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 these 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 by 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 repositories of 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 April 30, 2007, as “Día de los Niños: Celebrating Young Americans”; and

(2) calls on 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 experience and wisdom of their elderly family members;

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

(F) provide families with 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, where 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” is hereby introduced.

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

(2) supports the efforts of health care professionals and organizations working to consolidate the voices of patients with autoimmune diseases and to promote increased education, awareness, and research into all aspects of autoimmune diseases through a collaborative approach; 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 to protect species worldwide, was agreed to. The preamble was agreed to. The resolution (S. Res. 125), with its preamble, reads as follows:

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S5436
WHEREAS saving a species requires a combination of sound research, careful coordination, and intensive management of conservation efforts, along with increased public awareness and education; and
WHEREAS two-thirds of endangered or threatened species reside on private lands; and
WHEREAS voluntary cooperative conservation programs have proven to be critical for habitat restoration and species recovery; and
WHEREAS education and increasing public awareness are the first steps in effectively informing the public about endangered species and about species restoration efforts: Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate—
(1) designates May 18, 2007, as "Endangered Species Day"; and
(2) encourages—
(A) educational entities to spend at least 30 minutes on Endangered Species Day teaching and informing students about threats to, and the restoration of, endangered species around the world, including the essential role of private landowners and private stewardship to the protection and recovery of species; and
(B) organizations, businesses, private landowners, and agencies with a shared interest in conserving endangered species to collaborate on educational information for use in schools; and
(C) the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

DESIGNATING JUNE 20, 2007, AS "AMERICAN EAGLE DAY"

The resolution (S. Res. 146) Designating June 20, 2007, as "American Eagle Day," and celebrating the recovery and restoration of the American bald eagle, the national symbol of the United States, was agreed to; as follows:

S. RES. 146

WHEREAS, the bald eagle was designated as the national emblem of the United States on June 20, 1826, by our country’s Founding Fathers at the Second Continental Congress;
WHEREAS, the bald eagle is the central image used in the Great Seal of the United States and the seals of the President and Vice President;
WHEREAS, the image of the bald eagle is displayed in the official seal of many branches and departments of the Federal Government, including—
(1) Congress;
(2) the Supreme Court;
(3) the Department of Defense;
(4) the Department of Treasury;
(5) the Department of Justice;
(6) the Department of State;
(7) the Department of Commerce;
(8) the Department of Homeland Security;
(9) the Department of Veterans Affairs;
(10) the Department of Labor;

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am pleased that today the Senate has agreed to S. Res. 146, a bipartisan resolution establishing a national American Eagle Day, on June 20, 2007, the day the bald eagle was selected as our national emblem during the Second Continental Congress in 1782. I am delighted that the bald eagle is scheduled to be "delisted" from the Endangered Species Act on June 20 of this year. I commend Senators ALEXANDER and BYRD for their work on this resolution.

The bald eagle has been protected under Federal law since Congress passed the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act in 1940. This law prohibits the taking, possessing, or commerce of both bald and golden eagles. The Endangered Species Act of 1973 reinforced protection of the bald eagle. I am a longtime supporter of the Endangered Species Act, a landmark environmental law that provides crucial protection to fish and wildlife on the verge of extinction.

Vermont is actually one of the only States in the continental United States that nesting bald eagles in Vermont. Senator JEFFORDS funded a program about three years ago where orphaned or threatened nestlings were relocated from sites between Maryland and Maine to nests in the Dead Creek State Wildlife Management area in Addison County, VT, along Lake Champlain.

About 25 individual birds were successfully raised and released from nests there. While eagles usually return to nest in the general area where they were originally hatched, only four have successfully raised and natural resource conservation efforts around the world.

WHEREAS, the initial recovery of the bald eagle was established in 1940. This law prohibits

WHEREAS, in 1995, as a result of the efforts of those caring and concerned citizens, bald eagles were removed from the "endangered" species list and listed temporarily as "threatened" status under the Endangered Species Act of 1973;
WHEREAS, by 2006, the number of bald eagles in the lower 48 States had increased to approximately 7,000 to 8,000 nesting pairs;
WHEREAS, the administration is likely to officially delist the bald eagle from both the "endangered" species list and the "threatened" species list under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, with a final decision expected no later than June 29, 2007;
WHEREAS, if delisted under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, bald eagles should be provided strong protection under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act;
WHEREAS, bald eagles would have been permanently extinct if not for vigilant conservation efforts of concerned citizens and strict protection laws; and
WHEREAS, the dramatic recovery of the bald eagle population is an endangered species success story and an inspirational example for other wildlife and natural resource conservation efforts around the world;
WHEREAS, the initial recovery of the bald eagle population was accomplished by the concerted efforts of numerous government agencies, corporations, organizations, and individuals; and
WHEREAS, the sustained recovery of the bald eagle population will require the continuation of recovery, management, education, and public awareness programs, to ensure that the population and habitat of bald eagles remain healthy and secure for future generations: Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate—
(1) designates June 20, 2007, as "American Eagle Day"; and
(2) encourages—
(A) educational entities, organizations, businesses, conservation groups, and government agencies with a shared interest in conserving endangered species to collaborate on education information for use in schools; and
(B) the people of the United States to observe American Eagle Day with appropriate ceremonies and other activities.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am pleased that today the Senate has agreed to declare June 20 as "American Eagle Day" to celebrate the success of the bald eagle recovery effort.