

S. RES. 86

Whereas auctions have played an important role in the sale and exchange of goods for nearly 2,000 years;

Whereas auctions have been an integral part of the marketplace in the United States and around the world;

Whereas auctioneers sold nearly \$268,400,000,000 in goods and assets in 2008;

Whereas the National Auctioneers Association has 5,000 members and has its headquarters in Overland Park, Kansas;

Whereas, in 2008, members of the National Auctioneers Association raised \$16,000,000,000 for charity through benefit auctions;

Whereas auctions are growing in popularity and are used with increasing frequency in the marketplace;

Whereas, through competitive bidding, auctions demonstrate how the free enterprise system establishes fair market value;

Whereas trained professional auctioneers ensure that auctions are conducted in a manner that is fair to both buyers and sellers;

Whereas, in the past, Federal, State, and local governments have designated days and weeks to celebrate auctioneers; and

Whereas the designation by the Senate of April 18, 2009, as "National Auctioneers Day" will heighten awareness of the contributions made by auctions and auctioneers to the economy, culture, and way of life of the people of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate designates April 18, 2009, as "National Auctioneers Day".

SENATE RESOLUTION 87—EX-PRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT PUBLIC SERVANTS SHOULD BE COMMENDED FOR THEIR DEDICATION AND CONTINUED SERVICE TO THE NATION DURING PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK, MAY 4 THROUGH 10, 2009

Mr. AKAKA (for himself, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. LEVIN, and Mr. CARPER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:

S. RES. 87

Whereas Public Service Recognition Week provides an opportunity to recognize and promote the important contributions of public servants and honor the diverse men and women who meet the needs of the Nation through work at all levels of government;

Whereas millions of individuals work in government service in every city, county, and State across America and in hundreds of cities abroad;

Whereas public service is a noble calling involving a variety of challenging and rewarding professions;

Whereas Federal, State, and local governments are responsive, innovative, and effective because of the outstanding work of public servants;

Whereas the United States of America is a great and prosperous Nation, and public service employees contribute significantly to that greatness and prosperity;

Whereas the Nation benefits daily from the knowledge and skills of these highly trained individuals;

Whereas public servants—

- (1) defend our freedom and advance United States interests around the world;
- (2) provide vital strategic support functions to our military and serve in the National Guard and Reserves;

- (3) fight crime and fires;
- (4) ensure equal access to secure, efficient, and affordable mail service;
- (5) deliver social security and medicare benefits;
- (6) fight disease and promote better health;
- (7) protect the environment and the Nation's parks;
- (8) enforce laws guaranteeing equal employment opportunity and healthy working conditions;
- (9) defend and secure critical infrastructure;
- (10) help the Nation recover from natural disasters and terrorist attacks;
- (11) teach and work in our schools and libraries;
- (12) develop new technologies and explore the earth, moon, and space to help improve our understanding of how our world changes;
- (13) improve and secure our transportation systems;
- (14) promote economic growth; and
- (15) assist active duty service members and veterans;

Whereas members of the uniformed services and civilian employees at all levels of government make significant contributions to the general welfare of the United States, and are on the front lines in the fight against terrorism and in maintaining homeland security;

Whereas public servants work in a professional manner to build relationships with other countries and cultures in order to better represent America's interests and promote American ideals;

Whereas public servants alert Congress and the public to government waste, fraud, abuse, and dangers to public health;

Whereas the men and women serving in the Armed Forces of the United States, as well as those skilled trade and craft Federal employees who provide support to their efforts, are committed to doing their jobs regardless of the circumstances, and contribute greatly to the security of the Nation and the world;

Whereas public servants have bravely fought in armed conflict in defense of this Nation and its ideals and deserve the care and benefits they have earned through their honorable service;

Whereas government workers have much to offer, as demonstrated by their expertise and innovative ideas, and serve as examples by passing on institutional knowledge to train the next generation of public servants;

Whereas May 4 through 10, 2009, has been designated Public Service Recognition Week to honor America's Federal, State, and local government employees; and

Whereas Public Service Recognition Week is celebrating its 25th anniversary through job fairs, student activities, and agency exhibits: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

- (1) commends public servants for their outstanding contributions to this great Nation during Public Service Recognition Week and throughout the year;
- (2) salutes government employees for their unyielding dedication and spirit for public service;
- (3) honors those government employees who have given their lives in service to their country;
- (4) calls upon all generations to consider a career in public service; and
- (5) encourages efforts to promote public service careers at all levels of government.

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize America's public servants, who provide the essential services upon which this nation relies. As the chairman of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight of Government

Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia, I am honored to introduce a resolution paying tribute to these employees in celebration of Public Service Recognition Week.

This is the 25th anniversary of Public Service Recognition Week, which always takes place the first full week of May. It is a time set aside each year to honor the men and women who serve America as Federal, State, and local government employees, and commend their dedication to serving others.

The contributions of hardworking, talented government employees maintain our quality of life. They protect our borders from drug and weapon trafficking; conduct research to prevent future epidemics; and bring hope to those who live in poverty. Public servants teach our children; protect our homes and communities; secure our public water systems and critical infrastructure; preserve our natural resources; and defend the principles of liberty and freedom that we hold dear.

The men and women who serve in the armed forces, and the civilian employees who support their missions, are prime examples of public service. They embody the spirit of service, characterized by a willingness to defend this nation. Despite the many hardships of serving through long conflicts, these men and women serve with bravery and unwavering devotion. They have sacrificed their lives so that we might continue to be free.

President Obama has called for action to "encourage a renewed spirit of national service for this and future generations." While Public Service Recognition Week provides the opportunity to honor and celebrate the works of federal employees, it also serves as an opportunity for all Americans to explore the various careers in public service. Through job fairs, agency sponsored events, and special exhibits, Public Service Recognition Week allows the American public to gain a deeper appreciation of the challenging and rewarding work available in the government. It is my hope that through these sponsored events, many young professionals will decide to embrace a career as a public servant.

I encourage my colleagues to recognize the hard work and the services provided by government employees in their states and join in this annual celebration.

SENATE RESOLUTION 88—HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. JOHN HOPE FRANKLIN

Mrs. HAGAN (for herself, Mr. BURR, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. SCHUMER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 88

Whereas Dr. John Hope Franklin was born on January 2, 1915 in Rentiesville, Oklahoma, the grandson of a slave and the son of Buck Colbert Franklin, one of the first African-American lawyers in the Oklahoma Indian Territory, and Mollie Parker Franklin, a schoolteacher and community leader;