

S. RES. 362

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

Whereas, in 2019, the National Wildlife Refuge System, administered by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, is the premier system of land and water to conserve wildlife in the world and has grown to 567 national wildlife refuges and 38 wetland management districts located 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 offer a variety of recreational opportunities, including 6 wildlife-dependent uses that the National Wildlife Refuge System manages, specifically hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, photography, environmental education, and interpretation;

Whereas the National Wildlife Refuge System receives more than 50,000,000 visitors annually, which generates more than \$3,200,000,000 in sales and more than 41,000 jobs in local economies;

Whereas 382 units of the National Wildlife Refuge System have hunting programs that receive more than 2,000,000 hunting visits annually, and 316 units of the National Wildlife Refuge System have fishing programs that receive more than 7,000,000 fishing visits annually;

Whereas the National Wildlife Refuge System has hosted more than 30,000,000 wildlife observation visits in recent years;

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

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 United States Virgin Islands to Guam;

Whereas national wildlife refuges are home to more than—

- (1) 700 species of birds;
- (2) 220 species of mammals;
- (3) 250 species of reptiles and amphibians; and

- (4) 1,000 species of fish;

Whereas national wildlife refuges are the primary Federal land on which the production, migration, and wintering habitats for waterfowl are fostered;

Whereas, since 1934, the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund, which has been largely funded from the sale of the Federal Duck Stamp to outdoor enthusiasts, has generated more than \$1,500,000,000 and enabled the conservation of more than 5,900,000 acres of habitat for waterfowl and numerous other species in the National Wildlife Refuge System;

Whereas national wildlife refuges provide protection to more than 380 threatened and endangered species;

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

Whereas more than 38,000 volunteers and almost 200 national wildlife refuge “Friends” organizations contribute approximately 1,350,000 volunteer hours annually, the equivalent of 650 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 there are national wildlife refuges located in several urban and suburban areas

and there is a national wildlife refuge located within a 1-hour drive of nearly every metropolitan area in the United States, which has enabled national wildlife refuges to 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, national wildlife 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 United States Fish and Wildlife Service has designated the week beginning on October 13, 2019, as “National Wildlife Refuge Week”; 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 for the enjoyment of the protected land and water within that system: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week beginning on October 13, 2019, 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) finds 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, the protection of imperiled species and ecosystems, and compatible uses;

(7) acknowledges the role of national wildlife refuges in conserving waterfowl and waterfowl habitat under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703 et seq.);

(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 363—DESIGNATING OCTOBER 2019 AS “NATIONAL YOUTH JUSTICE ACTION MONTH”

Mr. SCHUMER (for Ms. HARRIS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 363

Whereas the historical role of the juvenile court system is to rehabilitate and treat young offenders while holding them accountable and maintaining public safety, and the juvenile court system is therefore better equipped to work with youth than the adult criminal justice system, which is punitive in nature;

Whereas youth are developmentally different from adults, and those differences have been—

- (1) documented by research on the adolescent brain; and

(2) acknowledged by the Supreme Court of the United States, State supreme courts, and many State and Federal laws that prohibit youth under the age of 18 from taking on major adult responsibilities such as voting, jury duty, and military service;

Whereas youth who are placed under the commitment of the juvenile court system are able to access age-appropriate services and education and remain closer to their families, which reduces the likelihood that those youth will commit offenses in the future;

Whereas, every year in the United States, an estimated 76,000 youth are tried, sentenced, or incarcerated as adults, and most of those youth are prosecuted for nonviolent offenses;

Whereas most laws allowing the prosecution of youth as adults were enacted before the publication of research-based evidence by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention of the Department of Justice demonstrating that prosecuting youth in adult court actually decreases public safety as, on average, youth prosecuted in adult court are 34 percent more likely to commit future crimes than youth retained in the juvenile court system;

Whereas youth of color, youth with disabilities, and youth with mental health issues are disproportionately represented at all stages of the criminal justice system;

Whereas it is harmful to public safety and to young offenders to confine youth in adult jails or prisons where they are significantly more likely to be physically and sexually assaulted and often placed in solitary confinement;

Whereas youth sentenced as adults receive an adult criminal record that hinders future education and employment opportunities;

Whereas youth who receive extremely long sentences deserve an opportunity to demonstrate their potential to grow and change; and

Whereas, in October, people around the United States participate in Youth Justice Action Month to increase public awareness of the issues facing youth transferred to the adult criminal justice system and to provide people across the United States with an opportunity to develop action-oriented events in their communities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) acknowledges that the collateral consequences normally applied in the adult criminal justice system should not automatically apply to youth arrested for crimes before the age of 18;

(2) designates October 2019 as “National Youth Justice Action Month”; and

(3) recognizes and supports the goals and ideals of National Youth Justice Action Month.

SENATE RESOLUTION 364—CONGRATULATING THE WASHINGTON MYSTICS ON WINNING THE 2019 WOMEN’S NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. Kaine, Mr. WARNER, and Ms. CANTWELL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 364

Whereas, on October 10, 2019, the Washington Mystics won the 2019 Women’s National Basketball Association (referred to in this preamble as the “WNBA”) championship;

Whereas that October 10, 2019, win is the first WNBA championship won by the Washington Mystics in the 22 years that the Washington Mystics have been in the WNBA;

Whereas the Washington Mystics beat the Connecticut Sun in the WNBA finals;

Whereas the Washington Mystics—

(1) dominated the competition in the regular season, with 26 wins and 8 losses, the best record of any team in the WNBA; and (2) earned the top seed in the playoffs;

Whereas the Washington Mystics play home games at the Entertainment and Sports Arena in Southeast Washington, DC;

Whereas the 2019 roster of Washington Mystics players includes—

- (1) Ariel Atkins;
- (2) Natasha Cloud;
- (3) Elena Delle Donne;
- (4) Tianna Hawkins;
- (5) Myisha Hines-Allen;
- (6) Kiara Leslie;
- (7) Emma Meesseman;
- (8) Kim Mestdagh;
- (9) Aerial Powers;
- (10) LaToya Sanders;
- (11) Kristi Toliver; and
- (12) Shatori Walker-Kimbrough;

Whereas Emma Meesseman received the 2019 WNBA Finals Most Valuable Player award;

Whereas Elena Delle Donne received the 2019 WNBA League Most Valuable Player award;

Whereas Natasha Cloud received the 2019 WNBA Dawn Staley Community Leadership award;

Whereas the 2019 Washington Mystics coaching staff includes—

- (1) Head Coach Mike Thibault;
- (2) Assistant Coach Marianne Stanley; and
- (3) Assistant Coach Eric Thibault;

Whereas Ted Leonsis, founder, chairman, principal partner, and chief executive officer of Monumental Sports & Entertainment, which owns the Washington Mystics, has built a culture of success and contributed greatly to Washington, DC, and the surrounding region through philanthropy;

Whereas the Washington Mystics have exhibited dedication to positive social impact by strengthening communities through the Mystics Care partnership with organizations in Washington, DC, and the surrounding region; and

Whereas the dedication and hard work of the Washington Mystics have inspired and empowered girls, boys, women, and men of all ages; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the Washington Mystics for winning the 2019 Women's National Basketball Association championship;

(2) applauds the people of Washington, DC, and the surrounding region for their enthusiastic support of the Washington Mystics;

(3) supports equity in men's and women's professional sports; and

(4) respectfully requests the Secretary of the Senate to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the founder, chairman, principal partner, and chief executive officer of Monumental Sports & Entertainment, Ted Leonsis.

SENATE RESOLUTION 365—DESIGNATING OCTOBER 16, 2019, AND OCTOBER 16, 2020, AS “WORLD FOOD DAY”

Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. MORAN, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. LEAHY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 365

Whereas hunger and malnutrition are daily facts of life for hundreds of millions of people around the world;

Whereas women and children suffer the most serious effects of hunger and malnutrition;

Whereas millions of children die each year from hunger-related illness and disease;

Whereas many people suffer permanent physical or mental impairment because of vitamin or protein deficiencies;

Whereas the United States has a long tradition of demonstrating humanitarian concern for the hungry and malnourished people of the world;

Whereas there is a growing concern in the United States and in other countries about threats to the future food supply, including—

- (1) misuse and overuse of land and water;
- (2) loss of biological diversity; and
- (3) erosion of genetic resources on a global scale;

Whereas the world community increasingly calls upon the United States to resolve food problems stemming from natural- and human-made disasters by providing humanitarian assistance;

Whereas the United States—

(1) plays a major role in the development and implementation of international food and agricultural trade standards and practices; and

(2) recognizes the positive role that the global food trade can play in enhancing human nutrition and alleviating hunger;

Whereas, although progress has been made in reducing the incidence of hunger and malnutrition in the United States, certain groups remain vulnerable to malnutrition and related diseases;

Whereas the conservation of natural resources, the preservation of biological diversity, and strong public and private agricultural research programs are required for the United States—

- (1) to remain food secure; and
- (2) to continue to aid the hungry and malnourished people of the world;

Whereas the United States is a world leader in the development of agricultural innovation and technology aimed at enhancing the improved production, safety, and quality of the world food supply and must continue to retain that role;

Whereas participation by private voluntary organizations and businesses, working with national governments and the international community, is essential in the search for ways to increase food production in developing countries and improve food distribution to hungry and malnourished people;

Whereas the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (referred to in this preamble as the “FAO”) is mandated to lead global efforts to address food and nutrition security issues;

Whereas the member nations of the FAO have unanimously designated October 16 of each year as “World Food Day”;

Whereas the FAO has worked to organize activities and efforts on “World Food Day” in over 130 countries to promote awareness of and action for people suffering from hunger and malnutrition;

Whereas past observances of “World Food Day” have been supported—

(1) by proclamations by Congress, the President, the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the territories and possessions of the United States; and

(2) by programs of the Department of Agriculture and other Federal departments and agencies;

Whereas private voluntary organizations and community leaders are participating in planning “World Food Day” observances in 2019 and 2020, and a growing number of these organizations and leaders are using “World Food Day” as a focal point for year-round programs; and

Whereas the people of the United States can express their concern for the plight of hungry and malnourished people throughout the world by study, advocacy, and action; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 16, 2019, and October 16, 2020, as “World Food Day”; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to observe the days with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 946. Mr. McCONNELL proposed an amendment to Treaty Doc. 116-1, Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of the Republic of North Macedonia.

SA 947. Mr. McCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 946 proposed by Mr. McCONNELL to the resolution of ratification for Treaty Doc. 116-1, supra.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 946. Mr. McCONNELL proposed an amendment to Treaty Doc. 116-1, Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of the Republic of North Macedonia; as follows:

At the end add the following.

“This Treaty shall be effective 1 day after the date of ratification.”

SA 947. Mr. McCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 946 proposed by Mr. McCONNELL to the resolution of ratification for Treaty Doc. 116-1, Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of the Republic of North Macedonia; as follows:

Strike “1 day” and insert “2 days”

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I have 7 requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

The Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, October 17, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, October 17, 2019, at 9 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, October 17, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet