

SMITH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. ROUNDS, and Mr. INHOFE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 438

Whereas there are far too many unparented children in the United States;

Whereas the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System Report on fiscal year 2018 foster care and adoption population characteristics (referred to in this preamble as the “AFCARS report”) indicates that there are approximately 437,300 children in the foster care system in the United States, approximately 125,400 of whom are waiting for adoption;

Whereas the AFCARS report indicates that—

(1) 65 percent of the children in foster care in the United States are 10 years of age or younger;

(2) the average length of time a child spends in foster care is approximately 20 months;

(3) in fiscal year 2018, approximately 17,800 youth “aged out” of foster care by reaching adulthood without being placed in a permanent home; and

(4) in fiscal year 2018, the number of children who—

(A) achieved permanency through adoption increased for the fourth year in a row; and

(B) entered foster care decreased for the second year in a row;

Whereas, still, for many foster children, the wait for a loving family in which they are nurtured, comforted, and protected seems endless;

Whereas a survey conducted in 2017 (referred to in this preamble as the “2017 survey”) showed that a quarter of respondents who had not adopted had considered adoption;

Whereas the 2017 survey showed that 46 percent of respondents either somewhat or strongly agreed that children enter the foster care system because of juvenile delinquency, despite the AFCARS report revealing that neglect was associated with 62 percent of cases involving the removal of a child, or approximately 163,500 cases;

Whereas the 2017 survey showed that—

(1) 39 percent of respondents believed foster care adoption is expensive; and

(2) a majority of respondents considering foster care adoption indicated that receiving financial and emotional support would make a difference in their decision to pursue adoption;

Whereas the Children’s Bureau, an office of the Administration for Children and Families within the Department of Health and Human Services, supports programs, research, and monitoring to help eliminate barriers to adoption and find permanent families for children;

Whereas, every day, loving and nurturing families are strengthened and expanded when committed and dedicated individuals make an important difference in the life of a child through adoption;

Whereas the President traditionally issues an annual proclamation to declare the month of November as National Adoption Month;

Whereas National Adoption Day has been celebrated as a collective national effort to find permanent and loving families for children in the foster care system; and

Whereas the Saturday before Thanksgiving has been recognized as National Adoption Day since at least 2000, and, in 2019, the Saturday before Thanksgiving is November 23; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Adoption Month and National Adoption Day;

(2) recognizes that every child should have a permanent and loving family; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to consider adoption during the month of November and throughout the year.

SENATE RESOLUTION 439—DESIGNATING DECEMBER 1, 2019, AS “DRIVE SAFER SUNDAY”

Mr. ISAKSON (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. BURR, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. WICKER, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. CARPER, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 439

Whereas motor vehicle travel is the primary means of transportation in the United States;

Whereas every individual traveling on roads and highways should drive in a safe manner so as to reduce deaths and injuries that result from motor vehicle crashes;

Whereas, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, wearing a seat belt saves as many as 15,000 lives each year; and

Whereas the Sunday after Thanksgiving is the busiest highway traffic day of the year; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) encourages—

(A) high schools, colleges, universities, administrators, teachers, primary schools, and secondary schools to launch campus-wide educational campaigns to urge students to focus on safety when driving;

(B) national trucking firms—

(i) to alert employee drivers to be especially focused on driving safely on the Sunday after Thanksgiving; and

(ii) to publicize the importance of driving safely on the Sunday after Thanksgiving on the Citizens Band Radio Service and at truck stops across the United States;

(C) clergies to remind congregations to travel safely when attending services and gatherings;

(D) law enforcement personnel to remind drivers and passengers to drive safely, particularly on the Sunday after Thanksgiving;

(E) motorists to drive safely during the holiday season and throughout the rest of the year; and

(F) the people of the United States—

(i) to understand the life-saving importance of wearing a seat belt; and

(ii) to educate themselves about highway safety; and

(2) designates December 1, 2019, as “Drive Safer Sunday”.

SENATE RESOLUTION 440—DESIGNATING DECEMBER 14, 2019, AS “WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA DAY”

Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. KING, and Ms. WARREN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 440

Whereas, in 1992, the Wreaths Across America project—

(1) began by establishing an annual tradition of donating and transporting Maine bal-

sam fir veterans’ wreaths to Arlington National Cemetery each December and placing those wreaths on the graves of fallen heroes buried there; and

(2) placed 5,000 donated veterans’ wreaths at Arlington National Cemetery;

Whereas, during the 28-year period preceding the date of adoption of this resolution, more than 7,882,300 wreaths were sent to locations, including national cemeteries and veterans memorials in every State and overseas;

Whereas the mission of the Wreaths Across America project, to “Remember, Honor, Teach”, is carried out in part by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies in all 50 States and overseas, including at—

(1) Arlington National Cemetery;
(2) veterans cemeteries; and
(3) other memorial locations;

Whereas the Wreaths Across America project carries out a week-long veterans parade between the State of Maine and the Commonwealth of Virginia, stopping along the way to spread a message about the importance of—

(1) remembering the fallen heroes of the United States;
(2) honoring those who serve; and
(3) teaching the next generation of children about—

(A) the service of veterans; and
(B) the sacrifices made by veterans and their families to preserve freedoms enjoyed by the people of the United States;

Whereas, in 2018, approximately 1,800,000 veterans’ wreaths were delivered to 1,644 locations across the United States and overseas, including more than 9,300 wreaths placed at the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial in Colleville-sur-Mer, France, an increase of more than 200 locations compared to the previous year;

Whereas, in December 2019, the tradition of escorting tractor-trailers filled with donated wreaths from Harrington, Maine, to Arlington National Cemetery will be continued by—

(1) the Patriot Guard Riders; and
(2) other patriotic escort units, including—
(A) motorcycle units;
(B) law enforcement units; and
(C) first responder units;

Whereas hundreds of thousands of individuals volunteer each December to help lay veterans’ wreaths;

Whereas, in 2019, the trucking industry in the United States will continue to support the Wreaths Across America project by providing drivers, equipment, and related services to assist in the transportation of wreaths across the United States to more than 1,700 locations;

Whereas the Senate designated December 15, 2018, as “Wreaths Across America Day”; and

Whereas, on December 14, 2019, the Wreaths Across America project will continue the proud legacy of bringing veterans’ wreaths to Arlington National Cemetery: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates December 14, 2019, as “Wreaths Across America Day”;

(2) honors—

(A) the Wreaths Across America project;
(B) patriotic escort units, including—
(i) motorcycle units;
(ii) law enforcement units; and
(iii) first responder units;

(C) the trucking industry in the United States; and

(D) the volunteers and donors involved in this worthy tradition; and

(3) recognizes—

(A) the service of veterans and members of the Armed Forces; and
(B) the sacrifices that veterans, their family members, and members of the Armed

Forces have made and continue to make for the United States, a great nation.

SENATE RESOLUTION 441—CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE APOLLO 12 MOON LANDING

Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Ms. WARREN, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. WARNER, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. MORAN, Mr. JONES, Mr. GARDNER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. ISAKSON, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. BROWN, Ms. SINEMA, and Ms. CANTWELL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 441

Whereas, on May 25, 1961, before a joint session of Congress, President John F. Kennedy—

(1) declared, “Now it is time to take longer strides—time for a great new American enterprise—time for this Nation to take a clearly leading role in space achievement, which in many ways may hold the key to our future on Earth.”; and

(2) with his words, set the goal of sending astronauts to the Moon and returning them safely to the Earth;

Whereas the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (referred to in this preamble as “NASA”) mobilized and established the Apollo space program to meet the goal set by President Kennedy;

Whereas the Apollo space program built on the achievements of the prior space programs of NASA, including the Mercury and Gemini missions;

Whereas the successful Moon landing honored the tragic sacrifice of every astronaut whose life had previously been lost in the service of United States spaceflight research, including—

(1) Roger B. Chaffee, Virgil “Gus” I. Grissom, and Edward H. White II, the astronauts who lost their lives during the pre-flight test for Apollo 1; and

(2) Theodore C. Freeman, Charles A. Bassett II, Elliot See, Jr., Robert H. Lawrence, Jr., Michael J. Adams, and Clifton C. Williams, Jr.;

Whereas the crew of the Apollo 12 mission consisted of—

(1) Charles “Pete” Conrad, Jr., Mission Commander;
(2) Alan Bean, Lunar Module Pilot; and
(3) Richard F. Gordon, Command Module Pilot;

Whereas the entire Apollo 12 crew consisted of individuals who had served in the Navy;

Whereas the official insignia of the mission was the clipper ship, which increased the use of the seas by the United States, just as the Apollo program increased the use of space-based knowledge and exploration;

Whereas David R. Scott, Alfred M. Worden, and James B. Irwin stood ready to support or stand in for the Apollo 12 crew;

Whereas, on November 14, 1969, the Apollo 12 crew launched from the John F. Kennedy Space Center aboard a Saturn V rocket;

Whereas, on November 19, 1969, the Intrepid Lunar Module landed on the surface of the Moon as the second-ever crewed Moon mission of the United States;

Whereas Apollo 12 carried the second Apollo crew to the moon to build on the work of the first crew from Apollo 11;

Whereas the crew of Apollo 12 conducted an orbital maneuver to land in the Western Hemisphere of the Moon to recover portions

of a previous lander that had been on the surface of the Moon for 2 years to study the effects of extended exposure to the surface of the Moon;

Whereas the crew of Apollo 12 planted the flag of the United States in lunar soil, and images of the lunar surface indicate that the Apollo 12 flag is still standing;

Whereas the Intrepid carried flags from 136 nations, the United Nations, and the 50 States and the territories of the United States, representing the international coordination and collaboration of space exploration and the scientific intent of the Apollo missions;

Whereas the Apollo 12 crew collected lunar samples and conducted experiments to gain a better understanding of the composition of the Moon and conditions on its surface;

Whereas Apollo 12 deployed the Apollo Lunar Surface Experiments Package, a set of instruments left on the surface of the Moon to gather data;

Whereas the success of the Apollo 12 Moon landing was a result of the skill, dedication, and collective effort of tens of thousands of workers, scientists, engineers, and contractors of the United States;

Whereas the Apollo 12 mission further demonstrated the focus and capability of the scientific community of the United States and cemented the United States as the world leader in space exploration;

Whereas, 50 years later, the Apollo 12 Moon landing continues to inspire national and international scientific efforts in space, medicine, and other fields; and

Whereas the knowledge and experience gained from the Apollo space program continues to inform missions to Mars, the far reaches of the solar system, and beyond: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) celebrates the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 12 Moon landing;

(2) honors the bravery and skill of Charles “Pete” Conrad, Jr., Alan Bean, and Richard F. Gordon, the crew of Apollo 12;

(3) commends the efforts of all of the individuals of the United States who contributed to the achievement of the Apollo 12 Moon landing, exemplifying a cooperative effort on a national scale that continues to inspire scientific progress; and

(4) supports the continued leadership of the United States in the exploration and use of space through human spaceflight.

SENATE RESOLUTION 442—DESIGNATING NOVEMBER 2019 AS “NATIONAL RUNAWAY PREVENTION MONTH”

Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Mrs. MURRAY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 442

Whereas results from the Voices of Youth Count national survey, as published by Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago in “Missed Opportunities: Youth Homelessness in America”, indicates that an estimated 4,200,000 youth and young adults between 13 and 24 years of age experienced homelessness during a 12-month period ending in 2017, including—

(1) an estimated 700,000 children between 13 and 17 years of age who experienced unaccompanied homelessness; and

(2) an estimated 3,500,000 young adults between 18 and 24 years of age;

Whereas the rates of youth experiencing homelessness are similar in rural and nonrural areas;

Whereas runaway youth often have been expelled from their homes by their families, have experienced abuse and trauma, are involved in the foster care system, are too poor to secure their own basic needs, and may be ineligible or unable to access medical or mental health resources;

Whereas individuals without a high school degree or general educational development certificate are nearly 4 times more likely to report homelessness than their peers, making lack of education a leading risk factor for homelessness;

Whereas youth of color and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer (LGBTQ) youth experience higher rates of homelessness than their straight and White peers;

Whereas pregnant youth, parents who are 25 years of age or younger, and their children experience higher rates of homelessness than youth and young adults without children;

Whereas runaway and homeless youth are at an increased risk for exploitation and becoming victims of sex and labor trafficking, and between 19 percent and 49 percent of young people who experience homelessness will become victims of trafficking;

Whereas youth who run away from home or from foster care are more likely to be coerced into participating in criminal activity, joining a gang, or using illegal drugs, which lead to a higher likelihood of involvement in the criminal justice system;

Whereas preventing youth from running away from home or from foster care and supporting youth in high-risk situations is a family, community, and national responsibility;

Whereas the future well-being of the Nation is dependent on the value placed on youth and the opportunities provided for youth to acquire the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to help youth successfully develop into safe, healthy, and productive adults;

Whereas effective programs supporting runaway youth and assisting youth and their families in providing safe and stable homes succeed because of partnerships created among families, youth-based advocacy organizations, community-based human service agencies, law enforcement, schools, faith-based organizations, and businesses; and

Whereas the National Runaway Safeline and the National Network for Youth are leading the promotion of National Runaway Prevention Month in November 2019—

(1) to raise awareness of the runaway and homeless youth crisis and the issues these young people face; and

(2) to educate the public about solutions and the role they can play in ending youth homelessness: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates November 2019 as “National Runaway Prevention Month”; and

(2) recognizes and supports the goals and ideals of National Runaway Prevention Month.

SENATE RESOLUTION 443—RECOGNIZING AND CELEBRATING ON NOVEMBER 30, 2019, THE VITAL ROLE OF SMALL BUSINESSES AND THE EFFORTS OF THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION TO HELP PEOPLE IN THE UNITED STATES START, BUILD, AND GROW BUSINESSES

Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. PORTMAN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. RISCH, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr.