

was barely a decade removed from independence, demonstrating that the founders understood the critical link between navigational safety, commerce, and the survival of the young republic;

Whereas, from the Atlantic shores to the Great Lakes and from the Gulf Coast to the Pacific frontier, the system of lighthouses and light stations of the United States has guided countless vessels through treacherous waters, enabling the expansion of trade and the growth of coastal communities that shaped the story of the United States;

Whereas these sentinel towers, standing at the intersection of land and sea, have long symbolized safety, vigilance, and faithfulness to all who venture upon the waters, and the dedicated individuals who tended their lights, often in isolation and at great personal risk, embody the finest traditions of service to others;

Whereas lighthouse keeping was rarely a solitary endeavor but rather a family calling, with wives, children, and extended kin sharing the demanding work of maintaining the light, tending the grounds, and standing watch through long nights and fierce storms, a tradition that made light stations not merely places of employment but homes where generations learned the meaning of duty and sacrifice;

Whereas among those who served were countless women, including widows who assumed keeper duties after the death of a husband, daughters who grew up tending the light alongside their fathers, and women appointed in their own right to positions that were among the first Federal non-clerical jobs open to women;

Whereas the automation of lighthouses in the United States ended the era of manned light stations and exposed these historic structures to the threats of neglect and vandalism and the ravages of time and the elements;

Whereas chapter 3051 of title 54, United States Code (formerly known as the "National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Act of 2000" (Public Law 106-355; 114 Stat. 1385)), established an effective process administered by the General Services Administration, the National Park Service, and the United States Coast Guard for transferring lighthouses to qualified stewardship groups, ensuring that these irreplaceable landmarks remain in public hands for future generations;

Whereas numerous national, regional, and local organizations have worked tirelessly to restore and preserve lighthouses in the United States, educate the public about their history, and ensure that these beacons continue to illuminate the maritime heritage of the United States;

Whereas, through the development of cultural tourism, preserved lighthouses contribute meaningfully to the economies of coastal communities across the United States, drawing visitors who come to experience the beauty and history of these iconic structures;

Whereas 2026 marks the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States, known as the United States Semiquincentennial, a moment of national reflection that calls upon the people of the United States to honor the full breadth of the heritage of the United States, including the lighthouses and keepers who have guided its maritime history; and

Whereas, despite significant progress, many lighthouses across the country remain threatened by erosion, neglect, and deterioration, underscoring the need for continued public awareness and support: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates August 7, 2026, as "National Lighthouse Day";

(2) encourages lighthouse grounds to be opened to the general public to the extent feasible;

(3) calls upon the people of the United States to observe National Lighthouse Day with ceremonies and activities that celebrate the maritime heritage of the United States, including visiting historic lighthouse sites, supporting preservation efforts, and becoming involved with organizations dedicated to lighthouse education and historic landmark preservation; and

(4) reaffirms the commitment of the Senate to supporting the preservation and restoration of historic lighthouses as enduring monuments to the maritime history of the United States and the individuals who kept their lights burning.

SENATE RESOLUTION 821—DESIGNATING JULY 30, 2026, AS "NATIONAL WHISTLEBLOWER APPRECIATION DAY"

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. JOHNSON, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. ERNST, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. LANKFORD, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. LUJÁN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. PETERS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 821

Whereas, in 1777, before the passage of the Bill of Rights, 10 sailors and marines blew the whistle on fraud and misconduct that was harmful to the United States;

Whereas the Founding Fathers unanimously supported the whistleblowers in words and deeds, including by releasing government records and providing monetary assistance for the reasonable legal expenses necessary to prevent retaliation against the whistleblowers;

Whereas, on July 30, 1778, in demonstration of their full support for whistleblowers, the members of the Continental Congress unanimously passed the first whistleblower legislation in the United States that read: "*Resolved*, That it is the duty of all persons in the service of the United States, as well as all other the inhabitants thereof, to give the earliest information to Congress or other proper authority of any misconduct, frauds or misdemeanors committed by any officers or persons in the service of these states, which may come to their knowledge" (legislation of July 30, 1778, reprinted in *Journals of the Continental Congress, 1774-1789*, ed. Worthington C. Ford et al. (Washington, DC, 1904-37), 11:732);

Whereas whistleblowers risk their careers, jobs, and reputations by reporting waste, fraud, and abuse to the proper authorities;

Whereas, in providing the proper authorities with lawful disclosures, whistleblowers save the taxpayers of the United States billions of dollars each year and serve the public interest by ensuring that the United States remains an ethical and safe place; and

Whereas it is the public policy of the United States to encourage, in accordance with Federal law (including the Constitution of the United States, rules, and regulations) and consistent with the protection of classified information (including sources and methods of detection of classified information), honest and good faith reporting of misconduct, fraud, misdemeanors, and other crimes to the appropriate authority at the earliest time possible: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates July 30, 2026, as "National Whistleblower Appreciation Day"; and

(2) ensures that the Federal Government implements the intent of the Founding Fathers, as reflected in the legislation passed on July 30, 1778 (relating to whistleblowers), by encouraging each executive agency to recognize National Whistleblower Appreciation Day by—

(A) informing employees, contractors working on behalf of the taxpayers of the United States, and members of the public about the legal right of a United States citizen to "blow the whistle" to the appropriate authority by honest and good faith reporting of misconduct, fraud, misdemeanors, or other crimes; and

(B) acknowledging the contributions of whistleblowers to combating waste, fraud, abuse, and violations of laws and regulations of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 822—DESIGNATING JULY 2026 AS "AMERICAN GROWN FLOWER AND FOLIAGE MONTH"

Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mr. SULLIVAN, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. KIM, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. BOOKER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 822

Whereas cut flower and foliage growers in the United States are hard-working, dedicated individuals who bring beauty, economic stimulus, and pride to their communities and the United States;

Whereas the people of the United States have a long history of using flowers and foliage grown in the United States to bring beauty to important events and express affection for loved ones;

Whereas consumers spend more than \$70,000,000,000 each year on floral products, including cut flowers, garden plants, bedding, and indoor plants;

Whereas, each year, an increasing number of households in the United States purchase fresh cut flowers and foliage from more than 18,000 florists and floral establishments;

Whereas the annual per capita spending on floral products by consumers in the United States is more than \$260;

Whereas the people of the United States increasingly want to support domestically produced food and agricultural products and would prefer to buy locally grown flowers and foliage whenever possible, yet the majority of domestic consumers do not know where the flowers and foliage they purchase are grown;

Whereas, in response to increased demand, the "American Grown Flowers" logo was created in July 2014 to educate and empower consumers to purchase flowers and foliage from domestic producers;

Whereas millions of stems of domestically grown flowers and foliage are now labeled as "American Grown Flowers";

Whereas domestic flower and foliage farmers produce thousands of varieties of flowers and foliage across the United States, such as peonies in Alaska, Gerbera daisies in California, lupines in Maine, tulips in Washington, lilies in Oregon, larkspur in Texas, leatherleaf in Florida, and orchids in Hawaii;

Whereas the flower and foliage varieties with the highest production in the United States are roses, sunflowers, tulips, lilies, peonies, leatherleaf, eucalyptus, magnolia, leucadendron, and pittosporum;

Whereas people in every State have access to domestically grown flowers and foliage,

yet only 15 percent of flowers and foliage sold in the United States is domestically grown;

Whereas the domestic cut flower and foliage industry—

(1) creates a substantial economic impact daily; and

(2) supports hundreds of growers, thousands of small businesses, and tens of thousands of jobs in the United States;

Whereas most domestic cut flowers and foliage are sold in the United States within 24 to 48 hours after harvest and last longer than flowers shipped longer distances;

Whereas flowers and foliage grown domestically enhance the ability of the people of the United States to festively celebrate weddings and births and honor those who have passed;

Whereas flower and foliage giving has been a holiday tradition in the United States for generations;

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

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

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

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates July 2026 as “American Grown Flower and Foliage Month”;

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

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

(4) recognizes that cultivating flowers and foliage 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 foliage grown in the United States in order to show support for—

(A) the flower and foliage farmers, processors, and distributors in the United States; and

(B) the agricultural industry of the United States overall.

SENATE RESOLUTION 823—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF AUGUST 2 THROUGH AUGUST 8, 2026, AS “NATIONAL FARMERS MARKET WEEK”

Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Ms. ERNST, Mr. KING, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. WELCH, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. JUSTICE, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. MARSHALL, and Mr. TILLIS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 823

Whereas farmers markets accounted for \$1,700,000,000 in income for farmers of the United States in 2020, demonstrating the crucial role of farmers markets in local economies;

Whereas, according to the Agricultural Marketing Service of the Department of Ag-

riculture, the number of farmers markets in the United States rose from 1,755 in 1994 to 8,771 in 2019, an average growth of nearly 7 percent per year;

Whereas farmers markets serve as significant educational sites and as bridges between urban and rural communities, contributing to a better public understanding of farming and ranching;

Whereas the adoption of more sustainable farming practices is closely associated with farmer-to-consumer interactions facilitated by farmers markets;

Whereas farmers markets and direct marketing farmers help improve the health and wellness of low-income people in the United States who receive Federal nutrition benefits; and

Whereas National Farmers Market Week is a time to recognize the unique and indispensable role farmers markets play in supporting food access, bolstering local economies, promoting healthy communities, and fostering sustainable farming: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of August 2 through August 8, 2026, as “National Farmers Market Week”; and

(2) recognizes the vital role that farmers markets play in bringing communities together and in supporting the livelihoods of millions of people in the United States, from farmers and food producers to consumers.

SENATE RESOLUTION 824—DESIGNATING AUGUST 1, 2026, AS “GOLD STAR CHILDREN'S DAY”

Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mr. KELLY, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. COONS, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. JUSTICE, Mr. KAINE, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KIM, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. MOODY, Mr. OSSOFF, and Mr. ROUNDS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 824

Whereas the recognition of Gold Star Families in the United States dates back to World War I, when the families of fallen members of the Armed Forces displayed a service flag with a gold star in the window of their homes;

Whereas, in 1936, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed into law legislation declaring Gold Star Mother's Day, now known as “Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day”, a national observance honoring the mothers of fallen members of the Armed Forces annually on the last Sunday of September;

Whereas, since 2010, the Senate has honored Gold Star Spouses by resolution annually on April 5, recognizing the unique sacrifices made by spouses of fallen members of the Armed Forces;

Whereas many thousands of children of military families have lost parents who served in the Armed Forces and also deserve national recognition for the burden and legacy they carry; and

Whereas, since 2021, the Senate has honored Gold Star Children by resolution annually on August 1, recognizing the debt of gratitude owed to children of fallen members of the Armed Forces by the people of the United States as part of the debt owed to the members of the Armed Forces who sacrificed all in protecting the freedom of the United States and the people of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates August 1, 2026, as “Gold Star Children's Day”;

(2) honors the sacrifices and hardships of the children of fallen members of the Armed Forces; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe Gold Star Children's Day in support of children of the fallen members of the Armed Forces of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 825—COMMENDING MISSISSIPPI CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY FOR 200 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI AND THE UNITED STATES

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH (for herself and Mr. WICKER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 825

Whereas, on January 24, 1826, the Mississippi Legislature passed, and Governor David Holmes signed into law, an Act establishing Hampstead Academy in Hinds County, Mississippi, making what is now Mississippi Christian University the oldest institution of higher learning in Mississippi;

Whereas, in 1827, Hampstead Academy changed its name to “Mississippi Academy,” and, in 1830, the institution became “Mississippi College,” offering degrees in arts, sciences, and languages;

Whereas, in 1831, Mississippi College became the first coeducational institution of higher learning in the United States to grant degrees to women, bestowing diplomas upon Alice Robinson and Catherine Hall;

Whereas, in 1850, Mississippi College became affiliated with the Mississippi Baptist Convention, making it the second-oldest Baptist college in the United States;

Whereas, in 1921, the Mississippi College athletic teams became known as the Choctaws, paying homage to the Native American heritage of the region;

Whereas the formal graduate program of Mississippi College was established in 1950, followed by the addition of the School of Nursing in 1969 and the School of Law in 1975;

Whereas, in 2003, the Mississippi College Foundation was established to strengthen ongoing giving, which supports the vision of Mississippi College and recognizes its academic excellence and commitment to the cause of Christ;

Whereas, in 2005, the Tribal Council of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians passed a resolution supporting the continued use of the name “Choctaw” and related symbols by Mississippi College;

Whereas, in 2011, Mississippi College launched the first physician assistant program in the State of Mississippi and awarded its first educational leadership doctorate;

Whereas, in 2019, the Mississippi College Honors College was established and the Edward McMillan Center for Education Abroad was launched;

Whereas, in 2022, the Leland Speed Scholarship program, named in honor of longtime benefactor Leland Speed, was established, offering scholarships for eligible Mississippi students and leading to a record-breaking class of more than 1,000 new students in the fall of 2023;

Whereas, in 2023, the Gore Arts Complex, named in honor of renowned artist Dr. Samuel Gore, was dedicated and became home to the art programs of Mississippi College and the Institute for Southern Storytelling, representing the latest chapter in a legacy of