

the future disposal of the United States, and shall not be entered, located, or appropriated, for any other purpose whatever”;

Whereas the Hot Springs Reservation was the first protected area in the United States;

Whereas the Act that authorized the establishment of the Hot Springs Reservation was enacted before the establishment of the Department of the Interior in 1849, and before the establishment of Yellowstone National Park as the first national park of the United States in 1872;

Whereas, in 1921, the Hot Springs Reservation was renamed “Hot Springs National Park” and became the 18th national park of the United States; and

Whereas the tradition of preservation and conservation that inspired the development of the National Park System, which now includes 390 units, began with the Act that authorized the establishment of the Hot Springs Reservation: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That on 175th anniversary of the Act of Congress that authorized the establishment of the Hot Springs Reservation, the Senate recognizes the important contributions of the Hot Springs Reservation and the Hot Springs National Park to the history of conservation in the United States.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 138—HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND LEGACY OF CÉSAR ESTRADA CHÁVEZ

Mr. SALAZAR (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. REID, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. WEBB, and Mr. KERRY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Judiciary:

S. RES. 138

Whereas César Estrada Chávez was born on March 31, 1927, near Yuma, Arizona, where he spent his early years on his family’s farm,

Whereas, at the age of 10, César Estrada Chávez joined the thousands of migrant farm workers laboring in fields and vineyards throughout the Southwest, when his family lost their farm due to a bank foreclosure;

Whereas César Estrada Chávez, after attending more than 30 elementary and middle schools and achieving an eighth-grade education, left to work full-time as a farm worker to help support his family;

Whereas, at the age of 17, César Estrada Chávez entered the United States Navy and served the Nation with distinction for 2 years;

Whereas, in 1948, César Estrada Chávez returned from military service to marry Helen Fabela, whom he met working in the vineyards of central California, and had 8 children;

Whereas, as early as 1949, César Estrada Chávez committed himself to organizing farm workers to campaign for safe and fair working conditions, reasonable wages, decent housing, and the outlawing of child labor;

Whereas, in 1952, César Estrada Chávez joined the Community Service Organization, a prominent Latino civil rights group, and worked to coordinate voter registration drives and conduct campaigns against discrimination in East Los Angeles, and later served as the national director of the organization;

Whereas, in 1962, César Estrada Chávez left the Community Service Organization to found the National Farm Workers Association, which eventually became the United Farm Workers of America;

Whereas César Estrada Chávez was a strong believer in the principles of non-

violence practiced by Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.;

Whereas César Estrada Chávez effectively utilized peaceful tactics, such as fasting in 1968 for 25 days, in 1972 for 25 days, and in 1988 for 38 days, to call attention to the terrible working and living conditions of farm workers in the United States;

Whereas, under the leadership of César Estrada Chávez, the United Farm Workers of America organized thousands of migrant farm workers to fight for fair wages, health care coverage, pension benefits, livable housing, and respect;

Whereas, through his commitment to non-violence, César Estrada Chávez brought dignity and respect to the farm workers who organized themselves, and became an inspiration and a resource to other people in the United States and people engaged in human rights struggles throughout the world;

Whereas the influence of César Estrada Chávez extends far beyond agriculture and provides inspiration for those working to better human rights, to empower workers, and to advance an American Dream that includes all its inhabitants of the United States;

Whereas César Estrada Chávez died on April 23, 1993, in San Luis, Arizona, only miles from his birthplace of 66 years earlier;

Whereas more than 50,000 people attended the funeral services of César Estrada Chávez in Delano, California, and he was laid to rest at the headquarters of the United Farm Workers of America, known as Nuestra Señora de La Paz, located in the Tehachapi Mountains at Keene, California;

Whereas, since his death, schools, parks, streets, libraries, and other public facilities, and awards and scholarships have been named in honor of César Estrada Chávez;

Whereas, since his death, 8 States and dozens of communities across the Nation honor the life and legacy of César Estrada Chávez on March 31 of each year, the day of his birth;

Whereas César Estrada Chávez was a recipient of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Peace Prize during his lifetime, and after his death was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom on August 8, 1994; and

Whereas the United States should not cease its efforts to ensure equality, justice, and dignity for all people in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the accomplishments and example of a great American hero, César Estrada Chávez;

(2) pledges to promote the legacy of César Estrada Chávez; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to commemorate the legacy of César Estrada Chávez, and to always remember his great rallying cry, “Sí, se puede!”.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, this week, our Nation comes together to honor one of our Nation’s foremost civil rights and labor leader, César Estrada Chávez. I rise today, along with my colleague Senator KEN SALAZAR, to submit a resolution honoring the accomplishments and legacy of César Chávez.

César Estrada Chávez was born 80 years ago, on March 31, 1927, in Arizona to poor migrant farm workers. He and his family struggled to survive at a time when “Whites only” signs were still on display and when it was necessary to trade in his school books to support his family working full-time in the fields.

“But rather than just survive those times, César Chávez turned his experi-

ences into ammunition to help fight for a better life for all Americans, becoming one of our Nation’s most inspirational leaders.

Following the principles of Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr., in 1962 César Chávez co-founded the first successful farm workers union in the United States—the United Farm Workers (UFW). Through the UFW, Chávez brought many farm workers together, including Mexican- and Filipino-Americans, to fight for common goals. He also inspired hope in these workers through his great rallying catchphrase, “Sí Se Puede.”

In one of their major victories, after 5 years of boycotting table grapes, the United Farm Workers gained the first-ever collective bargaining agreement between farm workers and growers in the history of our country.

As the son of poor, working-class parents who were not afforded the benefits of a union, I am moved by César Chávez’s selfless work on behalf of others. Remembering his legacy reinforces my belief that all hard-working individuals deserve the right to bargain collectively to achieve better wages, better health benefits and suitable working conditions.

I am happy that New Jersey has a proud labor tradition, which would not have been possible without people committed to fairness, social justice and equality. The legacy of César Chávez still resonates today, from the rural agricultural fields to the urban centers all across this Nation, and his achievements are an inspiration to all hard-working Americans who want to achieve a better quality of life.

Senator Robert F. Kennedy rightly said that César Chávez was “one of the heroic figures of our time,” and I believe our resolution reinforces that statement. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, and by doing so, acknowledge that César Chávez is truly an American hero.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 139—COMMENDING GENERAL PETER J. SCHOOMAKER FOR HIS EXTRAORDINARY DEDICATION TO DUTY AND SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES

Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. AKAKA) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

S. RES. 139

Whereas General Peter J. Schoomaker, the 35th Chief of Staff of the United States Army, will be released from active duty in April 2007, after over 35 distinguished years of active Federal service;

Whereas General Schoomaker, a native of Wyoming, graduated from the University of Wyoming in 1969, served in a variety of command and staff assignments with both conventional and special operations forces, including participation in numerous combat operations, such as Desert One in Iran, Urgent Fury in Grenada, Just Cause in Panama, Desert Shield/Desert Storm in Southwest Asia, and Uphold Democracy in Haiti,