

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE CONGRESSIONAL CLUB

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we now proceed to S. Res. 578.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 578) recognizing the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Congressional Club.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid on the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 578) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 578

Whereas the Congressional Club was organized in 1908 by 25 women who were influential in Washington's official life and who wanted to establish a nonsectarian and non-political group that would promote friendship and cordiality in public life;

Whereas those women founded the Club to bring the wives of Members of Congress together in a hospitable and compatible environment in the Nation's Capital;

Whereas the Congressional Club was officially established in 1908 by a unanimous vote in both the Senate and the House of Representatives and is the only club in the world to be founded by an Act of Congress;

Whereas the Act entitled "An Act to incorporate the Congressional Club" (35 Stat. 476, chapter 226) was signed by President Theodore Roosevelt on May 30, 1908;

Whereas the Congressional Club's founding was secured by the enactment of that Act unanimously on May 28, 1908, in order to overcome the opposition of Representative John Sharp Williams of Mississippi, who opposed all women's organizations;

Whereas, when Representative Williams was called out of the chamber by Mrs. Williams, the good-mannered representative obliged and withdrew his opposition and request for a recorded vote, saying, "upon this particular bill there will not be a roll call, because it would cause a great deal of domestic unhappiness in Washington if there were";

Whereas the first Congressional Clubhouse was at 1432 K Street Northwest in Washington, District of Columbia, and opened on December 11, 1908, with a reception for President-elect and Mrs. William Taft;

Whereas, after Mrs. John B. Henderson of Missouri donated land on the corner of New Hampshire Avenue and U Street Northwest, the cornerstone of the current Clubhouse was laid at that location on May 21, 1914;

Whereas that Clubhouse was built by George Totten in the Beaux Arts style and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places;

Whereas the mortgage on the Clubhouse was paid for by the sales of the Club's cookbook and the mortgage document was burned by Mrs. Bess Truman in a silver bowl on the 40th anniversary of the Club's founding;

Whereas the Congressional Club has remained a good neighbor on the U Street cor-

ridor for more than 90 years, encouraging the revitalization of the area during a time of socioeconomic challenges and leading the way in upkeep and maintenance of historic property;

Whereas the Congressional Club honors and supports the people in its neighborhood by inviting the local police and fire departments to the Clubhouse for lunch and delivering trays of Member-made cookies and candies to them during the holidays, by hosting an annual Senior Citizens Appreciation Day luncheon for residents of a neighborhood nursing home, and by hosting an annual holiday brunch for neighborhood children each December that includes a festive meal, gifts, and a visit from Santa Claus;

Whereas the Congressional Club has hosted the annual First Lady's Luncheon every spring since 1912 and annually donates tens of thousands of dollars to charities in the name of the First Lady;

Whereas, among its many charitable recipients, the Congressional Club has chosen mentoring programs, United National Indian Tribal Youth, literacy programs, the White House library, youth dance troupes, domestic shelters, and child care centers;

Whereas the Congressional Club members, upon the suggestion of Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, have been encouraged to become discussion leaders on national security in their home States, from the trials of World War II to the threats of terrorism;

Whereas the Congressional Club extends the hand of friendship and goodwill globally by hosting an annual diplomatic reception to entertain the spouses of ambassadors to the United States;

Whereas the Congressional Club is solely supported by membership dues and the sale of cookbooks and has never received any Federal funding;

Whereas the 14 editions of the Congressional Club cookbook, first published in 1928, reflect the life and times of the United States with recipes and signatures of Members of Congress, First Ladies, Ambassadors, and members of the Club;

Whereas the Congressional Club membership has expanded to include spouses and daughters of Representatives, Senators, Supreme Court Justices, and Cabinet members;

Whereas 7 members of the Congressional Club have become First Lady: Mrs. Florence Harding, Mrs. Lou Hoover, Mrs. Bess Truman, Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy, Mrs. Patricia Nixon, Mrs. Betty Ford, and Mrs. Barbara Bush;

Whereas several members of the Congressional Club have been elected to Congress, including Mrs. Jo Ann Emerson, Mrs. Lois Capps, and Mrs. Mary Bono, and former presidents of the Congressional Club Mrs. Lindy Boggs and Mrs. Doris Matsui;

Whereas leading figures in politics, the arts, and the media have visited the Clubhouse throughout the past 100 years;

Whereas the Congressional Club is home to the First Lady's gown display, a museum with replica inaugural and ball gowns of the First Ladies from Mrs. Mary Todd Lincoln to Mrs. Laura Bush;

Whereas the Congressional Club is charged with receiving the Presidential couple, honoring the Vice President and spouse, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and spouse, and the Chief Justice and spouse, and providing the orientation for spouses of new Members of Congress; and

Whereas the Congressional Club will celebrate its 100th anniversary with festivities and ceremonies during 2008 that include the ringing of the official bells of the United States Congress, a Founder's Day program, a birthday cake at the First Lady's Luncheon, an anniversary postage stamp and cancellation stamp, a 100-year pin and pendant de-

signed by former president Lois Breaux, and invitations to President and Mrs. Bush, Speaker and Mr. Pelosi, and Chief Justice and Mrs. Roberts to visit and celebrate 100 years of public service, civility, and growth at the Congressional Club: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Congressional Club;

(2) acknowledges the contributions of political spouses to public life in the United States and around the world through the Congressional Club for the past 100 years;

(3) honors the past and present membership of the Congressional Club; and

(4) encourages the people of the United States—

(A) to strive for greater friendship, civility, and generosity in order to heighten public service, elevate the culture, and enrich humanity; and

(B) to seek opportunities to give financially and to volunteer to assist charitable organizations in their own communities.

NATIONAL HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS WEEK

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 579.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 579) designating the week beginning May 26, 2008, as "National Hurricane Preparedness Week."

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid on the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 579) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 579

Whereas, as hurricane season approaches, National Hurricane Preparedness Week provides an opportunity to raise awareness of steps that can be taken to help protect citizens, their communities, and property;

Whereas the official 2008 Atlantic hurricane season occurs in the period beginning June 1, 2008, and ending November 30, 2008;

Whereas hurricanes are among the most powerful forces of nature, causing destructive winds, tornadoes, floods, and storm surges that can result in numerous fatalities and cost billions of dollars in damage;

Whereas, in 2005, a record-setting Atlantic hurricane season caused 28 storms, including 15 hurricanes, of which 7 were major hurricanes, including Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma;

Whereas, for 2008, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration announced that the outlook for the hurricane season was near to above normal, with a 60 to 70 percent chance of 12 to 16 named storms, including 6 to 9 hurricanes and 2 to 5 major hurricanes;

Whereas the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration reports that over 50 percent of the population of the United States lives in coastal counties that are vulnerable to the dangers of hurricanes;

Whereas, because the impact from hurricanes extends far beyond coastal areas, it is vital for individuals in hurricane-prone areas to prepare in advance of the hurricane season;

Whereas cooperation between individuals and Federal, State, and local officials can help increase preparedness, save lives, reduce the impact of each hurricane, and provide a more effective response to those storms;

Whereas the National Hurricane Center within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration recommends that each at-risk family in the United States develop a family disaster plan, create a disaster supply kit, secure their house, and stay aware of current weather situations to improve preparedness and help save lives, and

Whereas the designation of the week beginning May 26, 2008, as "National Hurricane Preparedness Week" will help raise the awareness of the people of the United States to assist them in preparing for the upcoming hurricane season: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week beginning May 26, 2008, as "National Hurricane Preparedness Week";

(2) encourages the people of the United States—

(A) to be prepared for the upcoming hurricane season; and

(B) to promote awareness of the dangers of hurricanes to help save lives and protect communities; and

(3) recognizes—

(A) the threats posed by hurricanes; and

(B) the need for the people of the United States to learn more about preparedness so that they may minimize the impacts of, and provide a more effective response to, hurricanes.

AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE CAPITOL ROTUNDA

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Con. Res. 85.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 85) authorizing the use of the rotunda of the Capitol to honor Frank W. Buckles, the last surviving United States veteran of the First World War.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the concurrent resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 85) was agreed to, as follows:

S. CON. RES. 85

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),

SECTION 1. HONORING FRANK W. BUCKLES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Rotunda of the Capitol is authorized to be used at any time on June 18, 2008 for a ceremony to honor the only living veteran of the First World War, Mr. Frank Woodruff Buckles, as a tribute and recognition of all United States military members who served in the First World War.

(b) IMPLEMENTATION.—Physical preparations for the ceremony shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions as the Architect of the Capitol may prescribe.

CONDITIONAL ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE AND CONDITIONAL RECESS OR ADJOURNMENT OF THE SENATE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 355.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 355) providing for a conditional adjournment of the House of Representatives and a conditional recess or adjournment of the Senate.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

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

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 355) was agreed to, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 355

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That when the House adjourns on the legislative day of Thursday, May 22, 2008, or Friday, May 23, 2008, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned until 2 p.m. on Tuesday, June 3, 2008, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first; and that when the Senate recesses or adjourns on any day from Thursday, May 22, 2008, through Friday, May 30, 2008, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand recessed or adjourned until noon on Monday, June 2, 2008, or such other time on that day as may be specified in the motion to recess or adjourn, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

SEC. 2. The Speaker of the House and the Majority Leader of the Senate, or their respective designees, acting jointly after consultation with the Minority Leader of the House and the Minority Leader of the Senate, shall notify the Members of the House and the Senate, respectively, to reassemble at such place and time as they may designate if, in their opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

ORDER FOR SIGNING AUTHORIZATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the upcoming recess or adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President pro tempore of the Senate, and the majority and minority leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences, or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses, or by order of the Senate.

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

NOMINATIONS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, one reason we waited until 20 till 8 tonight to try to complete the work of the Senate is that I had a number of conversations today with my staff trying to work out nominations, and we worked something out. I spoke with the President's Chief of Staff, Josh Bolten. I have always found him to be a very pleasant man to work with.

We arrived at an agreement we would approve, for example, ambassadors to 18 different countries; we would approve a man to be Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. Senator DODD went to a great deal of trouble to clear this nomination. In fact, he held a special meeting to get this nomination done. We were going to agree to a number of people, Republicans in nature: Stephen Krasner for the Institute of Peace; J. Robinson West for the Corporation for National Community Service—I am reading the Republicans because there are so few Democrats it is hardly worth mentioning—Eric Tannenblatt, Corporation for National and Community Service; Layshae Ward; Hyepin Christine Im. We have a number of military officers we agreed to, some 50 in number. In exchange for this, the Democrats were going to get three or four people.

I have always thought, in my dealings around here, when we work something out, that is the agreement. But at the last minute, somebody steps in and says that isn't quite good enough. That is unfortunate because the arrangement was negotiated with staff and Mr. Bolten in good faith.

Everyone should understand that people complain about the White House not having sufficient staff. Why don't you approve some of these nominations? Tonight, we had about 80 we were going to approve—military, ambassadors, a Cabinet Secretary. We got an objection about some inconsequential appointment in comparison to all these, important to the person involved, I am sure. That is not the way we should be doing business.

So here we are going into a recess. These people are not going to have their jobs. There is no fault on behalf of the Democrats. This was all done. So I want the President's Chief of Staff and the President to understand they are missing one Cabinet Secretary that Chairman DODD went through great trouble to approve.

The sad part about this is we rushed through this because we wanted one Democrat approved. It was personally important to one of our Senators. That is the way it is. But let this RECORD reflect there are military commissions that will not be granted and advanced. There will be a Cabinet Secretary not approved, there will be 18 ambassador positions which would not be filled, all because of the Republican minority.