

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 247

Designating July 29, 2017, as “Paralympic and Adaptive Sport Day”.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 3, 2017

Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. ISAKSON, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR)
submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Designating July 29, 2017, as “Paralympic and Adaptive
Sport Day”.

Whereas, in 2015, roughly 53,000,000 people in the United
States reported living with some type of impairment;

Whereas, in 2015, roughly 3,800,000 veterans in the United
States reported living with a service-related disability;

Whereas adaptive sports for individuals with impairments
have existed for more than 100 years;

Whereas, after World War II, adaptive sports were widely in-
troduced in order to assist the large number of World
War II veterans and civilians that were injured during
wartime;

Whereas July 29, 1948, marks the date of the Opening Cere-
mony of the London 1948 Olympic Games in Stoke
Mandeville, United Kingdom, where Dr. Ludwig

Guttmann organized the first wheelchair competition for service men and women injured in World War II (also known as the “Stoke Madeville Games”);

Whereas the Stoke Mandeville Games, in 2017, ultimately evolved into the Paralympic Games and include athletes with physical, visual, and intellectual impairments;

Whereas the International Paralympic Movement celebrates values such as courage, determination, inspiration, and equality, and works to enable Paralympic athletes to achieve sporting excellence and inspire and excite the world;

Whereas Paralympians in the United States continue to achieve competitive excellence, preserve ideals and values of the International Paralympic Movement, and inspire all people in the United States;

Whereas 18 veterans were members of Team USA at the 2014 Paralympic Winter Games held in Sochi, Krasnodar Krai, Russia, and 35 veterans were members of Team USA at the 2016 Paralympic Summer Games held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil;

Whereas participation in the Paralympic Games, other adaptive sport competitions, and athletic reconditioning activities such as the Paralympic Military Program plays a fundamental role for members of the Armed Forces and veterans who are reintegrating into civilian life, and can enable those individuals to gain a new purpose in life by extending their physical limits during rehabilitation in order to rebuild and recover personal identity, formulate adaptive strategies for life, and achieve athletic excellence;

Whereas a celebration of Paralympic and Adaptive Sport Day will improve communities in the United States and uplift and inspire the Paralympic champions of the future;

Whereas Paralympic and Adaptive Sport Day will encourage the youth in the United States to participate in and support the practical inclusion of all people in sports; and

Whereas Paralympic and Adaptive Sport Day creates awareness of and understanding toward individuals with impairments: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) designates July 29, 2017, as “Paralympic
3 and Adaptive Sport Day”;

4 (2) supports the inclusive goals and ideals of
5 the International Paralympic Movement, as well as
6 opportunities for individuals with impairments to be
7 full contributing participants in society;

8 (3) acknowledges the extraordinary contribution
9 and sacrifice made by members of the Armed Forces
10 and veterans who have sustained a traumatic injury
11 and impairment while serving the United States;

12 (4) promotes a more inclusive society for all in-
13 dividuals with impairments through Paralympic and
14 adaptive sports throughout the United States; and

15 (5) promotes the values of the International
16 Paralympic Movement, including courage, deter-
17 mination, inspiration, and equality.

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