The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. Res. 177

Whereas many nations throughout the world, and especially within the Western hemisphere, celebrate “Día de los Niños”, or “Day of the Children” on the 30th of April, in recognition and celebration of their country’s future—their children;

Whereas children represent the hopes and dreams of the people of the United States;

Whereas children are the center of American families;

Whereas children should be nurtured and invested in to preserve and enhance economic prosperity, democracy, and the American spirit;

Whereas Hispanics in the United States, the youngest and fastest growing ethnic community in the Nation, continue the tradition of honoring their children on this day, and wish to share this custom with the rest of the Nation;

Whereas it is projected that by the year 2050, 1 in 4 Americans will be of Hispanic descent, and currently approximately 12,300,000 Hispanic children live in the United States;

Whereas traditional Hispanic family life centers largely on children;

Whereas the primary teachers of family values, morality, and culture are parents and family members, and we rely on children to pass on family values, morals, and culture to future generations;

Whereas more than 500,000 children drop out of school each year, 138,000 of whom are Hispanic, and these dropout rates are unacceptably high;

Whereas the importance of literacy and education are most often communicated to children through family members;

Whereas families should be encouraged to engage in family and community activities that include extended and elderly family members and encourage children to explore, develop confidence, and pursue their dreams;

Whereas the designation of a day to honor the children of the United States will help affirm for the people of the United States the significance of family, education, and community;

Whereas the designation of a day of special recognition for the children of the United States will provide an opportunity for children to reflect on their future, to articulate their dreams and aspirations, and to find comfort and support in the support of their family members and communities;

Whereas the National Latino Children’s Institute, serving as a voice for children, has worked with cities throughout the country to declare April 30 as “Día de los Niños: Celebrating Young Americans”—a day to bring together Hispanics and other communities nationwide to celebrate and uplift children; and

Whereas the children of a nation are the responsibility of all of us, and people should be encouraged to celebrate the gifts of children to society—their curiosity, laughter, faith, energy, spirit, hopes, and dreams; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates April 30, 2007, as “Día de los Niños: Celebrating Young Americans”; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to join with all children, families, organizations, communities, churches, cities, and States across the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies, including activities that—

(A) center around children, and are free or minimal in cost so as to encourage and facilitate the participation of all our people; and

(B) are positive and uplifting and that help children express their hopes and dreams;

(C) provide opportunities for children of all backgrounds to learn about one another’s cultures and to share ideas;

(D) include all members of the family, especially extended and elderly family members, so as to promote greater communication among the generations within a family, enabling children to appreciate and benefit from the experiences and wisdom of their elder family members;

(E) provide opportunities for families within a community to get acquainted; and

(F) provide the support they need to develop skills and confidence, and to find the inner strength—the will and fire of the human spirit—to make their dreams come true.

THE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed en bloc to the consideration of the following calendar items: Calendar No. 121, S. Res. 116; Calendar No. 122, S. Res. 125; Calendar No. 123, S. Res. 146; and Calendar No. 124, S. Res. 162.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to en bloc; the amendment to the preamble, where applicable, be agreed to; the preamble, as amended if amended, be agreed to en bloc; the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc; that the consideration of these items appear separately in the RECORD and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to en bloc; the amendment to the preamble, where applicable, be agreed to; the preamble, as amended if amended, be agreed to en bloc; the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc; that the consideration of these items appear separately in the RECORD and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DESIGNATING MAY 2007 AS “NATIONAL AUTOIMMUNE DISEASES AWARENESS MONTH”

The resolution (S. Res. 116) designating May 2007 as “National Autoimmune Diseases Awareness Month” and supporting efforts to increase public awareness of autoimmune diseases and increase funding for autoimmune disease research was agreed to; as follows:

S. Res. 116

Whereas autoimmune diseases are chronic, disabling diseases in which underlying defects in the immune system lead the body to attack its own organs and tissues;

Whereas autoimmune diseases can affect any part of the body, including the blood, skin, musculoskeletal system, gastrointestinal tract, endocrine glands, and multiple-organ systems, and can be life threatening;

Whereas researchers have identified over 80 different autoimmune diseases, and suspect at least 40 additional diseases of qualifying as autoimmune diseases;

Whereas autoimmune diseases can affect all its people, and people should be encouraged to celebrate the gifts of children to society—their curiosity, laughter, faith, energy, spirit, hopes, and dreams; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates May 2007 as “National Autoimmune Diseases Awareness Month”;

(2) supports the efforts of health care providers and autoimmune patient advocacy and education organizations to increase awareness of the causes of, and treatments for, autoimmune diseases; and

(3) supports the goal of increasing Federal funding for aggressive research to learn the root causes of autoimmune diseases, as well as the best diagnostic methods and treatments for people with autoimmune diseases.

ENDANGERED SPECIES DAY

The resolution (S. Res. 125) designating May 18, 2007, as “Endangered Species Day,” and encouraging the people of the United States to become educated about, and aware of, threats to species, success stories in species recovery, and the opportunity for people to promote species conservation worldwide, was agreed to. The preamble was agreed to. The resolution (S. Res. 125), with its preamble, reads as follows:

ENDANGERED SPECIES DAY

The resolution (S. Res. 125) designating May 18, 2007, as “Endangered Species Day,” and encouraging the people of the United States to become educated about, and aware of, threats to species, success stories in species recovery, and the opportunity for people to promote species conservation worldwide, was agreed to. The preamble was agreed to. The resolution (S. Res. 125), with its preamble, reads as follows: