

Whereas flowers speak to the beauty of motherhood on Mother's Day; and to the spirit of love on Valentine's Day;

Whereas flowers are an essential part of other holidays such as Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa;

Whereas flowers help commemorate the service and sacrifice of our Armed Forces on Memorial Day and Veterans Day; and

Whereas the Senate encourages the cultivation of flowers in the United States by domestic flower farmers: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates July 2017 as "American Grown Flower Month";

(2) recognizes that purchasing flowers grown in the United States supports the farmers, small businesses, jobs, and economy of the United States;

(3) recognizes that growing flowers and greens in the United States is a vital part of the agricultural industry of the United States;

(4) recognizes that cultivating flowers domestically enhances the ability of the people of the United States to festively celebrate holidays and special occasions; and

(5) urges all people of the United States to proactively showcase flowers and greens grown in the United States in order to show support for our flower farmers, processors, and distributors as well as agriculture in the United States overall.

SENATE RESOLUTION 209—COMMEMORATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SILICON VALLEY LEADERSHIP GROUP, THE PREEMINENT PUBLIC POLICY TRADE ASSOCIATION IN SILICON VALLEY

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Ms. HARRIS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 209

Whereas the Silicon Valley Leadership Group (referred to in this preamble as the "Leadership Group"), founded by David Packard in 1978, advocates on behalf of Silicon Valley employers in the interest of improving the economic health of and quality of life in Silicon Valley;

Whereas the Leadership Group represents nearly 400 member companies that constitute 1 in 3 private sector jobs in Silicon Valley;

Whereas the Leadership Group was integral in establishing a permanent regional office of the United States Patent and Trademark Office in Silicon Valley, facilitating creativity, innovation, and efficiency for local companies and creating new economic and employment opportunities;

Whereas the Leadership Group was a crucial partner in promoting the restoration of the San Francisco Bay and restoring wildlife habitat by reducing toxins and pollutants, improving water quality, and protecting communities from floods;

Whereas the Leadership Group has been vital in the development of transportation improvements, including helping secure funding for the electrification of Caltrain, which will replace diesel trains with high-performance electric trains, nearly doubling ridership, reducing travel times, cutting emissions, and creating 9,600 additional employment opportunities across the United States; and

Whereas the Leadership Group has supported and contributed to organizations such as Second Harvest Food Bank, Housing Trust

Silicon Valley, Healthier Kids Foundation Santa Clara County, Christmas in the Park in San Jose, and many other organizations that help improve the quality of life in the Silicon Valley region: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the significant contributions of the Silicon Valley Leadership Group and the members of the Silicon Valley Leadership Group to the economic health of and quality of life in Silicon Valley; and

(2) commemorates the 40th anniversary of the Silicon Valley Leadership Group.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Silicon Valley Leadership Group.

Founded by David Packard in 1978, the Leadership Group has worked tirelessly to improve the economic health and quality of life in Silicon Valley. I have had the pleasure of working closely with the Silicon Valley Leadership Group—and its Chief Executive Officer Carl Guardino—on many issues important to the San Francisco Bay Area.

For instance, the Leadership Group has been an indispensable partner in efforts to restore the San Francisco Bay and its critical wetlands. Just last year, they helped secure \$500 million for those restoration efforts. The Leadership Group was integral in establishing a permanent U.S. Patent and Trademark office in San Jose. That office now supports the creativity and innovation that made Silicon Valley the global leader of the digital revolution. Most recently, the Leadership Group was a driving force in developing transportation improvements in Silicon Valley—including the electrification of the Caltrain system that will cut travel times and improve air quality for countless Californians.

Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution to recognize the Silicon Valley Leadership Group and its contributions to Silicon Valley, the state of California and our national economy.

Thank you.

REQUESTS FOR AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I have nine requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They do not have the approval of the Democratic leader for the seventh consecutive legislative day, therefore, they will not be permitted to meet after 2 p.m. I ask unanimous consent that the list of committees requesting authority to meet be printed in the RECORD for today's session and the previous 2 days.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Monday, June 26, 2017.

Five requests for committees to meet for the following committees:

Subcommittee on Airland

Subcommittee on Cybersecurity

Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support

Subcommittee on Seapower

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces

Tuesday, June 27, 2017.

Five requests for committees to meet for the following committees:

Committee on Armed Services

Committee on the Judiciary

Subcommittee on Emerging Treaties and Capabilities

Subcommittee on Personnel

Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere,

Fisheries, and Coast Guard

Wednesday, June 28, 2017.

Nine requests for committees to meet for the following committees:

Committee on Armed Services

Committee on Commerce, Science, and

Transportation

Committee on Foreign Relations

Committee on Homeland Security and

Governmental Affairs

Committee on the Judiciary

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

Committee on Intelligence

APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to Section 1295b(h) of title 46 App., United States Code, appoints the following Senators to the Board of Visitors of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy: the Honorable JOHN THUNE of South Dakota (ex officio as Chairman, Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation) and the Honorable DEB FISCHER of Nebraska (Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation).

The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 4355(a), appoints the following Senator to the Board of Visitors of the U. S. Military Academy: the Honorable JERRY MORAN of Kansas (Designated by the Chairman of the Committee on Armed Services).

The Chair, on behalf of the majority leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 114-323, appoints the following individual to serve as a member of the Western Hemisphere Drug Policy Commission: John Walters of the District of Columbia.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 1460

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1460) to provide for the modernization of the energy and natural resources policies of the United States, and for other purposes.

Mr. McCONNELL. I now ask for a second reading and, in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, JUNE 29, 2017

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the

Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 11 a.m., Thursday, June 29; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; finally, that following leader remarks, the Senate proceed to

executive session and resume consideration of the Rao nomination with the time until the cloture vote equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 11 A.M.
TOMORROW

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

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:43 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, June 29, 2017, at 11 a.m.