

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE DAY  
ACT OF 2008

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 926, H.J. Res. 62; that the committee amendment be agreed to, the resolution be read the third time, passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The Senate proceeded to consider the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 62) to honor the achievements and contributions of Native Americans to the United States, and for other purposes, which had been reported from the Committee on Indian Affairs, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

*This Act may be cited as the "Native American Heritage Day Act of 2008".*

**SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

*Congress finds that—*

(1) *Native Americans are the descendants of the aboriginal, indigenous, native people who were the original inhabitants of the United States;*

(2) *Native Americans have volunteered to serve in the United States Armed Forces and have served with valor in all of the Nation's military actions from the Revolutionary War through the present day, and in most of those actions, more Native Americans per capita served in the Armed Forces than any other group of Americans;*

(3) *Native Americans have made distinct and significant contributions to the United States and the rest of the world in many fields, including agriculture, medicine, music, language, and art, and Native Americans have distinguished themselves as inventors, entrepreneurs, spiritual leaders, and scholars;*

(4) *Native Americans should be recognized for their contributions to the United States as local and national leaders, artists, athletes, and scholars;*

(5) *nationwide recognition of the contributions that Native Americans have made to the fabric of American society will afford an opportunity for all Americans to demonstrate their respect and admiration of Native Americans for their important contributions to the political, cultural, and economic life of the United States;*

(6) *nationwide recognition of the contributions that Native Americans have made to the Nation will encourage self-esteem, pride, and self-awareness in Native Americans of all ages;*

(7) *designation of the Friday following Thanksgiving of each year as Native American Heritage Day will underscore the government-to-government relationship between the United States and Native American governments; and*

(8) *designation of Native American Heritage Day will encourage public elementary and secondary schools in the United States to enhance understanding of Native Americans by providing curricula and classroom instruction focusing on the achievements and contributions of Native Americans to the Nation.*

**SEC. 3. IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE DAY.**

*Congress—*

(1) *designates Friday, November 28, 2008, as "Native American Heritage Day"; and*

(2) *encourages the people of the United States, as well as Federal, State, and local governments, and interested groups and organizations to observe Native American Heritage Day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities, including activities relating to—*

(A) *the historical status of Native American tribal governments as well as the present day status of Native Americans;*

(B) *the cultures, traditions, and languages of Native Americans; and*

(C) *the rich Native American cultural legacy that all Americans enjoy today.*

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed and the joint resolution to be read a third time.

The joint resolution (H.J. Res. 62) was read the third time, and passed.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I rise today to applaud the passage of the resolution congratulating the University of Maryland School of Medicine on its 200th anniversary. I am proud to introduce this resolution that recognizes the outstanding contributions the University of Maryland School of Medicine has made in the last 200 years to the medical community, Maryland community, and entire world.

The University of Maryland School of Medicine is the first public medical school in the country and is the fifth oldest medical school. Since 1789, it has been a leader in medical education—the first medical school in the country to build a teaching hospital for clinical instruction, the first to establish a medical library, and the first school to offer courses in preventive medicine.

Today, the University of Maryland School of Medicine is home to 25 academic departments, 7 research centers, and treats over 1 million patients a year. I commend the contributions the school has made over the past 200 years. I know the University of Maryland School of Medicine will continue to blaze trails in the future as a leader in medical research, patient care, education, and community service.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I rise today in support of a resolution that commemorates the Annual Red Ribbon Campaign. I am honored to again seek the Senate's continuing support and recognition of Red Ribbon Week, which is October 23 through October 31.

In 1985, Special Agent Enrique "Kiki" Camarena of the Drug Enforcement Administration was kidnapped, tortured, and murdered in the line of duty by drug traffickers. Shortly after Agent Camarena's death, Congressman DUNCAN HUNTER and high school friend Henry Lozano launched "Camarena Clubs" in the Agent's hometown of Calexico, CA. In honor of Agent Camarena, hundreds of club members wore red ribbons and pledged to lead drug-free lives. The campaign quickly gained statewide and then national prominence. In 1988, what is now the National Family Partnership organized the first National Red Ribbon Week, an 8-day event proclaimed by the Congress and chaired by then President and Mrs. Reagan.

This campaign is now the oldest and largest drug prevention program in the Nation, reaching millions of youth through Red Ribbon Week events. Red Ribbon Week memorializes Agent Camarena, and all those who have lost their lives in the war on drugs, by educating young people about the dangers of drug abuse, promoting drug-free ac-

tivities, and supporting everyone who has stood strong against illicit drugs. The Red Ribbon that we will wear during Red Ribbon Week is a symbol of zero tolerance for illegal drug use and our commitment to help people, especially children, make the right life-decisions.

In Alaska, Red Ribbon Week is a statewide celebration involving thousands of school children and other supporters. On October 27, the Alaska Red Ribbon Coalition, in conjunction with the municipality of Anchorage, will host a Red Ribbon Week kickoff. The Red Ribbon Coalition is comprised of the Anchorage School District, the Alaska State Troopers, the Anchorage Police Department, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, and the U.S. Department of Justice. Forty-three Boys & Girls Clubs across Alaska will help other Alaskan communities celebrate Red Ribbon Week throughout the State.

In addition, this year, the Red Ribbon Coalition, the Alaska National Guard, and the Iditarod Trail Committee are sponsoring the first ever Anchorage School District Idol whereby every junior high and high school in Anchorage will hold local talent competitions and select one act to move to a final competition. The acts will be judged based, among other things, on their drug-free themes, and the final competition will be held as part of the Iditarod Sled Dog Race festivities in March 2009. The plan is to broadcast the event to the students in all 50 States and across the globe who participate in the Iditarod Education Program, thus extending the reach of the 2008 Red Ribbon Week into 2009, and sharing Anchorage's Red Ribbon Week antidrug message and celebrations with the Nation and the world.

As we stand together against drugs, I thank my colleagues for joining me in what hopefully will be a continuation of the tradition of congressional support and recognition of Red Ribbon Week.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota is recognized.

**FINANCIAL CRISIS**

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I stand here today to highlight my grave concerns about our financial system and the American economy—a disaster that has been building for months and, in fact, years and last week quickly hit the breaking point.

The latest crisis seemed to come so suddenly, it moved so fast, it spread so far, and went straight to the heart of the global financial system. There is no doubt we are seeing now the biggest financial challenge since the Great Depression, and we are also witnessing the most remarkable degree of Government involvement into our financial system since the 1930s.

It is truly remarkable. Consider the list: Bear Stearns, Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, Lehman Brothers, Merrill Lynch,