

Whereas African-Americans from the Southwest, for nearly 150 years, have continued the tradition of observing "Juneteenth Independence Day";

Whereas 43 States, the District of Columbia, and other countries, have designated "Juneteenth Independence Day" as a special day of observance in recognition of the emancipation of all slaves in the United States;

Whereas "Juneteenth Independence Day" celebrations have been held to honor African-American freedom while encouraging self-development and respect for all cultures;

Whereas the faith and strength of character demonstrated by former slaves and their descendants remain an example for all people of the United States, regardless of background, religion, or race;

Whereas slavery was not officially abolished until the ratification of the 13th Amendment to the United States Constitution in January 1865;

Whereas Frederick Douglass, born in the State of Maryland in 1818, escaped from slavery and became a leading writer, orator, publisher, and one of the United States' most influential advocates for abolitionism and the equality of all people;

Whereas Frederick Douglass was recognized for his accomplishments with a statue that was unveiled during a ceremony on June 19, 2013, in Emancipation Hall of the United States Capitol;

Whereas 2014 marks the 50th anniversary of the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000a et seq.), signed into law on July 2, 1964, a milestone in providing equal protections for African-Americans, including former slaves and their descendants; and

Whereas, over the course of its history, the United States has grown into a symbol of democracy and freedom around the world: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates June 19, 2014, as "Juneteenth Independence Day";

(2) recognizes the historical significance of "Juneteenth Independence Day" to the United States;

(3) supports the continued nationwide celebration of "Juneteenth Independence Day" to provide an opportunity for the people of the United States to learn more about the past and to better understand the experiences that have shaped the United States; and

(4) recognizes that the observance of the end of slavery is a part of the history and heritage of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 475—CONGRATULATING THE ALASKA ACES HOCKEY TEAM ON WINNING THE 2014 KELLY CUP AS CHAMPIONS OF THE EAST COAST HOCKEY LEAGUE

Mr. BEGICH (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 475

Whereas on June 9, 2014, the Alaska Aces hockey team claimed the championship of the East Coast Hockey League with a 4-0 series-clinching win over the Cincinnati Cyclones, which resulted in the Alaska Aces winning the East Coast Hockey League's Kelly Cup trophy;

Whereas the June 9 victory gave the Alaska Aces a 4-2 series win in the championship round and resulted in a 16-5 win-loss record for the Alaska Aces in the 2014 playoffs;

Whereas the 2014 East Coast Hockey League championship is the 3rd champion-

ship for the Alaska Aces in the past 9 years, making the Alaska Aces only the 2nd East Coast Hockey League team to win more than 2 East Coast Hockey League championships;

Whereas in 2014, the Alaska Aces set an East Coast Hockey League record by winning the team's 4th straight Brabham Cup, which honors the East Coast Hockey League's best regular-season record and guarantees home-ice advantage throughout the entire postseason;

Whereas the East Coast Hockey League is a premier "AA" hockey league featuring 22 teams from around the country playing a 72-game regular season schedule;

Whereas the Alaska Aces are affiliated with the Calgary Flames of the National Hockey League, opening a pathway to allow promising players to advance to the top tier of professional hockey in the United States and Canada; and

Whereas the people of the State of Alaska are proud of the dedication, hard work, and gritty determination of the players, coaches, and management of the Alaska Aces: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the Alaska Aces hockey team for winning the 2014 Kelly Cup as champions of the East Coast Hockey League;

(2) recognizes the players, coaches, students, staff, and fans whose dedication helped the Alaska Aces win the East Coast Hockey League championship; and

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

(A) the managing owner of the Alaska Aces, to be shared with the other team owners;

(B) the head coach of the Alaska Aces; and

(C) the assistant coach of the Alaska Aces.

SENATE RESOLUTION 476—RECOGNIZING THE 350TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY AND HONORING THE VALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS OF PEOPLE OF THE GARDEN STATE

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

S. RES. 476

Whereas, in 1664, the parcel of land between the Delaware and Hudson Rivers came under the control of the English, who named the land New Jersey;

Whereas the State of New Jersey played an instrumental role in the success of the 13 original colonies during the American Revolutionary War, serving as the location of more military engagements than any other colony during the American Revolutionary War, including 2 pivotal colonial victories at Trenton and Princeton in the winter of 1776;

Whereas, in 1789, the State of New Jersey became the first state in the United States of America to ratify the Bill of Rights, which is the first 10 amendments to the United States Constitution;

Whereas men and women of the State of New Jersey, such as Thomas Mundy Peterson, Alice Paul, and Paul Robeson, bravely challenged our country to recognize and support equal and just rights of citizenship for all people of the United States;

Whereas the State of New Jersey has been a veritable cauldron of culture, contributing iconic and talented artists in literature, film, theater, dance, music, and visual arts;

Whereas world renowned scientists and scholars, including Thomas Alva Edison and

Albert Einstein, conduct their research and launch their discoveries in laboratories and institutions throughout the State of New Jersey, resulting in the State of New Jersey serving as a birth place for inventions and innovations that fundamentally change the way humans interact with each other and the world around them;

Whereas the State of New Jersey has been a leader in developing and engineering formative infrastructure and transportation accomplishments, from the Morris Canal and the Delaware and Raritan Canal to the iconic Garden State Parkway, as well as the now ubiquitous "Jersey Barriers" that provide for the safety of drivers and passengers on roads throughout the United States;

Whereas, in 1954, the New Jersey State Legislature passed legislation for the State of New Jersey to officially adopt the nickname of the "Garden State", a proud acknowledgment of the State of New Jersey's strong agricultural heritage and reflection of the continued abundance of blueberries, cranberries, peaches, and other produce that contribute to the State of New Jersey's robust agricultural industry;

Whereas New Jerseyans take pride in enjoying and preserving the State of New Jersey's vast natural resources, including the 130 miles of sandy beaches along "the shore", as well as the 1,000,000 acres of Pine Barrens that constitute the United State's first National Reserve; and

Whereas it is fitting and desirable that the people of New Jersey and the United States celebrate the current and historic role of the State of New Jersey in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate recognizes and celebrates the 350th anniversary of the founding of the State of New Jersey.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3240. Mr. McCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3241. Mr. McCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3242. Mr. HATCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2450, to improve the access of veterans to medical services from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3243. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3240. Mr. McCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 41, between lines 4 and 5, insert the following:

SEC. 109. WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AT UNITS OF THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AUTHORIZED INDIVIDUAL.—The term “authorized individual” means an individual that possesses—

(A) a valid resident big-game hunting license issued by the appropriate State agency; and

(B) any other qualification that the Secretary, in consultation with the appropriate State agency, may require.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(b) WILDLIFE REDUCTION.—Nothing in section 4 of the Act of March 2, 1929 (16 U.S.C. 198c), or any other provision of law, prohibits the Secretary from permitting an authorized individual—

(1) to use lethal means to reduce the population of wildlife at a unit of the National Park System that the Secretary determines is causing habitat or culture resources damage; or

(2) to remove the full animal harvested under paragraph (1) from the unit of the National Park System.

SA 3241. Mr. MCCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 41, between lines 4 and 5, insert the following:

SEC. 109. MITIGATION FISHERY ACTIVITIES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) FEDERAL WATER DEVELOPMENT AGENCY.—The term “Federal water development agency” means—

(A) the Bureau of Reclamation;

(B) the Corps of Engineers; and

(C) the Tennessee Valley Authority.

(2) MITIGATION HATCHERY.—The term “mitigation hatchery” means a facility owned and operated by the Secretary through the National Fish Hatchery System, a purpose of which is the rearing and stocking of native and nonnative fish to replace or maintain fishery resources or harvest levels lost as a result of a Federal water resource development project.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior (acting through the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service).

(b) PRIORITY CONSIDERATION.—Annually, the Secretary, in consultation with affected States, Indian tribes, and other relevant Federal agencies, shall—

(1) determine the needs of the National Fish Hatchery System; and

(2) for purposes of the determination under paragraph (1), give equal priority consideration to—

(A) the rearing and stocking of native and nonnative fish; and

(B) the propagation of species listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

(c) REIMBURSEMENT.—Consistent with the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742a et seq.) and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.), the heads of Federal water development agencies shall fully reimburse the Secretary, on an annual basis, for the operation and maintenance of mitigation hatcheries.

SA 3242. Mr. HATCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2450, to improve the access of veterans to medical services from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

TITLE —HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

SEC. —01. INDIVIDUALS ELIGIBLE FOR VETERANS BENEFITS FOR A SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (1) of section 223(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(C) SPECIAL RULE FOR INDIVIDUALS ELIGIBLE FOR CERTAIN VETERANS BENEFITS.—For purposes of subparagraph (A)(ii), an individual shall not be treated as covered under a health plan described in such subparagraph merely because the individual receives periodic hospital care or medical services for a service-connected disability under any law administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs but only if the individual is not eligible to receive such care or services for any condition other than a service-connected disability.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 3243. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1087. SINGLE STANDARD MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT RATE FOR PRIVATELY OWNED AUTOMOBILES OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES AND MEMBERS OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES.

(a) INCORPORATION OF IRS RATE AS SINGLE STANDARD MILEAGE RATE APPLICABLE TO AUTOMOBILES.—Section 5704(a)(1) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking “established by the Administrator shall not exceed” in the last sentence and inserting “shall be”.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT RATES.—

(1) ELIMINATION OF AUTOMOBILES FROM PERIODIC INVESTIGATIONS OF COST OF TRAVEL.—Paragraph (1)(A) of section 5707(b) of such title is amended—

(A) by striking “, in consultation with the Secretary of Transportation, the Secretary of Defense, and representatives of organizations of employees of the Government,”; and

(B) by striking “vehicles to” and inserting “airplanes and privately owned motorcycles by”.

(2) REIMBURSEMENT RATE FOR AUTOMOBILES.—Paragraph (2)(A)(i) of such section is amended by striking “prescribe a mileage reimbursement rate which reflects the current costs as determined by the Administrator of operating privately owned automobiles, and which shall not exceed,” and inserting “provide that the mileage reimbursement rate for privately owned automobiles,”.

NOTICE OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a business meeting has been scheduled before the Committee on En-

ergy and Natural Resources. The business meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 18, 2014, at 10:30 a.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC.

The purpose of the business meeting is to consider the five nominations and eight bills listed on the attached agenda.

Because of the limited time available for the business meeting, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510-6150, or by email to Sallie_Derr@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact Sam Fowler at (202) 224-7571 or Sallie Derr at (202) 224-6836.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 12, 2014, at 10 a.m., in room SR-328A of the Russell Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled “A National Priority: The Importance of Child Nutrition Programs to our Nation’s Health, Economy and National Security.”

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

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 12, 2014, at 10:30 a.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 12, 2014, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “Regional Implications of a Nuclear Deal with Iran.”

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 12, 2014, at 3 p.m., to hold a hearing entitled “Thailand’s Political Crisis.”

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

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to