

and debilitating diseases and containing the spread of infectious diseases before they become pandemic health threats;

Whereas, prior to 2000, resources for and access to vaccines for children in the developing world were declining, immunization rates were stagnant or decreasing, and nearly 10,000,000 children were dying each year before reaching their fifth birthday;

Whereas, prior to 2000, it was common for new life-saving vaccines to take up to 15 years to be introduced in the world's least developed countries;

Whereas, in 2000, the United States Government joined forces with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Organization, the World Bank, other donor governments, and representatives of developing countries, faith-based organizations, civil society, and the private sector, including the vaccine industry, to create the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (now known as GAVI or GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance), a public-private partnership to expand access to new and underused vaccines, reduce the incidence of deadly and debilitating diseases, prevent epidemics, and save lives;

Whereas GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance has since supported country-led vaccine initiatives in 73 countries, enabled immunizations for more than 760,000,000 of the world's most vulnerable children, helped avert an estimated 13,000,000 deaths, and contributed to a 70 percent reduction in the number of deaths due to vaccine-preventable diseases;

Whereas country ownership and sustainability are at the core of the GAVI model, which requires each eligible country to commit their own domestic resources to vaccination and immunization programs;

Whereas 15 countries have transitioned from GAVI support and are now self-financing their own vaccination and immunization programs, three more are expected to transition by the end of 2020, and an additional 10 countries are expected to transition by 2025 (in total, 40 percent of the original set of GAVI-eligible countries);

Whereas GAVI has transformed the market for vaccines by pooling demand from developing countries, securing predictable financing, expanding the global supplier base, enhancing the competitiveness and security of supply chains, and creating efficiencies that are expected to generate an estimated \$900,000,000 in savings between 2021–2025;

Whereas, in addition to its current portfolio of vaccines, GAVI is working to support the roll-out and scale-up of newly approved vaccines for diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (DTP) boosters, hepatitis B birth dose, multivalent meningococcal, respiratory syncytia (RSV), routine oral cholera, and rabies;

Whereas GAVI also collaborates with the Global Polio Eradication Initiative to bring polio vaccines into routine immunization programs, strengthen health systems, and implement additional polio protections;

Whereas GAVI has made significant progress in supporting the development and stockpiling of an effective vaccine to combat Ebola;

Whereas GAVI is participating in efforts to test and implement an effective vaccine to prevent malaria, a disease that kills more than 270,000 children a year;

Whereas, in June 2020, the United Kingdom will host GAVI's third replenishment conference, with an ambitious goal to raise \$7,400,000,000 in new donor commitments;

Whereas, with these additional resources, GAVI plans to support the immunization of 300,000,000 children against potentially fatal diseases and save an additional 7,000,000 to 8,000,000 lives between 2021 and 2025; and

Whereas the United States has been a leading supporter of GAVI since its inception, and its continued commitment will be essential to the achievement of the alliance's goals for 2021–2025: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) commends the work of GAVI and its partners for their efforts to expand access vaccines and immunizations for the most vulnerable men, women, and children in developing countries;

(2) affirms the continued support of the United States Government for GAVI as an efficient and effective mechanism to advance global health security and save lives by—

(A) reducing the incidence of deadly and debilitating diseases;

(B) leveraging donor, partner country, and private sector investments in health systems capable of sustainably delivering vaccines and immunizations; and

(C) reducing the cost of vaccines while promoting supply chain security and sustainability;

(3) affirms the support of the United States Government for the goal of securing a minimum of \$7,400,000,000 in donor commitments for GAVI's third replenishment, to be held in June 2020 in the United Kingdom;

(4) urges donor countries and private sector partners to step up the fight and increase their pledges for the third replenishment;

(5) urges GAVI partner countries to continue to make and meet ambitious co-financing commitments to sustain progress in ending vaccine-preventable deaths; and

(6) encourages the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in cooperation with GAVI, to continue their work to strengthen public health capacity to introduce and sustain the use of new and underused vaccines in routine immunization programs.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 512—DESIGNATING MARCH 2, 2020, AS “READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY”

Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. REED, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. WICKER, Ms. HASSAN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. WARREN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. DURBIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 512

Whereas reading is—

(1) a basic requirement for quality education and professional success; and

(2) a source of pleasure throughout life;

Whereas the people of the United States must be able to read if the United States is to remain competitive in the global economy;

Whereas Congress has placed great emphasis on reading intervention and providing additional resources for reading assistance, including through—

(1) the programs authorized under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.); and

(2) annual appropriations for library and literacy programs; and

Whereas more than 50 national organizations concerned about reading and education have joined with the National Education Association to designate March 2, the anniversary of the birth of Theodor Geisel (commonly known as “Dr. Seuss”), as a day to celebrate reading: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates March 2, 2020, as “Read Across America Day”;;

(2) honors—

(A) all authors for their success in encouraging children to discover the joy of reading; and

(B) the 23rd anniversary of Read Across America Day; and

(3) encourages—

(A) parents, educators, and communities—

(i) to read with children for at least 30 minutes on Read Across America Day; and

(ii) in honor of the commitment of the Senate to building a country of readers, to promote a love of reading and opportunities for all children to see themselves reflected in literature; and

(B) the people of the United States to observe Read Across America Day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 513—DESIGNATING FEBRUARY 2020 AS “AMERICAN HEART MONTH” AND FEBRUARY 7, 2020, AS “NATIONAL WEAR RED DAY”

Ms. SINEMA (for herself, Mrs. FISCHER, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. CAPITO, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. MCSALLY, Ms. ROSEN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Ms. STABENOW) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 513

Whereas cardiovascular disease affects men, women, and children of every age and race in the United States;

Whereas, between 2003 and 2013, the death rate from cardiovascular disease fell nearly 30 percent, but cardiovascular disease continues to be the leading cause of death in the United States, taking the lives of approximately 800,000 individuals in the United States each year and accounting for 1 in 3 deaths across the country;

Whereas congenital heart defects are the—

(1) most common birth defect in the United States; and

(2) leading killer of infants with birth defects;

Whereas, each year, an estimated 800,000 individuals in the United States have a heart attack, of whom an estimated 115,000 die;

Whereas, in 2015, cardiovascular disease accounted for approximately \$555,000,000,000 in health care expenditures and lost productivity;

Whereas it is estimated that cardiovascular disease will account for approximately \$1,093,900,000,000 in health care expenditures and lost productivity annually by 2035;

Whereas individuals in the United States have made great progress in reducing the death rate for cardiovascular disease, but this progress has been more modest with respect to the death rate for cardiovascular disease in women and minorities;

Whereas many people do not recognize that cardiovascular disease is the leading killer of women in the United States, taking the lives of over 400,000 women in 2017;

Whereas over ½ of all African-American adults have some form of cardiovascular disease, including 57.1 percent of African-American women and 60.1 percent of African-American men;

Whereas Alaska Natives and American Indians are more likely to die from cardiovascular disease than individuals from other ethnic groups;

Whereas Native Hawaiians have higher mortality rates and die at a younger average age from cardiovascular disease than other ethnic groups in Hawaii;

Whereas many minority women, including African-American, Hispanic, Asian-American, and Native American women and women from indigenous populations, have a greater prevalence of risk factors or are at a higher risk of death from heart disease, stroke, and other cardiovascular diseases, but are less likely to know of the risk;

Whereas women constitute about 20 percent of enrolled patients in cardiovascular disease clinical trials;

Whereas, due to the differences in cardiovascular disease between men and women, more research and data on the effects of cardiovascular disease treatments for women is vital;

Whereas veterans have higher rates of cardiovascular disease than nonveterans;

Whereas female veterans are less likely than male veterans to be included in studies on the effects of cardiovascular disease on veterans;

Whereas female veterans are less likely than male veterans to receive adequate treatment for cardiovascular disease;

Whereas extensive clinical and statistical studies have identified major and contributing factors that increase the risk of cardiovascular disease, including—

- (1) high blood pressure;
- (2) high blood cholesterol;
- (3) using tobacco products;
- (4) exposure to tobacco smoke;
- (5) physical inactivity;
- (6) obesity; and
- (7) diabetes mellitus;

Whereas an individual can greatly reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease through lifestyle modification coupled with medical treatment when necessary;

Whereas greater awareness and early detection of risk factors for cardiovascular disease can improve and save the lives of many individuals in the United States each year;

Whereas, under section 101(1) of title 36, United States Code, the President is requested to issue an annual proclamation designating February as American Heart Month;

Whereas the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute of the National Institutes of Health, the American Heart Association, and many other organizations celebrate National Wear Red Day during February by “going red” to increase awareness about cardiovascular disease as the leading killer of women; and

Whereas, every year since 1964, the President has issued a proclamation designating the month of February as American Heart Month; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates—

(A) February 2020 as “American Heart Month”; and

(B) February 7, 2020, as “National Wear Red Day”;

(2) supports the goals and ideals of American Heart Month and National Wear Red Day;

(3) recognizes and reaffirms the commitment of the United States to—

(A) promoting awareness about the causes, risks, and prevention of cardiovascular disease;

(B) supporting research on cardiovascular disease; and

(C) expanding access to medical treatment for cardiovascular disease;

(4) commends the efforts of States, territories, and possessions of the United States, localities, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and other entities, and the people of the United States who support American Heart Month and National Wear Red Day; and

(5) encourages every individual in the United States to learn about his or her risk for cardiovascular disease.

# SENATE RESOLUTION 514—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT DONALD STRATTON BE REMEMBERED FOR A LIFETIME OF HEROISM AND SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES

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

S. RES. 514

Whereas, on February 15, 2020, Donald Stratton, a veteran of World War II and one of the last remaining survivors of the attack on Pearl Harbor, passed away peacefully surrounded by his loving family in Colorado Springs, Colorado;

Whereas, on December 7, 1941, the attack on Pearl Harbor lasted for approximately 5 hours, during which 2,403 members of the United States Armed Forces were killed or mortally wounded, 1,247 members of the United States Armed Forces were wounded, and 57 civilians lost their lives;

Whereas, during the attack on Pearl Harbor, Seaman First Class Donald Stratton was one of 6 sailors trapped in the control tower main mast after a massive explosion on the U.S.S. Arizona;

Whereas Boatswain's Mate Second Class Joseph Leon George saved the lives of Seaman First Class Donald Stratton, Seaman First Class Harold Kuhn, Seaman First Class Russell Lott, Gunner's Mate Third Class Earl Riner, Boatswain's Mate Second Class Alvin Dvorak, and Fire Controlman Third Class Lauren Bruner;

Whereas, despite suffering severe burns on more than 70 percent of his body and being medically discharged, Donald Stratton later reenlisted in the United States Navy to continue serving during World War II;

Whereas, after serving in the United States Armed Forces, Donald Stratton committed his life to pursuing the posthumous recognition of Joseph George with the award of a Bronze Star; and

Whereas Donald Stratton exemplified the heroism and selfless service of the members of the United States Armed Forces: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) honors Donald Stratton for his lifelong commitment to service to the United States and the example he set for future generations; and

(2) remembers the men and women of the Greatest Generation of the United States, including the few remaining survivors of that generation.

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, I come to the floor with somber news for Colorado and our country. It is about a gentleman I have talked about many times on this floor and across Colorado—Donald Stratton, a veteran of World War II, who was on the USS *Arizona* on December 7, 1941. Our country has suffered a great loss this past week with Mr. Stratton's passing.

A gallant man, Donald Stratton served his country, his family, and our great State with honor, pride, and courage. He was the type of person who only comes around once in a generation and was someone whom I was lucky to have gotten to know and certainly proud to have worked with. It is with great emotion that I come to the floor to share his story once again. I am sure it will not be the last time,

but it is certainly the most personal time that I have ever shared this story.

Donald Stratton was born in a tiny town in Nebraska—Red Cloud—in 1922. Its population today is of 900 or so people. I didn't have a chance to look up how big it was when he was born in 1922. I imagine it may have been a little bit bigger. It has certainly faced the fate that many rural communities in America have. It has seen times of growth and times of loss. Certainly, the people of Red Cloud know they have lost a great hero as well.

Donald Stratton wrote in his memoirs on December 6, 1941, as a young Nebraskan sailor, that he felt like the luckiest boy from Red Cloud because he was in an incredibly beautiful part of the world. In fact, he wrote in his memoir that he was in the Navy, seeing the world, and was stationed in one of the most beautiful parts of the world. He was 19, and his entire life stretched before him. That next morning, December 7, 1941, would change forever Donald Stratton and his country.

In his book, he talked about that day, December 7, 1941. A little after 5 a.m., he had awoken, on his cot, about an hour and a half before sunrise.

He writes:

I stretched, rubbed the sleep from my eyes, and folded up my cot. I stored it in the incinerator room, then went below to shower. After, I dressed for the day in the typical casual clothes that sailors wore on Sundays—a clean pair of pressed, white shorts and a white T-shirt, along with my sailor's hat.

A few minutes later, a 5:30 reveille sounded over the intercom, and the ship stirred to life, he talked about. Below decks, men tumbled out of their hammocks and headed to the showers. A few hours later, at 7:55 that morning, after a Sunday morning breakfast, he heard airplanes and bombs in the distance as the attacks on Pearl Harbor began. By 8:06—11 minutes later—two-thirds of his body would be engulfed in flames.

He was at his station, directing anti-aircraft guns, and trying his best to fight off the surprise attack by the Japanese. At that moment, a 1,700-pound armor-piercing bomb was dropped from 10,000 feet above the USS *Arizona*. That bomb came crashing down through four steel decks, where it reached the ammunition magazine, causing a series of explosions and shooting a fireball 500 to 600 feet in the air, engulfing Donald Stratton and his shipmates in even more flames.

That Sunday morning of December 7, aboard the USS *Arizona*, were 1,512 officers, sailors, and marines. The attack that day—that 1,700-pound bomb and so many others—killed 1,177. Only 335 brave people survived that morning. Donald Stratton was one of those 335 sailors. His story of survival happened because of a sailor who was stationed next to the USS *Arizona* on a ship called the *Vestal*. He was a sailor by the name of Joe George.