

and the United States. This resolution encourages the people of the United States to observe National Native American Heritage Month and Native American Heritage Day.

I call upon all of my colleagues to stand with me in support of this resolution.

SENATE RESOLUTION 562—DESIGNATING THE WEEK BEGINNING ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2012 AND ENDING ON SEPTEMBER 14, 2012 AS “NATIONAL HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY WEEK” TO RECOGNIZE THE VALUE OF HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY IN IMPROVING HEALTH QUALITY

Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Ms. SNOWE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 562

Whereas healthcare information technology and management systems have been recognized as essential tools for improving patient care, ensuring patient safety, stopping duplicative tests and paperwork, and reducing healthcare costs;

Whereas the Center for Information Technology Leadership has estimated that the implementation of national standards for interoperability and the exchange of health information would save the United States approximately \$77,000,000,000 in expenses relating to healthcare each year;

Whereas Congress has made a commitment to leveraging the benefits of healthcare information technology and management systems, including supporting the adoption of electronic health records that will help to reduce costs and improve quality while ensuring the privacy of patients;

Whereas the ability to exchange health information confidently and securely between different providers, systems, and insurers is critical to transforming the healthcare delivery system of the United States to improve clinical outcomes for patients, control costs, and expand access to care through the use of technology;

Whereas Congress has made real-time health information exchange a priority and an essential component of the Medicare and Medicaid Electronic Health Records Incentive Programs;

Whereas Congress has emphasized improving the quality and safety of delivery of healthcare in the United States; and

Whereas, since 2006, organizations across the United States have united to support National Health Information Technology Week to improve public awareness of the benefits of improved quality and cost efficiency of the healthcare system that the implementation of health information technology could achieve: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week beginning on September 10, 2012 and ending on September 14, 2012 as “National Health Information Technology Week”;

(2) recognizes the value of information technology and management systems in transforming healthcare for the people of the United States; and

(3) calls on all interested parties to promote the use of information technology and management systems to transform the healthcare system of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 563—DESIGNATING DECEMBER 3, 2012, AS “NATIONAL PHENYLKETONURIA AWARENESS DAY”

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

S. RES. 563

Whereas phenylketonuria is a rare, inherited metabolic disorder that is characterized by the inability of the body to process the essential amino acid phenylalanine, and which causes mental retardation and other neurological problems, such as memory loss and mood disorders, when treatment is not started within the first few weeks of life;

Whereas newborn screening for phenylketonuria was initiated in the United States in 1963 and was mandated by the Newborn Screening Saves Life Act of 2008 (42 U.S.C. 201 note);

Whereas approximately 1 of every 15,000 infants in the United States is born with phenylketonuria;

Whereas the 2012 Phenylketonuria Scientific Review Conference affirmed the recommendation of lifelong dietary treatment for phenylketonuria made by the National Institutes of Health Consensus Development Conference Statement 2000;

Whereas adults with phenylketonuria who discontinue treatment are at risk for other serious medical issues such as depression, impulse control disorder, phobias, tremors, and pareses;

Whereas women with phenylketonuria must maintain strict metabolic control before and during pregnancy to prevent fetal damage;

Whereas children born from untreated mothers with phenylketonuria may have a condition known as maternal PKU syndrome, which can cause small brains, mental retardation, birth defects of the heart, and low birth weight;

Whereas phenylketonuria is treated with medical food;

Whereas, although there is no cure for phenylketonuria, a treatment involving medical food and restricting phenylalanine intake can prevent progressive, irreversible brain damage;

Whereas maintaining a strict medical diet for phenylketonuria can be difficult to achieve, and poor metabolic control can result in a significant decline in mental and behavioral performance;

Whereas access to health coverage for medical food varies across the United States, and the long-term costs associated with caring for untreated children and adults far exceed the cost of providing medical food treatment;

Whereas scientists and researchers are hopeful that breakthroughs in phenylketonuria research will be forthcoming;

Whereas researchers across the United States are conducting important research projects involving phenylketonuria; and

Whereas the Senate is an institution that can raise awareness of phenylketonuria among the general public and the medical community: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates December 3, 2012, as “National Phenylketonuria Awareness Day”;

(2) encourages all people in the United States to become more informed about phenylketonuria; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit a copy of this resolution to the National PKU Alliance, a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of individuals with phenylketonuria.

SENATE RESOLUTION 564—DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2012 AS “NATIONAL MEDICINE ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH”

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. COONS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. CASEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 564

Whereas over-the-counter and prescription medicines approved by the Food and Drug Administration have been determined to be safe and effective when used properly;

Whereas the misuse or abuse of these medicines can be extremely dangerous and produce serious side effects;

Whereas the Office of National Drug Control Policy reports that medicine abuse is the fastest-growing drug problem in the United States, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has classified medicine abuse as an epidemic;

Whereas the 2011 Monitoring the Future survey, funded by the National Institutes of Health, and the 2011 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, sponsored by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, both illustrate that, after marijuana, over-the-counter and prescription medicines account for the most frequently abused drugs among 12th graders;

Whereas the access teenagers often have to prescription medicines in home medicine cabinets and the lack of understanding by teenagers of the potential harms of these powerful medicines make it more critical than ever to raise public awareness about the dangers of medicine abuse;

Whereas the Drug Enforcement Administration and many State and local law enforcement agencies have established drug disposal programs (commonly referred to as “take-back programs”) to facilitate the collection and destruction of unused, unwanted, or expired medications, thereby helping to take outdated or unused medications off household shelves and out of the reach of children and teenagers;

Whereas National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month promotes the message that over-the-counter and prescription medicines are to be taken only as labeled or prescribed, and that using such medicines to get high or in large doses can cause serious or life-threatening consequences;

Whereas observance of National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month should be encouraged at the national, state, and local levels to increase awareness of the abuse of medicines;

Whereas a nationwide prevention and education campaign has been launched by the national organization that represents 5,000 anti-drug coalitions nationwide, along with the association representing makers of over-the-counter medicines, to provide local coalitions with tools, training, and outreach strategies to engage and educate parents, grandparents, teachers, law enforcement officials, retailers, doctors, and other healthcare professionals about the potential harms of cough medicine abuse; and

Whereas educating the public about the dangers of medicine abuse, encouraging parents to talk about medicine abuse with their teenagers, mobilizing parents to safeguard their home medicine cabinets, and promoting abuse prevention are critical components of what must be a multi-pronged effort

to curb over-the-counter and prescription medicine abuse: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the month of October 2012 as “National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month”; and

(2) urges communities to carry out appropriate programs and activities to educate parents and youth of the potential dangers associated with medicine abuse.

SENATE RESOLUTION 565—EX-PRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF OCTOBER 20, 2012, AS THE “NATIONAL DAY ON WRITING”

Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, and Mr. AKAKA) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 565

Whereas people in the 21st century are writing more than ever before for personal, professional, and civic purposes;

Whereas the social nature of writing invites people of every age, profession, and walk of life to create meaning through composing;

Whereas more and more people in every occupation deem writing as essential and influential in their work;

Whereas writers continue to learn how to write for different purposes, audiences, and occasions throughout their lifetimes;

Whereas developing digital technologies expand the possibilities for composing in multiple media at a faster pace than ever before;

Whereas young people are leading the way in developing new forms of composing by using different forms of digital media;

Whereas effective communication contributes to building a global economy and a global community;

Whereas the National Council of Teachers of English, in conjunction with its many national and local partners, honors and celebrates the importance of writing through the National Day on Writing;

Whereas the National Day on Writing celebrates the foundational place of writing in the personal, professional, and civic lives of the people of the United States;

Whereas the National Day on Writing provides an opportunity for individuals across the United States to share and exhibit their written works through the National Gallery of Writing;

Whereas the National Day on Writing highlights the importance of writing instruction and practice at every educational level and in every subject area;

Whereas the National Day on Writing emphasizes the lifelong process of learning to write and compose for different audiences, purposes, and occasions;

Whereas the National Day on Writing honors the use of the full range of media for composing, from traditional tools like print, audio, and video, to Web 2.0 tools like blogs, wikis, and podcasts; and

Whereas the National Day on Writing encourages all people of the United States to write, as well as to enjoy and learn from the writing of others: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of October 20, 2012, as the “National Day on Writing”;

(2) strongly affirms the purposes of the National Day on Writing;

(3) encourages participation in the National Gallery of Writing, which serves as an exemplary living archive of the centrality of

writing in the lives of the people of the United States; and

(4) encourages educational institutions, businesses, community and civic associations, and other organizations to promote awareness of the National Day on Writing and celebrate the writing of the members those organizations through individual submissions to the National Gallery of Writing.

SENATE RESOLUTION 566—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 29, 2012, AS “NATIONAL ESTUARIES DAY”

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. KERRY, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mrs. MURRY, Mr. REED, Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WEBB, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. MENENDEZ) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 566

Whereas the estuary regions of the United States comprise a significant share of the national economy, with 53 percent of the population, 40 percent of the employment, and 49 percent of the economic output of the United States located in the estuary regions of the United States;

Whereas projections indicate that 75 percent of the total population of the United States will live and work in coastal counties by 2025;

Whereas coasts and estuaries contribute more than \$800,000,000,000 annually in trade and commerce to the United States economy;

Whereas more than 43 percent of all adults in the United States visit a sea coast or estuary at least once a year to participate in some form of recreation, generating \$8,000,000,000 to \$12,000,000,000 in revenue annually;

Whereas more than 28,000,000 jobs in the United States are supported by commercial and recreational fishing, boating, tourism, and other coastal industries that rely on healthy estuaries;

Whereas estuaries provide vital habitat for countless species of fish and wildlife, including many that are listed as threatened or endangered;

Whereas estuaries provide critical ecosystem services that protect human health and public safety, including water filtration, flood control, shoreline stabilization and erosion prevention, and the protection of coastal communities during extreme weather events;

Whereas the United States has lost more than 110,000,000 acres, or 50 percent, of the wetland of the United States since the first European settlers arrived;

Whereas bays once filled with fish and oysters have become dead zones filled with excess nutrients, chemical wastes, harmful algae, and marine debris;

Whereas changes in sea level can impact estuarine water quality and estuarine habitat;

Whereas the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1451 et seq.) declares that it is the national policy to preserve, protect, develop, and if possible, to restore or enhance, the resources of the coastal zone of the United States, including estuaries, for current and future generations;

Whereas 24 coastal and Great Lake States and territories of the United States contain a National Estuary Program or a National Estuarine Research Reserve System;

Whereas scientific study leads to better understanding of the benefits of estuaries to human and ecological communities;

Whereas the Federal Government, State, local, and tribal governments, national and community organizations, and individuals work together to effectively manage the estuaries of the United States;

Whereas estuary restoration efforts restore natural infrastructure in local communities in a cost effective manner, helping to create jobs and reestablish the natural functions of estuaries that yield countless benefits; and

Whereas September 29, 2012, has been designated as “National Estuaries Day” to increase awareness among all people of the United States, including Federal, State and local government officials, about the importance of healthy estuaries and the need to protect and restore estuaries: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 29, 2012, as “National Estuaries Day”;;

(2) supports the goals and ideals of National Estuaries Day;

(3) acknowledges the importance of estuaries to sustaining employment and the economic well-being and prosperity of the United States;

(4) recognizes that persistent threats undermine the health of the estuaries of the United States;

(5) applauds the work of national and community organizations and public partners that promote public awareness, understanding, protection, and restoration of estuaries;

(6) reaffirms the support of the Senate for estuaries, including the scientific study, preservation, protection, and restoration of estuaries; and

(7) expresses the intent of the Senate to continue working to understand, protect, and restore the estuaries of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 567—HONORING THE LIFE AND CAREER OF GEORGE HICKMAN

Ms. CANTWELL (for herself and Mrs. MURRAY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 567

Whereas George Hickman was renowned as a Tuskegee Airman, a treasured leader in the Seattle community, and the lucky charm of Seattle sports until his passing on August 19, 2012, at the age of 88;

Whereas George Hickman leaves behind a loving wife of 57 years, Doris, 4 children, Regina, Sherie, Vincent, and Shauneil, 3 grandchildren, and 1 great-grandchild;

Whereas George Hickman served as a Tuskegee Airman and was one of the first African-American fighter pilots trained for World War II;

Whereas George Hickman served in the United States Army Air Corps from 1943 to 1945;

Whereas the honorable service of George Hickman and the other Tuskegee Airmen directly led to the desegregation of the Armed Forces of the United States;

Whereas George Hickman received the Congressional Gold Medal in 2007 with his fellow Tuskegee Airmen;

Whereas George Hickman was a special guest along with nearly 200 other Tuskegee Airmen at the 2009 inauguration of President Barack Obama;

Whereas George Hickman worked as a B-52 engineer for Boeing from 1955 until his retirement in 1984;