

Whereas the Platte River Valley provided an ideal corridor for settlers traveling westward along the Oregon, Mormon, and California Trails;

Whereas the Act entitled “An Act to secure Homesteads to actual Settlers on the Public Domain”, approved May 20, 1862, encouraged enterprising individuals to consider settling in the Nebraska Territory;

Whereas Nebraska was—

(1) the first State admitted to the United States after the conclusion of the Civil War; and

(2) the only State the admittance of which the President vetoed because of disagreement with the “fundamental condition” imposed by Congress with respect to giving black men the right to vote;

Whereas, by means of the Act entitled “An Act for the Admission of the State of Nebraska into the Union”, approved February 9, 1867, Congress overrode the veto of President Andrew Johnson, opening the way for the admission of Nebraska into the United States on March 1, 1867;

Whereas the admission of Nebraska into the United States led to the further settlement of Nebraska and the construction of the transcontinental railroad westward from the Omaha terminus;

Whereas, in 1879, a Federal district court in Nebraska was the site where American Indians were first recognized as persons under the laws of the United States after Standing Bear pleaded, “I am a man”;

Whereas Nebraska is leading the way for a new innovation frontier where entrepreneurs are engaged in building the economy of the future by establishing and growing great businesses;

Whereas Nebraska is the only State whose residents, desiring greater government accountability, voted to transition the State legislature from a bicameral system to a unicameral system, thereby reducing the size of the legislature by nearly 70 percent;

Whereas Nebraska is the home of such national food sensations as the reuben and runzas;

Whereas Nebraska leads the United States in—

- (1) beef and veal exports;
- (2) commercial red meat production;
- (3) commercial cattle slaughter;
- (4) Great Northern bean production;
- (5) popcorn production; and
- (6) the number of irrigated acres of cropland;

Whereas Nebraska continues to lead the United States in center-pivot irrigation technology, as Nebraska is home to the 4 largest irrigation companies in the United States;

Whereas, in 1986, Nebraska was the first State in which women were the 2 major party candidates for governor;

Whereas Nebraska has played and continues to play a significant and remarkable role in the civic, economic, educational, and cultural life of the United States;

Whereas, on March 1, 2017, Nebraska marks the 150th anniversary of the admission of that State into the United States; and

Whereas the sesquicentennial celebration of statehood offers a special opportunity for the people of Nebraska to reflect, remember, celebrate, and plan for an even brighter future that embodies the State motto of Nebraska, “Equality Before the Law”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate congratulates the State of Nebraska on the 150th anniversary of the admission of that State into the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 75—RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ACADEMY OF NUTRITION AND DIETETICS, THE LARGEST ORGANIZATION OF FOOD AND NUTRITION PROFESSIONALS IN THE WORLD

Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. BROWN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry:

S. RES. 75

Whereas, on October 20, 1917, dietitians met in Cleveland, Ohio, to identify ways in which food and nutrition professionals could help the United States Government conserve food and improve public health and nutrition during World War I;

Whereas the foundational meeting on October 20, 1917, led to the creation of the American Dietetics Association, now known as the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (referred to in this preamble as the “Academy”);

Whereas, since the inception of the Academy, the Academy has grown from a charter membership of 58 individuals to the largest organization of food and nutrition professionals in the world, with a membership as of January 2017 of more than 75,000 individuals;

Whereas the Academy is comprised of a diverse group of registered dietitian nutritionists and technicians, scientists, clinicians, educators, students, and other food and nutrition practitioners; and

Whereas, through evidence-based research and education, members of the Academy play an important role in shaping the food choices and nutrition of the people of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commemorates October 20, 2017, as the 100th anniversary of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics; and

(2) applauds the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics for its past, present, and future efforts to champion the principles established by its dietitian predecessors more than 100 years ago—

(A) to promote food and nutrition professionals; and

(B) to improve the health and wellness of all people of the United States through research, education, and advocacy.

SENATE RESOLUTION 76—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF MARCH 21, 2017, AS “NATIONAL ROSIE THE RIVETER DAY”

Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. ISAKSON, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. COONS, and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 76

Whereas National Rosie the Riveter Day is a collective national effort to raise awareness of the 16,000,000 women who worked during World War II;

Whereas the people of the United States have chosen to honor women workers who contributed from the home front during World War II;

Whereas those women left their homes to work or volunteer full-time in factories, farms, shipyards, airplane factories, banks, and other institutions in support of the Armed Forces overseas;

Whereas those women worked with the United Service Organizations and the Amer-

ican Red Cross, drove trucks, riveted airplane parts, collected critical materials, rolled bandages, and served on rationing boards;

Whereas it is fitting and proper to recognize and preserve the history and legacy of working women, including volunteer women, during World War II to promote cooperation and fellowship among those women and their descendants;

Whereas those women and their descendants wish to further the advancement of patriotic ideas, excellence in the workplace, and loyalty to the United States; and

Whereas March 21, 2017, during Women’s History Month, is an appropriate day to designate as “National Rosie the Riveter Day”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of March 21, 2017, as “National Rosie the Riveter Day”; and

(2) acknowledges the important role played by women during World War II.

SENATE RESOLUTION 77—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS AWARENESS WEEK

Mr. CASEY (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. COONS, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. BROWN, Mr. ISAKSON, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. MORAN, and Mr. THUNE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 77

Whereas multiple sclerosis (referred to in this preamble as “MS”) can impact individuals of all ages, races, and ethnicities, but MS is at least 2 to 3 times more common in women than in men;

Whereas there are approximately 2,300,000 individuals worldwide who have been diagnosed with MS;

Whereas MS is typically diagnosed in individuals between the ages of 20 and 50, but it is estimated that between 8,000 and 10,000 children and adolescents are living with MS in the United States;

Whereas MS is an unpredictable, often disabling disease of the central nervous system that disrupts the flow of information within the brain and between the brain and the body;

Whereas symptoms of MS range from numbness and tingling to vision problems and paralysis, and the progress, severity, and specific symptoms of MS in any 1 person cannot yet be predicted;

Whereas, while there is no evidence that MS is directly inherited, studies show that there are genetic and environmental factors that give certain individuals a higher risk of developing MS;

Whereas the exact cause of MS is unknown, and there is no cure for MS;

Whereas the Multiple Sclerosis Coalition, a national network of independent MS organizations dedicated to the enhancement of the quality of life of individuals affected by MS, recognizes and supports Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week;

Whereas the mission of the Multiple Sclerosis Coalition is to increase opportunities for cooperation and to provide greater opportunity to leverage the effective use of resources for the benefit of the MS community;

Whereas the United States plays a critical role in coordinating MS research globally and amplifies the impact of research in the United States through which results are delivered to MS patients;

Whereas, in 2012, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society was a founding member of the International Progressive MS Alliance, which coordinates research to accelerate the development of treatments for progressive MS by removing international scientific and technological barriers and, as of 2017, includes 16 MS organizations from 15 countries, 8 foundation and trust members, and 5 pharmaceutical partners;

Whereas the Multiple Sclerosis Coalition recognizes and supports Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week during March each year;

Whereas the goals of Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week are—

(1) to invite people to join the movement to end MS;

(2) to encourage everyone to do something to demonstrate a commitment to moving toward a world free of MS; and

(3) to acknowledge those who have dedicated time and talent to help promote MS research and programs; and

Whereas, in 2017, Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week is recognized during the week of March 5 through March 11: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week;

(2) encourages States, localities, and the territories and possessions of the United States to support the goals and ideals of Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week by issuing proclamations designating Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week;

(3) encourages media organizations—

(A) to participate in Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week; and

(B) to help provide education to the public about multiple sclerosis;

(4) commends the efforts of States, localities, and the territories and possessions of the United States to support the goals and ideals of Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week;

(5) recognizes and reaffirms the commitment of the United States to ending multiple sclerosis by—

(A) promoting awareness about individuals that are affected by multiple sclerosis; and

(B) supporting multiple sclerosis research and education programs;

(6) recognizes all individuals in the United States living with multiple sclerosis;

(7) expresses gratitude to the family members and friends of individuals living with multiple sclerosis, who are a source of love and encouragement for those individuals; and

(8) salutes the health care professionals and medical researchers who—

(A) provide assistance to individuals affected by multiple sclerosis; and

(B) continue to work to find ways—

(i) to stop multiple sclerosis;

(ii) to restore what has been lost due to multiple sclerosis; and

(iii) to end multiple sclerosis forever.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I have eight requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to Rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be author-

ized to hold a meeting during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 1, 2017, at 10 a.m. in room 106 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, entitled "Connecting America: Improving Access to Infrastructure for Communities Across the Country."

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 1, 2017, at 10:30 a.m., in room 406 of the Dirksen Senate office building, to conduct a hearing entitled, "Flood Control Infrastructure: Safety Questions Raised by Current Events."

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 1, 2017, at 10:30 a.m., in 215 Dirksen Senate Office Building, to consider nomination.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on March 1, 2017, following the first vote on the Senate Floor, in the Capitol, to conduct an executive business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 1, 2017, at 10 a.m. to conduct a hearing entitled "The Effects of Border Insecurity and Lax Immigration Enforcement on American Communities."

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 1, 2017, at 10 a.m., in room SD-G50 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a legislative presentation of The American Legion.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 1, 2017, at 2 p.m., in room SD-G50 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a legislative presentation of Veterans of Foreign Wars.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMERGING THREATS AND CAPABILITIES

The Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 1, 2017, at 10:15 a.m., in closed session, to receive testimony on Global Counterterrorism.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS AWARENESS WEEK

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 77, submitted earlier today.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 77) supporting the goals and ideals of Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 77) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, and upon the recommendation of the Democratic leader, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2761, appoints the following Senator as Vice Chairman of the Senate Delegation to the British-American Interparliamentary Group Conference during the 115th Congress: the Honorable Patrick J. Leahy of Vermont.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following leader remarks on Thursday, March 2, there be 20 minutes of debate, equally divided, prior to the confirmation vote on Executive Calendar No. 5, the nomination of Ben Carson to be Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, followed by up to 10 minutes of debate, equally divided, prior to the cloture vote on Executive Calendar No. 9, the nomination of Rick Perry to be Secretary of Energy, and if cloture is invoked, time be counted as if invoked at 7 a.m. that day.

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

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 2017

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m., Thursday, March 2; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Carson nomination as under the previous order.