 American public servants, United States Ambassador to Libya John Christopher Stevens, Sean Smith, Tyrone Woods, and Glen Doherty, were killed in a reprehensible and vicious attack on the United States consulate in Benghazi, Libya;

Whereas Ambassador Stevens—

(1) was a courageous and exemplary representative of the United States;

(2) had spent 21 years in the Foreign Service;

(3) was deeply passionate about representing the United States through his diplomatic service; and

(4) was an ardent friend of the Libyan people;

Whereas Ambassador Stevens served as Special Envoy to the Libyan Transitional National Council in Benghazi during the 2011 Libyan revolution;

Whereas Ambassador Stevens was a dear friend of the Senate, having served on the staff of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate in 2006 and 2007 as a distinguished Pearson Fellow;

Whereas Foreign Service Information Management Officer Sean Smith—

(1) was a husband and a father of 2 children;

(2) joined the Department of State 10 years ago after serving in the United States Air Force; and

(3) had served in the Foreign Service, before arriving in Benghazi, in Baghdad, Pretoria, Montreal, and The Hague;

Whereas Tyrone Woods was a husband and a father of three children, who, after two decades of service as a Navy SEAL that included tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, began working with the Department of State to protect United States diplomatic personnel;

Whereas Glen Doherty, after 12 years of service as a Navy SEAL that included tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, began working with the Department of State to protect United States diplomatic personnel;

Whereas the 4 Americans who perished in the Benghazi attack made great sacrifices and showed bravery in taking on a difficult post in Libya;

Whereas the violence in Benghazi coincided with an attack on the United States Embassy in Cairo, Egypt, which was also swarmed by an angry mob of protesters on September 11, 2012;

Whereas on a daily basis, United States diplomats, military personnel, and other public servants risk their lives to serve the American people; and

Whereas throughout this Nation’s history, thousands of Americans have sacrificed their

lives for the ideals of freedom, democracy, and partnership with nations and people around the globe.

Now, therefore, be it
Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the dedicated service and deep commitment of Ambassador John Christopher Stevens, Sean Smith, Tyrone Woods, and Glen Doherty in assisting the Libyan people as they navigate the complex currents of democratic transition marked in this case by profound instability;

(2) praises Ambassador Stevens, who represented the highest tradition of American public service, for his extraordinary record of dedication to the United States' interests in some of the most difficult and dangerous posts around the globe;

(3) sends its deepest condolences to the families of those American public servants killed in Benghazi;

(4) commends the bravery of Foreign Service Officers, United States Armed Forces, and public servants serving in harm's way around the globe and recognizes the deep sacrifices made by their families; and

(5) condemns, in the strongest possible terms, the despicable attacks on American diplomats and public servants in Benghazi and calls for the perpetrators of such attacks to be brought to justice.

S. RES. 589

Whereas small businesses represent 99.7 percent of all businesses having employees (commonly referred to as "employer firms") in the United States;

Whereas small businesses employ ½ of the employees in the private sector in the United States;

Whereas small businesses pay 44 percent of the total payroll of the employees in the private sector in the United States;

Whereas small businesses are responsible for more than 50 percent of the private, non-farm product of the gross domestic product;

Whereas small businesses generated 65 percent of net new jobs during the last 17 years;

Whereas small businesses generate 60 to 80 percent of all new jobs annually;

Whereas small businesses focus on 2 key strategies: deepening relationships with customers and creating value for customers;

Whereas, for every \$100 spent with locally owned, independent stores, \$68 returns to the community through local taxes, payroll, and other expenditures;

Whereas 92 percent of consumers in the United States agree that the success of small businesses is critical to the overall economic health of the United States;

Whereas 93 percent of consumers in the United States agree that small businesses contribute positively to the local community by supplying jobs and generating tax revenue;

Whereas 91 percent of consumers in the United States have small businesses in their community that the consumers would miss if the small businesses closed;

Whereas 99 percent of consumers in the United States agree that it is important to support the small businesses in their community; and

Whereas 90 percent of consumers in the United States are willing to pledge support for a "buy local" movement: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates November 24, 2012, as "Small Business Saturday"; and

(2) supports efforts—

(A) to encourage consumers to shop locally; and

(B) to increase awareness of the value of locally owned small businesses and the impact of locally owned small businesses on the economy of the United States.

S. RES. 585

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce a resolution, along with my colleague Senator TOM UDALL, recognizing the centennial anniversary of New Mexico's statehood.

For over 100 years, New Mexico, the "Land of Enchantment," has enriched the Nation with its magnificent landscapes, diverse people, and unique culture. New Mexico's road to statehood began in 1850 when the New Mexico Territory was established. Statehood was finally achieved on January 6, 1912 when President William Howard Taft signed the proclamation making New Mexico the 47th State of the Union. New Mexico's history long predates this, though, with the State's earliest inhabitants dating as far back as 11,000 B.C. The State's capitol, Santa Fe, is the oldest capital city in the United States, having been established by the Spanish in 1610.

New Mexico's beautiful deserts and mountains have been a magnet for visitors. It is no wonder that our State has inspired artists beginning with our earliest inhabitants. New Mexicans have a proud history of military service, and the State has served as a center for scientific innovation for over half a century through the national laboratories based there. Among New Mexico's agricultural products, its chile crop makes it the "Chile Capital of the World."

Given New Mexico's many contributions and accomplishments in its first 100 years as a State, and even before then, I am proud to introduce this resolution recognizing the extraordinary history and heritage of the State, and commending the State and its people on this centennial anniversary.

SIGNING AUTHORITY

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that from Saturday, September 22, through Tuesday, November 13, the majority leader and Senator LIEBERMAN be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection it is so ordered.

APPOINTMENTS AUTHORITY

Mr. PRYOR. 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.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO REPORT

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwith-

standing the Senate's recess, committees be authorized to report legislation and executive matters on Friday, November 2, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

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

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2012, THROUGH TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2012

Mr. PRYOR. 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: Tuesday, September 25, at 9:30 a.m.; Friday, September 28, at 10 a.m.; Tuesday, October 2, at 11 a.m.; Friday, October 5, at 1 p.m.; Tuesday, October 9, at 11 a.m.; Friday, October 12, at 10:30 a.m.; Tuesday, October 16, at 10 a.m.; Friday, October 19, at 11 a.m.; Tuesday, October 23, at 1 p.m.; Friday, October 26, at 1 p.m.; Tuesday, October 30, at 10 a.m.; Friday, November 2, at 11 a.m.; Tuesday, November 6, at 11 a.m.; Friday, November 9, at 10 a.m.; and that the Senate adjourn on Friday, November 9, until 2 p.m. on Tuesday, November 13; 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; and that at 5:30 p.m. all postclosure time on the motion to proceed to S. 3525, the Sportsmen's Act, be yielded back and the Senate proceed to a vote on the motion to proceed.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, the next rollcall vote will be at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 13, 2012.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2012, AT 9:30 A.M.

Mr. PRYOR. 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 4:03 a.m., adjourned until Tuesday, September 25, 2012, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

MARILYN A. BROWN, OF GEORGIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY FOR A TERM EXPIRING MAY 18, 2017. (RE-APPOINTMENT)

VERA LYNN EVANS, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY FOR A TERM EXPIRING MAY 18, 2017. VICE WILLIAM H. GRAVES, TERM EXPIRED.

MICHAEL MCWHERTER, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY FOR A TERM EXPIRING MAY 18, 2016. VICE DENNIS BOTTORFF, TERM EXPIRED.