

brought together as soldiers, neighbors and devoted friends, they are examples of the great patriotic and democratic spirit that is the foundation of our society. They are fitting examples of why it is important to learn and remember our complete American History. ●

#### READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 317, S. Res. 181, reported today by the Judiciary Committee.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 181) expressing the sense of the Senate that on March 2nd, every child in America should be in the company of someone who will read to him or her.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the resolution?

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

Mr. CHAFEE. I ask unanimous consent, Mr. President, that the resolution and preamble be agreed to en bloc, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and further, that any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD at the appropriate place.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 181) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, is as follows:

#### S. RES. 181

Whereas reading is a basic skill for a quality education, a requirement for a successful life's work, and a source of pleasure throughout life;

Whereas reading ability is essential to our nation's ability to remain competitive in a global economy;

Whereas the American Library Association, the National Family Literacy Council, the National Association of Elementary School Principals, Reading Is Fundamental, the International Reading Association, the Boys and Girls Clubs of America, and others have joined with the National Education Association to use March 2nd as a national day to celebrate reading; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) March 2nd, 1998 shall be known as "Read Across America Day" to focus on the basic component of learning; and

(2) every child should be in the company of someone who will read to him or her on March 2nd, Dr. Seuss's birthday; and

(3) the success of Dr. Seuss and many others like him in encouraging children to discover the joy of books is applauded; and

(4) all parents are encouraged to read with their children for at least one half hour on March 2nd in honor of Dr. Seuss to help us realize the goal of having the best readers in the world.

#### APPOINTMENT BY THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair announces, on behalf of the Ma-

jority Leader, pursuant to Public Law 105-83, his appointment of the following Senators to serve as members of the National Council on the Arts: The Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS), and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS).

#### DESIGNATING 1998 AS THE "ONATE CUARTOCENTENARIO," THE 400TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION OF THE FIRST PERMANENT SPANISH SETTLEMENT IN NEW MEXICO

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 306, S. Res. 148.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 148) designating 1998 as the "Onate Cuartocentenario," the 400th anniversary commemoration of the first permanent Spanish settlement in New Mexico.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution, which had been reported from the Committee on the Judiciary with an amendment, as follows:

Whereas Don Juan de Oñate of Spain settled the first permanent colony of Europeans in the Southwest Region of the United States, known as San Gabriel de Los Españoles, and located near modern day San Juan Pueblo and Española, New Mexico;

Whereas the first Spanish capital was established at San Juan de los Caballeros in July of 1598, predating the English settlement of Jamestown in 1610 by 12 years;

Whereas Spanish exploration activity in the New World began in 1512 when Ponce de León explored the Florida peninsula, and included the explorations of Francisco Coronado throughout California to Kansas and across Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, and Oklahoma from 1540 to 1542;

Whereas the major Spanish settlement efforts were focused in modern day Florida and New Mexico, and 1998 marks the 400th anniversary of the first permanent settlement in New Mexico, referred to as the Cuartocentenario;

Whereas Hispanic Americans are the fastest growing minority group in the United States and include descendants of the Spanish, Mexican, Cuban, Puerto Rican, Central American, and other Hispanic peoples;

Whereas the United States Census Bureau estimated in March 1993 that the Hispanic population of the United States was 22,800,000; the current estimate of the Hispanic population in the United States is 26,000,000, with projections of 30,000,000 by the year 2000, 40,000,000 by 2010, and almost 60,000,000 (or 20 percent of the total United States population) by the year 2030;

Whereas the number of Hispanic immigrants to the United States has increased from 1,500,000 in the 1960's, to 2,400,000 in the 1970's, to 4,500,000 in the 1980's, and the number of Hispanic immigrants is expected to continue to rise;

Whereas two-thirds of all Hispanics in the United States today are of Mexican origin, and 70 percent of United States Hispanics live in 4 States: California, Texas, New York, and Florida;

Whereas New Mexico's Hispanic population is 39 percent (or over 660,000 of the 1995 total

State population of 1,700,000) and represents the highest percentage of Hispanics in any State in the United States;

Whereas the United States has an enriched legacy of Hispanic influence in politics, government, business, and culture due to the early settlements and continuous influx of Hispanics into the United States;

Whereas the New Mexico State Government has funded a Hispanic Cultural Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico, with assistance from the Federal Government, local governments, and private contributions, to celebrate and preserve Hispanic culture including literature, performing arts, visual arts, music, culinary arts, and language arts;

Whereas the Archbishop of Santa Fe, Michael Sheehan, is planning events throughout 1998 in New Mexico, including the opening of "Jubilee year", an encuentro at Santo Domingo Pueblo to mark the meeting of the missionaries with the Pueblo peoples, an Archdiocesan reconciliation service at the Santuario de Chimayo, and an Archdiocesan celebration of St. Francis of Assisi in Santa Fe;

Whereas in order to commemorate Don Juan de Oñate's arrival, the city of Española will have a fiesta in July 1998, the city of Santa Fe is planning several special events, and the New Mexico statewide committee is planning a parade, a historical costume ball, and a pageant in Albuquerque; and

Whereas many other religious, educational, and social events are being planned around New Mexico to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the first permanent Spanish settlement in New Mexico: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates the year 1998 as the "New Mexico Cuartocentenario" to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the first permanent Spanish settlement in New Mexico;

(2) recognizes the cultural and economic importance of the Spanish settlements throughout the Southwest Region of the United States;

(3) expresses its support for the work of the Española Plaza Foundation, the Santa Fe and Albuquerque Cuartocentenario committees, the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, the New Mexico Hispanic Cultural Center Board of Directors, the Hispanic Cultural Foundation Board of Trustees, as well as other interested groups that are preparing New Mexico Cuartocentenario activities;

(4) expresses its support for the events to be held in New Mexico and the Southwest in observance of the New Mexico Cuartocentenario;

(5) requests that the President issue a proclamation—

(A) declaring 1998 as the "New Mexico Cuartocentenario" to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the first permanent Spanish settlement in New Mexico; and

(B) calling on the people of the United States and interested groups to observe the year with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs to honor and celebrate the contributions of Hispanic people to the cultural and economic life of the United States; and

(6) calls upon the people of the United States to support, promote, and participate in the many New Mexico Cuartocentenario activities being planned to commemorate the historic event of the early settling of the Southwest Region of the United States by the Spanish.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, this year New Mexico is commemorating