

Whereas drug abuse and alcohol abuse contribute to domestic violence and sexual assault and place the lives of children at risk;

Whereas, between 1997 and 2007, the percentages of admissions to substance abuse treatment programs as a result of the abuse of marijuana and methamphetamines rose significantly;

Whereas drug dealers specifically target children by marketing illicit drugs that mimic the appearance and names of well-known brand-name candies and foods; and

Whereas parents, youth, schools, businesses, law enforcement agencies, religious institutions, service organizations, senior citizens, medical and military personnel, sports teams, and individuals throughout the United States will demonstrate their commitment to healthy, productive, and drug-free lifestyles by wearing and displaying red ribbons during the week-long celebration of Red Ribbon Week: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of Red Ribbon Week, 2010;

(2) encourages children and teens to choose to live drug-free lives; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to—

(A) promote the creation of drug-free communities; and

(B) participate in drug prevention activities to show support for healthy, productive, and drug-free lifestyles.

SENATE RESOLUTION 672—DESIGNATING OCTOBER 9, 2010, AS “NATIONAL CHESS DAY” TO ENHANCE AWARENESS AND ENCOURAGE STUDENTS AND ADULTS TO ENGAGE IN A GAME KNOWN TO ENHANCE CRITICAL THINKING AND PROBLEM-SOLVING SKILLS

Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself and Mrs. HUTCHISON) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 672

Whereas it is estimated that chess is played by 39,000,000 people in the United States;

Whereas there are over 75,000 members of the United States Chess Federation (referred to in this preamble as the “Federation”), and unknown numbers of additional people in the United States who play the game without joining an official organization;

Whereas approximately half of the members of the Federation are scholastic members, and many of the scholastic members join by the age of 10;

Whereas the Federation is very supportive of the scholastic programs and sponsors a Certified Chess Coach program that provides the coaches involved in the scholastic programs training and ensures schools and students can have confidence the program;

Whereas many studies have linked chess programs to the improvement of student scores in reading and math, as well as improved self-esteem, and the Federation offers a school curriculum to educators to help incorporate chess into the school curriculum;

Whereas chess is a powerful cognitive learning tool that can be used to successfully enhance reading and math concepts; and

Whereas chess engages students of all learning styles and strengths and promotes problem-solving and higher-level thinking skills: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 9, 2010, as “National Chess Day”; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to observe “National Chess Day” with appropriate programs and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 673—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT IT VALUES THE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA AS THE STATE PARTNER OF THE VERMONT NATIONAL GUARD OVER THE PAST 15 YEARS

Mr. LEAHY submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 673

Whereas the National Guard State Partnership Program was created by the Department of the Army in 1993 to link foreign partner countries with segments of the National Guard to foster mutual interests and establish long-term relationships;

Whereas in March 1995, after the signing of the Memorandum for Understanding in 1994, a Vermont State Partnership Program was established between the State of Vermont and the Republic of Macedonia;

Whereas since 1995, Macedonia and Vermont have participated in more than 200 joint activities;

Whereas more than 4,000 members of the Ministry of Defense and armed forces of Macedonia have received knowledge and training according to the standards, tactics, and strategies of the United States Armed Forces;

Whereas the joint activities of the Vermont Macedonia state partnership have shown the military of Macedonia how the military of the United States operates and have prepared and trained soldiers for international engagements, civil-military operations, crisis management, economic development, higher education, and environmental policy;

Whereas Macedonia has participated in NATO-led and international military missions in Afghanistan since August 2002 and increased troop levels in 2010;

Whereas the Government of Macedonia has made a substantial contribution of troops to the NATO International Security Assistance Force relative to the population size of the country;

Whereas the Government of Macedonia participates in regional cooperation initiatives and provides assistance to neighboring countries;

Whereas during the Kosovo crisis of 1999, territory in Macedonia served as a staging area and main corridor for logistical support to the NATO Kosovo Force (commonly referred to as “KFOR”);

Whereas the Government of Macedonia has led the KFOR Coordination Centre for logistical support in Skopje since 2006;

Whereas in the interest of a faithful partnership with the United States, the Government of Macedonia deployed troops to Iraq under the leadership of the Government of the United States until 2008;

Whereas soldiers from Macedonia earned 120 medals awarded by the United States;

Whereas in July 2006, the Government of Macedonia deployed a helicopter detachment unit and medical team to Bosnia and Herzegovina as part of Operation Althea led by the European Union, which continues today; and

Whereas since April 2010, troops from Macedonia have deployed to Afghanistan and have been embedded in the 86th Infantry Brigade Combat Team of the Vermont National Guard as a result of the longstanding mili-

tary partnership and spirit of mutual confidence and cooperation between Macedonia and Vermont: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the cooperation between the State of Vermont and the Republic of Macedonia and the joint military partnership between the Vermont National Guard and the Army of the Republic of Macedonia for the past 15 years;

(2) greatly appreciates these efforts by the Republic of Macedonia and congratulates the Government and people of Macedonia on their commitment to and participation with the Government and people of the United States and other countries in advancing peace, democracy, stability, and mutual understanding among governments and people around the world; and

(3) expresses appreciation for the joint endeavors of the Governments of Macedonia and the United States in combating terrorist activities around the world.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am pleased to introduce and bring to the Senate’s attention today a resolution which recognizes the value of the defense relationship between the National Guard of the State of Vermont and the military services of the Republic of Macedonia, under the National Guard State Partnership Program.

Time and again, the Republic of Macedonia has contributed to important NATO-led missions, including several hundred troops currently deployed to Afghanistan along with the 86th Infantry Brigade Combat Team of the Vermont National Guard. This relationship has yielded tangible benefits for both our countries, and I am proud of the role that Vermont has played in strengthening and broadening a growing international partnership.

The Vermont National Guard began its relationship with the armed services of the Republic of Macedonia in 1994, shortly after the Department of the Army created the National Guard State Partnership Program in 1993. Since 1995, the Republic of Macedonia and the Vermont Guard have participated in more than 200 joint activities, and more than 4000 members of the Macedonian Ministry of Defense have been trained by the Vermont Guard.

Macedonia has participated in NATO-led and international military missions in Afghanistan since August 2002, increasing its troop levels there in 2010. Especially given its relatively small population, Macedonia has made a substantial, needed and welcome contribution of troops to the NATO International Security Assistance Force.

Macedonia’s participation in international security efforts also precedes the Afghanistan deployment. During the Kosovo crisis of 1999, territory in Macedonia served as a staging area and main corridor for logistical support to the NATO Kosovo Force, commonly referred to as “KFOR,” and the Government of Macedonia has led the KFOR Coordination Centre for logistical support in Skopje since 2006. In the interest of underscoring a faithful partnership with the United States, the Government of Macedonia even deployed troops to Iraq until 2008. Macedonian