

**SENATE RESOLUTION 813—HONORING THE LIFE OF STEVEN D. SYMMS, FORMER UNITED STATES SENATOR FOR THE STATE OF IDAHO**

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

**S. RES. 813**

Whereas Steven D. Symms—

(1) was born in Nampa, Idaho, in 1938; and  
(2) graduated from the University of Idaho, in Moscow, Idaho, in 1960 with a Bachelor of Science in Horticulture;

Whereas Steven D. Symms served proudly in the United States Marine Corps, achieving the rank of First Lieutenant;

Whereas, after his military service, Steven D. Symms returned to Symms Fruit Ranch to build the family business;

Whereas Steven D. Symms was elected to the United States House of Representatives in 1972, and was reelected in 1974, 1976, and 1978;

Whereas Steven D. Symms was elected to the United States Senate in 1980, and was reelected in 1986;

Whereas, during the tenure of Steven D. Symms in the United States Senate, he—

(1) served on the Committee on Finance, the Committee on the Budget, the Committee on Armed Services, the Joint Economic Committee, and chaired the Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the Committee on Environment and Public Works

(2) helped shape and enact the 1981 Reagan tax cuts;

(3) worked to enact legislation that enhanced the highway infrastructure system of the United States; and

(4) advanced improvements for Mountain Home Air Force Base, Gowen Field, and the Idaho National Laboratory;

Whereas, after retiring from the United States Senate in 1992, Steven D. Symms worked as a consultant and later joined the partnership of Perry, Romani, DeConcini, and Symms in Washington, D.C., where he was respected by colleagues across the political spectrum;

Whereas Steven D. Symms received the “Iron Mike” award from the United States Marine Corps League for his contributions to the United States and the Marine Corps;

Whereas Steven D. Symms received the Idaho Statesman of the Year Award from Idaho State University, recognizing his steady leadership in political circles;

Whereas Steven D. Symms worked across the aisle for the betterment of Idaho and our country, as he bravely defended our freedoms;

Whereas Steven D. Symms was predeceased by his—

(1) wife, Loretta Fuller Symms;  
(2) former wife, Frances Stockdale Symms;  
(3) son, Daniel Thomas Symms;  
(4) brother, R.A. “Dick” Symms; and  
(5) his sister, Shirley Maggard Ickes; and  
Whereas Steven D. Symms is survived by his—

(1) sister, Ginger Kleweno (Gilbert);  
(2) sister-in-law, Nancy Symms;  
(3) cousins Jim and Kathy Mertz and Roger and Jan Bacon;

(4) daughters Susan Stauffer (Darris), Amy Crabtree (Charles), and Katy Senkus (Stephen);

(5) stepchildren Vickie Fuller (Jeff), Jodi Fuller (Diane), Brad Fuller (Jeffrey); and

(6) many loving grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That—

(1) the Senate has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of Steven D. Symms, former Member of the Senate;

(2) the Senate directs the Secretary of the Senate to—

(A) communicate this resolution to the House of Representatives; and

(B) transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the family of Steven D. Symms; and

(3) when the Senate adjourns today, it stands adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late Steven D. Symms.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 814—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2024 AS “NATIONAL LITERACY MONTH”**

Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BRAUN, Mrs. BRITT, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. KING, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. CORNYN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

**S. RES. 814**

Whereas reading is a cornerstone for personal growth, economic opportunity, and a strong society;

Whereas recent assessments, such as the National Assessment of Educational Progress, report unacceptably poor student reading proficiency, highlighting the need for effective literacy instruction;

Whereas the Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies estimates that 48,000,000 adults in the United States cannot read above a third-grade level;

Whereas educational disparities persist among students in various States and districts, particularly impacting students of color, those from low-income backgrounds, and English learners;

Whereas citizens who struggle to achieve reading proficiency are less likely to graduate high school or be employed and are more likely to be incarcerated;

Whereas the interim report by the National Reading Panel found that the cost to taxpayers of adult illiteracy is \$224,000,000,000 per year and that United States companies lost nearly \$40,000,000,000 annually because of illiteracy;

Whereas reading proficiency is linked to economic mobility and overall life success;

Whereas an interdisciplinary body of research, known as the science of reading, demonstrates the effectiveness of evidence-based reading strategies in improving literacy outcomes;

Whereas access to print reading materials and robust content knowledge is essential for literacy success, with disparities affecting millions of children, particularly those from low-income households and communities of color;

Whereas evidence-based reading strategies include reading instruction and interventions based on rigorous scientific research that have demonstrated effectiveness in improving literacy development and skills in phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension; and

Whereas the Federal Government currently invests in literacy education through programs under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.), the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (29 U.S.C. 3271 et seq.), and the

Museum and Library Services Act (20 U.S.C. 9101 et seq.): Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 2024 as “National Literacy Month”; and

(2) calls on the Federal Government, States, localities, schools, libraries, non-profit organizations, businesses, and the people of the United States to observe National Literacy Month with appropriate programs and activities.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 815—DESIGNATING THE WEEK BEGINNING ON SEPTEMBER 9, 2024, AS “NATIONAL HISPANIC-SERVING INSTITUTIONS WEEK”**

Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Ms. BUTLER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. KELLY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. REED, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. CASEY, and Mr. HEINRICH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

**S. RES. 815**

Whereas Hispanic-serving institutions are degree-granting institutions that have a full-time equivalent undergraduate enrollment of at least 25 percent Hispanic students;

Whereas Hispanic-serving institutions play an important role in educating many low-income and underserved students and creating opportunities and increasing access to higher education for such students;

Whereas, in the 2022–2023 academic year, 600 Hispanic-serving institutions operated in the United States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, enrolling more than 5,200,000 students;

Whereas Hispanic-serving institutions are engines of economic mobility and a major contributor to the economic prosperity of the United States;

Whereas Hispanic-serving institutions represent 20 percent of all institutions of higher education, yet serve 31.7 percent of all undergraduate students and 66.2 percent of all Hispanic undergraduate students;

Whereas Hispanic-serving institutions are located in 28 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico;

Whereas the number of emerging Hispanic-serving institutions, defined as institutions that do not yet meet the threshold of 25 percent Hispanic full-time equivalent enrollment but serve a Hispanic student population of between 15 and 24.9 percent, stands at 412 institutions operating in 43 States and the District of Columbia;

Whereas Hispanic-serving institutions are actively involved in empowering and improving the communities in which the institutions are located;

Whereas Hispanic-serving institutions are leading efforts to increase Hispanic participation in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (commonly known as “STEM”);

Whereas 9 of the top 10 institutions of higher education ranked by the Social Mobility Index were Hispanic-serving institutions;

Whereas celebrating the vast contributions of Hispanic-serving institutions strengthens the culture of the United States; and

Whereas the achievements and goals of Hispanic-serving institutions deserve national recognition: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the achievements and goals of Hispanic-serving institutions across the United States;

(2) expresses support for the designation of “National Hispanic-serving institutions Week”; and

(3) 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 Hispanic-serving institutions in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 816—RECOGNIZING THE 73RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE PHILIPPINES AND THE STRONG BILATERAL SECURITY ALLIANCE BETWEEN OUR TWO NATIONS IN THE WAKE OF PERSISTENT AND ESCALATING AGGRESSION BY THE PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF CHINA IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA**

Mr. RICKETTS (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. KAINE, Mr. CRUZ, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. SCHATZ, and Mr. ROMNEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 816

Whereas the United States and the Philippines have maintained diplomatic relations for 78 years, founded on the basis of deeply interconnected strategic and economic interests and close bonds between our two populations;

Whereas the United States-Philippines partnership was forged in blood, as more than 20,000 Americans and hundreds of thousands of Filipinos were killed during the Philippines campaigns during World War II;

Whereas, following the Japanese invasion and occupation of the Philippines from 1941 to 1945, the former United States commonwealth secured its official independence on July 4, 1946;

Whereas, in March 1947, the United States and the Philippines signed a Military Bases Agreement;

Whereas, on August 30, 1951, the United States and the Philippines signed a Mutual Defense Treaty;

Whereas the Mutual Defense Treaty makes clear the United States-Philippine collective intent to resolve international disputes peacefully, undertake separate and joint development of the capacity to resist attack, and consult with one another when the territorial integrity, political independence, or security of the United States or the Philippines is under threat of external armed attack in the Pacific;

Whereas the Mutual Defense Treaty is the foundation of our security alliance and all other enabling defense agreements between the United States and the Philippines, including the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement;

Whereas the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement allows for a strengthened United States military presence in the Philippines to increase bilateral cooperation and interoperability and to provide training to the Armed Forces of the Philippines, with increased rotation of United States military

personnel and assistance devoted to strengthening the territorial defense and humanitarian and maritime operations of the Philippines;

Whereas, in February 2023, the United States and the Philippines committed to designating four additional locations under the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement, increasing the total from five to nine;

Whereas those locations have strategic value for the United States and the Philippines, increase confidence in the alliance, and provide real opportunities for operational cooperation to advance shared security priorities;

Whereas the Mutual Defense Treaty serves as a deterrent against the increasing territorial aggression by the People’s Republic of China in the South China Sea;

Whereas, in 2009, the People’s Republic of China began unlawfully extending its territorial and sovereignty claims in the South China Sea under its “nine-dash line” construct, violating the territorial rights and internationally recognized exclusive economic zones of the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia, and Vietnam;

Whereas, since 2014, the People’s Republic of China has substantially expanded its ability to monitor and project power throughout the South China Sea via the construction of militarized artificial islands;

Whereas, on September 25, 2015, at the White House, President of the People’s Republic of China Xi Jinping stated that “China does not intend to pursue militarization” of the Spratly Islands and China’s outposts would not “target or impact any country”;

Whereas, on July 12, 2016, the arbitral tribunal constituted under Annex VII to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea unanimously decided to invalidate the People’s Republic of China’s claim to nearly 90 percent of the South China Sea, including areas determined by the tribunal to be part of the Philippines’ exclusive economic zone and continental shelf;

Whereas, despite the decision being final and legally binding, the People’s Republic of China, which refused to participate in the arbitration, has continued to reject and further violate the decision;

Whereas the People’s Republic of China has employed a variety of assertive and aggressive tactics against the Philippines, including through its coast guard, research vessels, and commercial maritime vessels, to coerce and enforce its arbitrary and unlawful territorial claims in the South China Sea, such as by ramming, shadowing, blocking, encircling, firing water cannons at, and using military-grade lasers against Philippine civilian ships and military vessels;

Whereas the People’s Republic of China has repeatedly denied the Philippines from lawfully delivering humanitarian supplies to members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines stationed at the BRP Sierra Madre at Second Thomas Shoal;

Whereas, on June 17, 2024, coast guard sailers from the People’s Republic of China brandished knives and other weapons in a clash with Philippine naval vessels attempting to resupply marines on Second Thomas Shoal, resulting in a severe injury to a member of the Armed Forces of the Philippines;

Whereas, on August 8, 2024, the People’s Republic of China dangerously and provocatively dropped flares in the path of a Philippine Air Force aircraft conducting a routine patrol over the Scarborough Shoal;

Whereas, on August 19, 2024, People’s Republic of China Coast Guard vessels performed aggressive maneuvers in the South China Sea, recklessly colliding with and damaging two Philippine Coast Guard vessels near the Sabina Shoal;

Whereas, on August 27, 2024, the Commander of the United States Indo-Pacific Command, Admiral Samuel Paparo, said the United States military is open to consultations with the Philippines about escorting Philippine ships delivering food and other supplies to the Armed Forces of the Philippines in the South China Sea;

Whereas, on August 31, 2024, a People’s Republic of China Coast Guard ship rammed a Philippine Coast Guard ship, the BRP Teresa Magbanua, three times without any provocation, causing damage to the Philippine ship near the Sabina Shoal; and

Whereas August 30, 2024, marked the 73rd anniversary of the signing of the Mutual Defense Treaty between the United States and the Philippines: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) celebrates the 73rd anniversary of the signing of the Mutual Defense Treaty between the United States and the Philippines and the longstanding alliance between our two nations;

(2) appreciates the trust of the Philippine people in the bilateral alliance and their support for increased defense cooperation and United States military presence in the Philippines;

(3) acknowledges the determination of the Philippine people and the Armed Forces of the Philippines to resist coercion by the People’s Republic of China;

(4) condemns the People’s Republic of China’s persistent and unprovoked aggression in the South China Sea to enforce its unlawful territorial and sovereignty claims;

(5) reaffirms that Article IV of the Mutual Defense Treaty extends to armed attacks on the Armed Forces, public vessels, or aircraft of the Philippines, including the Philippine Coast Guard, anywhere in the South China Sea;

(6) considers aggression by the People’s Republic of China in the Philippines’ internationally recognized exclusive economic zone to be a direct assault on its sovereignty and territorial integrity;

(7) urges the President to take appropriate and necessary actions in response to escalatory behavior of the People’s Republic of China in order to restore deterrence and help the Philippines defend itself;

(8) supports the unwavering commitment of the United States to deepening security cooperation with the Philippines, including advancing Philippine defense modernization and enhancing interoperability through military exercises, training, joint patrols, and increased information sharing;

(9) supports other nations growing their political and security partnerships with the Philippines;

(10) commits to advance cooperation among the United States, the Philippines, Japan, South Korea, and Australia; and

(11) reaffirms the commitment of the United States to the right to freedom of navigation and overflight, respecting maritime rights under international law, and ensuring a free and open Indo-Pacific.

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 41—SETTING FORTH THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET FOR THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025 AND SETTING FORTH THE APPROPRIATE BUDGETARY LEVELS FOR FISCAL YEARS 2026 THROUGH 2034**

Mr. PAUL submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was placed on the calendar: