

Boyce on February 8, 1910, after William Boyce learned of the Scouting movement during a visit to London;

Whereas, on June 21, 1910, a group of 34 national representatives met, developed organization plans, and opened a temporary national headquarters for the Boy Scouts of America in New York;

Whereas the purpose of the Boy Scouts of America is to teach the youth of the United States patriotism, courage, self-reliance, and kindred values;

Whereas, by 1912, Boy Scouts were enrolled in every State;

Whereas, in 1916, Congress granted the Boy Scouts of America a Federal charter;

Whereas each local Boy Scout Council commits each Boy Scout to perform 12 hours of community service yearly, for a total of 30,000,000 community service hours each year;

Whereas, since 1910, more than 111,000,000 people have been members of the Boy Scouts of America;

Whereas Boy Scouts are found in 185 countries around the world;

Whereas the Boy Scouts of America will present the 2 millionth Eagle Scout award in 2009;

Whereas more than 1,000,000 adult volunteer leaders selflessly serve young people in their communities through organizations chartered by the Boy Scouts of America;

Whereas the adult volunteer leaders of the Boy Scouts of America often neither receive nor seek the gratitude of the public; and

Whereas the Boy Scouts of America endeavors to develop United States citizens who are physically, mentally, and emotionally fit, have a high degree of self-reliance demonstrated by such qualities as initiative, courage, and resourcefulness, have personal values based on religious concepts, have the desire and skills to help others, understand the principles of the social, economic, and governmental systems of the United States, take pride in the heritage of the United States and understand the role of the United States in the world, have a keen respect for the basic rights of all people, and are prepared to participate in and give leadership to the society of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate designates February 8, 2010, as "Boy Scouts of America Day", in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the largest youth scouting organization in the United States.

LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 318 submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 318) supporting "Lights On Afterschool," a national celebration of afterschool programs.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, today Senator ENSIGN and I are submitting a resolution designating October 22, 2009, Lights On Afterschool Day. Lights On Afterschool brings students, parents, educators, lawmakers, and community and business leaders together to celebrate afterschool programs. This year, more than 1 million Americans are ex-

pected to attend about 7,500 events designed to raise awareness and support for these much needed programs.

In America today, 1 in 4 youth, more than 15 million children, go home alone after the school day ends. This includes more than 40,000 kindergartners and almost 4 million middle school students in grades six to eight. On the other hand, only 8.4 million children, or approximately 15 percent of school-aged children, participate in afterschool programs. An additional 18.5 million would participate if a quality program were available in their community.

Lights On Afterschool, a national celebration of afterschool programs, is celebrated every October in communities nationwide to call attention to the importance of afterschool programs for America's children, families and communities. Lights On Afterschool was launched in October 2000 with celebrations in more than 1,200 communities nationwide. The event has grown from 1,200 celebrations in 2001 to more than 7,500 today. This October, 1 million Americans will celebrate Lights On Afterschool.

Quality afterschool programs should be available to children in all communities. These programs support working families and prevent kids from being both victims and perpetrators of violent crime. They also help parents in balancing the work and home-life. Quality afterschool programs help to engage students in their communities, and when students are engaged, they are more successful in their educational endeavors.

In our work on the Senate Afterschool Caucus, Senator ENSIGN and I have been working for more than 5 years to impress upon our colleagues the importance of afterschool programming. It is our hope that they will join us on October 22 to celebrate the importance of afterschool programs in their communities back home.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements related to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 318) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 318

Whereas high-quality afterschool programs provide safe, challenging, engaging, and fun learning experiences that help children and youth develop their social, emotional, physical, cultural, and academic skills;

Whereas high-quality afterschool programs support working families by ensuring that the children in such families are safe and productive after the regular school day ends;

Whereas high-quality afterschool programs build stronger communities by involving the Nation's students, parents, business leaders, and adult volunteers in the lives of the Nation's youth, thereby promoting positive re-

lationships among children, youth, families, and adults;

Whereas high-quality afterschool programs engage families, schools, and diverse community partners in advancing the well-being of the Nation's children;

Whereas "Lights On Afterschool", a national celebration of afterschool programs held on October 22, 2009, highlights the critical importance of high-quality afterschool programs in the lives of children, their families, and their communities;

Whereas more than 28,000,000 children in the United States have parents who work outside the home and 15,100,000 children in the United States have no place to go after school; and

Whereas many afterschool programs across the United States are struggling to keep their doors open and their lights on: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate supports the goals and ideals of "Lights On Afterschool", a national celebration of afterschool programs.

COMMEMORATING WOMEN MEMBERSHIP IN THE NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate now proceed to consideration of S. Res. 319, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BEGICH). The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 319) commemorating 40 years of membership of women in the National FFA Organization and celebrating the achievements and contributions of female members of the National FFA organization.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. JOHANNIS. Mr. President, I rise today in support of this resolution to commemorate 40 years of membership by women in the National FFA Organization and to celebrate the achievements and contributions of female FFA members.

It was 40 years ago, during the 1969 National FFA Convention, that delegates voted to allow women to join the FFA.

Today, 41 percent of all members of the National FFA Organization are women, and more than 50 percent of leadership positions in the National FFA are held by women.

In my home State of Nebraska, more than 800 females have received their American FFA Degrees, the highest honor that can be awarded to an FFA member.

To be eligible for the American Degree, members must have earned and productively invested \$7,500 through a supervised agricultural experience program where FFA members live out their motto of learning by doing.

American Degree recipients must also make it their mission to demonstrate outstanding leadership abilities and community involvement.

More than 2,400 women in Nebraska have been awarded State FFA Degrees for their accomplishments in their local chapters and agricultural education classes.

Nebraska also boasts more than 260 female State Proficiency winners and 5 female National Proficiency winners. These students represent the best of the best, having achieved the highest level of excellence in their chosen fields.

Ninety women in Nebraska have served as State FFA Officers, with 8 serving as President. Four Nebraska females have served as National FFA Officers. These leaders have invested their time and talents in building influential relationships with members and growing the Organization.

The contributions of female members have helped the National FFA Organization to become a premier student leadership organization, comprised of more than 507,000 members in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

The FFA's mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agriculture education.

Today I am proud to offer a resolution to recognize the positive contributions female members have made to achieve FFA's goals of proficient agricultural leadership and advocacy, community citizenship, volunteerism, and cooperation.

I congratulate the National FFA Organization for 40 years of membership by women and for its role in developing tomorrow's leaders.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 319) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 319

Whereas the National FFA Organization is a premier student leadership organization with more than 507,000 members in all 50 States, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands;

Whereas the mission of the National FFA Organization is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education;

Whereas women were first admitted as members of the National FFA Organization in 1969 at the 42nd Annual National FFA Convention;

Whereas, by 2009, 41 percent of all members of the National FFA Organization were women, and more than 50 percent of leadership positions in the National FFA Organization were held by women; and

Whereas female members have made positive contributions to the goals of the National FFA Organization, including proficient agricultural leadership and advocacy, community citizenship, volunteerism, and cooperation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate congratulates the National FFA Organization for 40 years of membership by women and celebrates the achievements and contributions of female members of the National FFA Organization.

Mr. DURBIN. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar Nos. 132, 475, 476, 479, 485, 486; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc; that no further motions be in order; that any statements relating to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; provided further that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; further, that the cloture motion with respect to Calendar No. 132 be withdrawn and the Senate then return to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION

William K. Sessions III, of Vermont, to be Chair of the United States Sentencing Commission.

William E. Spriggs, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor.

Joseph A. Main, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Mine Safety and Health.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Jose Antonio Garcia, of Florida, to be Director of the Office of Minority Economic Impact, Department of Energy, vice Theresa Alvillar-Speake, resigned.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Marcia K. McNutt, of California, to be Director of the United States Geological Survey.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Arun Majumdar, of California, to be Director of the Advanced Research Projects Agency—Energy, Department of Energy.

NOMINATION OF WILLIAM K. SESSIONS III

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today, the Senate is taking action long delayed by an anonymous Republican hold. That hold has extended for almost 6 months without explanation. I have spoken repeatedly to the Republican leader, the assistant Republican leader, and the ranking Republican on the Senate Judiciary Committee. No one has given me any explanation for the hold. When the Senate majority leader asked back in early June to proceed to the nomination that was reported without objection by the Senate Judiciary Committee on May 7, the Republican leader objected, saying "we have not had an opportunity to get that cleared." They had had a month;

another 4 months have now passed. In violation of the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act, no Republican Senator has come forward in all this time to identify himself and specify a reason for the hold.

Judge Sessions is an extraordinary public servant. Judge Sessions has twice previously been confirmed unanimously by the Senate to serve on the Sentencing Commission. He has served with distinction for 10 years, and has served as a vice chair of the Sentencing Commission. He is a distinguished U.S. Federal judge who has served for 14 years and now serves as the chief judge for the District of Vermont. He is a member of the Judicial Conference of the United States, made up of the leaders of the Federal judiciary. He has also contributed to his local community as a public defender, an adjunct law professor, and even as a coach of the local Little League team. A lawyer's lawyer and a judge's judge, he has earned the praise of both the prosecution bar and the defense bar.

Judge Sessions is eminently well qualified to serve as the chair of the Sentencing Commission. I must say that in my numerous conversations with Republican Senators and Republican Senate leaders during the last 6 months, no one raised any dispute or criticism or reason for this obstruction and delay.

This is most unfortunate because some of us have worked very hard to move beyond the era when delays in nominations to fill vacancies on the Sentencing Commission got so bad and extended so long that it drew the attention of the Chief Justice of the United States in his annual reports in 1997 and 1998. I have worked with the Republican chairmen and ranking members on the Judiciary Committee and consistently protected their rights and interests. I have treated their recommended nominees with respect and shown them support. I worked to break the impasse in the Republican-led Senate by working across the aisle and with the White House to develop a slate of nominees, Republican, Democratic and independent, that was confirmed as a group. Thereafter, I have worked conscientiously with the lead Republican on the Judiciary Committee to fill vacancies appropriately as they arose.

Most recently, I worked even during the last weeks of the Bush administration to have the Judiciary Committee report and the Senate confirm two nominees recommended and supported by Senate Republicans. William Carr, a recommendation from the ranking Republican on the Judiciary Committee, was confirmed on November 20, 2008, weeks after the Presidential election, and now serves as a vice chair. We also proceeded to confirm to another term Judge Ricardo Hinojosa, who I supported when he was nominated to the Commission by his friend President Bush in January 2003, when he was nominated and confirmed as chair in