

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;

Whereas George Hickman was a beloved usher at University of Washington athletic events for more than 40 years; and

Whereas George Hickman also was a fan favorite as an usher at Seattle Seahawks games for nearly a decade: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the long and loving life of George Hickman, his service to the United States as a Tuskegee Airman, and his role as an aviation pioneer;

(2) recognizes the service George Hickman performed for his country and his significance as a role model for African-American military pilots;

(3) recognizes the contributions of the greatest generation who fought for the freedoms of the people of the United States; and

(4) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution for appropriate display to Doris Hickman, the University of Washington Athletic Department, and the Seattle Seahawks organization.

SENATE RESOLUTION 568—DESIGNATING THE WEEK BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 16, 2012, AS “NATIONAL HISPANIC-SERVING INSTITUTIONS WEEK”

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. REID, Mr. BEGICH, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. HELLER, Mr. ENZI, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. BENNET, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. COONS, Mr. LAUTENBERG, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 568

Whereas Hispanic-serving institutions play an important role in educating many underprivileged students and helping those students attain their full potential through higher education;

Whereas Hispanic-serving institutions are degree-granting institutions that have a full-time equivalent undergraduate enrollment of at least 25 percent Hispanic students;

Whereas there are more than 300 Hispanic-serving institutions in operation in the United States;

Whereas Hispanic-serving institutions serve more than half (54 percent) of all Hispanic students, enrolling more than 1,300,000 students in 2010;

Whereas Hispanic-serving institutions are actively involved in stabilizing and improving the communities in which the Hispanic-serving institutions are located;

Whereas celebrating the vast contributions of Hispanic-serving institutions to the United States strengthens the culture of the United States; and

Whereas the achievements and goals of Hispanic-serving institutions are deserving of national recognition: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the achievements and goals of Hispanic-serving institutions across the United States;

(2) designates the week beginning September 16, 2012, as “National Hispanic-Serving Institutions Week”; and

(3) calls on the people of the United States and interested groups to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs to demonstrate support for Hispanic-serving institutions.

SENATE RESOLUTION 569—DESIGNATING THE WEEK BEGINNING OCTOBER 21, 2012, AS “NATIONAL CHARACTER COUNTS WEEK”

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. ENZI, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. BLUNT, Ms. LANDRIEU, and Ms. STABENOW) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 569

Whereas the well-being of the United States requires that the young people of the United States become an involved, caring citizenry of good character;

Whereas the character education of children has become more urgent, as violence by and against youth increasingly threatens the physical and psychological well-being of the people of the United States;

Whereas, more than ever, children need strong and constructive guidance from their families and their communities, including schools, youth organizations, religious institutions, and civic groups;

Whereas the character of a nation is only as strong as the character of its individual citizens;

Whereas the public good is advanced when young people are taught the importance of good character and the positive effects that good character can have in personal relationships, in school, and in the workplace;

Whereas scholars and educators agree that people do not automatically develop good character and that, therefore, conscientious efforts must be made by institutions and individuals that influence youth to help young people develop the essential traits and characteristics that comprise good character;

Whereas, although character development is, first and foremost, an obligation of families, the efforts of faith communities, schools, and youth, civic, and human service organizations also play an important role in fostering and promoting good character;

Whereas Congress encourages students, teachers, parents, youth, and community leaders to recognize the importance of character education in preparing young people to play a role in determining the future of the United States;

Whereas effective character education is based on core ethical values, which form the foundation of a democratic society;

Whereas examples of character are trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, citizenship, and honesty;

Whereas elements of character transcend cultural, religious, and socioeconomic differences;

Whereas the character and conduct of our youth reflect the character and conduct of society, and, therefore, every adult has the responsibility to teach and model ethical values and every social institution has the responsibility to promote the development of good character;

Whereas Congress encourages individuals and organizations, especially those that have an interest in the education and training of the young people of the United States, to adopt the elements of character as intrinsic to the well-being of individuals, communities, and society;

Whereas many schools in the United States recognize the need, and have taken steps, to integrate the values of their communities into their teaching activities; and

Whereas the establishment of “National Character Counts Week”, during which individuals, families, schools, youth organizations, religious institutions, civic groups, and other organizations focus on character

education, is of great benefit to the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week beginning October 21, 2012, as “National Character Counts Week”; and

(2) calls upon the people of the United States and interested groups—

(A) to embrace the elements of character identified by local schools and communities, such as trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship; and

(B) to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies, programs, and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 570—DESIGNATING NOVEMBER 8, 2012, AS “NATIONAL PARENTS AS TEACHERS DAY”

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

S. RES. 570

Whereas all 50 States and 7 other countries provide services through the Parents as Teachers evidence-based home visiting model for nearly 260,000 children annually, which offers a multifaceted approach to building strong families and promoting a positive parent-child interaction so children are healthy, safe, and ready to learn;

Whereas Parents as Teachers provides evidence-and research-based training that assists parent educators in developing proficiencies in—

- (1) family support and parenting education;
- (2) child and family development;
- (3) human diversity within family systems;
- (4) health, safety, and nutrition; and
- (5) relationships between families and communities;

Whereas the Parents as Teachers evidence-based home visiting model is an essential component to prepare children to be school ready and narrows the achievement gap between children in poverty and nonpoverty households; and

Whereas there are more than 3,000 organizations offering Parents as Teachers services across the United States and around the world, which give parents of young children the support and information necessary so all children will learn, grow, and develop to realize their full potential: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the November 8, 2012, as “National Parents as Teachers Day”;

(2) recognizes the importance of parent education and the role the education plays in the development of a child; and

(3) commends Parents as Teachers for its work with families across the United States.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2840. Mr. DEMINT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 117, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2013, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2841. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 117, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2840. Mr. DEMINT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by