

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 105

Designating April 24 through 26, 2009, as “Global Youth Service Days”.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 20, 2009

Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. BURR, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. DODD, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. INOUYE, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. HATCH, Mr. GREGG, Mr. BROWN, and Mrs. HAGAN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Designating April 24 through 26, 2009, as “Global Youth Service Days”.

Whereas Global Youth Service Days is an annual public awareness and education campaign that highlights the valuable contributions that young people make to their communities throughout the year;

Whereas the goals of Global Youth Service Days are to mobilize the youth of the United States to identify and address the needs of their communities through community service and service-learning opportunities, to support

young people in embarking on a lifelong path of volunteer service and civic engagement, and to educate the public, the media, and policymakers about contributions made by young people as community leaders throughout the year;

Whereas Global Youth Service Days, a program of Youth Service America, is the largest service event in the world and in 2009 is being observed for the 21st consecutive year in the United States and for the 10th year in more than 100 countries;

Whereas young people in the United States and in many other countries are providing more volunteer service to their communities than in any other generation in history, thereby demonstrating that children and youth not only represent the future of the world but are also leaders and assets today;

Whereas recent research shows that when high quality, semester-long service-learning is used as a teaching and learning strategy that integrates meaningful community service with the academic curriculum, it increases students' cognitive engagement, motivation to learn, school attendance, and academic achievement scores;

Whereas several private foundations and corporations in the United States support community service and service-learning as a means for young people to explore career aspirations and develop the leadership and career-preparedness skills that are necessary for the United States to be competitive in the 21st century, including time management, decision-making, teamwork, and problem solving;

Whereas a fundamental and conclusive correlation exists between youth service, character development, lifelong adult

volunteering, philanthropy, and other forms of civic engagement;

Whereas community service and service-learning provide opportunities for youth to apply their knowledge, idealism, energy, creativity, and unique perspectives to improve their communities by addressing a myriad of critical issues, such as poverty, hunger, illiteracy, education, natural disasters, and climate change;

Whereas a growing number of Global Youth Service Days projects involve youth working collaboratively across borders to address global issues, to increase intercultural understanding, and to promote the sense that they are global citizens;

Whereas Global Youth Service Days engages millions of young people worldwide with the support of 50 International Coordinating Committee member organizations, more than 150 National Partners in the United States, 75 State and local Global Youth Service Days Lead Agencies, and thousands of local organizers; and

Whereas both young people and their communities will benefit greatly from expanded opportunities for youth to engage in volunteer community service and service-learning;

Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) recognizes and commends the significant
3 contributions of the youth of the United States and
4 encourages the cultivation of a civic bond between
5 young people dedicated to serving their neighbors,
6 their communities, and the Nation;

5 (A) encouraging youth to participate in
6 community service and service-learning projects
7 and joining youth in such projects;

11 (C) supporting the volunteer efforts of
12 young people and engaging them in meaningful
13 community service, service-learning, and deci-
14 sion-making opportunities, as an investment in
15 the future of the United States.

○