

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

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

The resolution (S. Res. 627) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 627

Whereas, on September 16, 1919, Congress issued to the American Legion a Federal charter as a wartime veterans service organization;

Whereas the American Legion remains active in communities at the national, State, and local levels;

Whereas members of the American Legion (commonly referred to as "Legionnaires") provide millions of hours of volunteer service to medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs and State homes for veterans throughout the United States;

Whereas the American Legion continues to sponsor activities for children and youth, including the National Oratorical Contest, Boy Scouts, American Legion Baseball, Boys State, and Boys Nation;

Whereas the American Legion awards millions of dollars in college scholarships to young men and women;

Whereas the American Legion National Emergency Fund provides financial assistance to Legionnaires displaced by natural disasters;

Whereas the American Legion Family Support Network provides assistance to members of the Armed Forces of the United States and their families;

Whereas the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation has provided millions of dollars to programs focused on youth in the United States, including the Special Olympics and the Children's Miracle Network;

Whereas the American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance provides grants to veterans with children experiencing financial hardships;

Whereas the American Legion remains second to none in steadfast support of strong national defense;

Whereas the American Legion supports maintaining a viable and principled foreign relations agenda;

Whereas the American Legion is a staunch advocate for the principal missions of the Department of Veterans Affairs;

Whereas the American Legion wrote the original draft of the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 (58 Stat. 284, chapter 268), commonly referred to as the "G. I. Bill of Rights";

Whereas the American Legion continues to support employment programs and opportunities for veterans; and

Whereas Legionnaires believe that a veteran's service to the United States continues long after the veteran is honorably discharged from the Armed Forces of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate designates September 16, 2010, as "The American Legion Day".

RECOGNIZING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL BOOK FESTIVAL

Mr. GOODWIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consider-

ation of S. Res. 628, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 628) recognizing the 10th anniversary of the National Book Festival.

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

Mr. GOODWIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution and preamble be agreed to en bloc, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc, and that any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 628) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 628

Whereas the National Book Festival is a great national treasure that fosters the joy of reading;

Whereas the first National Book Festival held on September 8, 2001, was organized and sponsored by the Library of Congress and hosted by First Lady Laura Bush;

Whereas the first National Book Festival, held on the grounds of the Library of Congress and the United States Capitol, was such a success that it has become an annual event;

Whereas the National Book Festival has grown in popularity, in recent years bringing over 130,000 book lovers to the National Mall;

Whereas, each year, the National Book Festival has featured more than 70 award-winning and nationally known authors, illustrators, poets, and storytellers;

Whereas the National Book Festival invites readers from around the United States to celebrate books, reading, and creativity;

Whereas the National Book Festival convenes the "Pavilion of the States" which includes representatives from all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the territories and possessions of the United States who discuss and distribute materials about their respective reading and literacy promotion programs;

Whereas this year the Festival has reached a milestone for both the Library of Congress and the Nation; and

Whereas the 10th National Book Festival will be held on September 25, 2010, on the National Mall, and supported by Honorary Co-Chairs President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes and emphasizes the important historic and ongoing role of the National Book Festival; and

(2) encourages the celebration of "A Decade of Words and Wonder" on Saturday, September, 25, 2010.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. GOODWIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 629, submitted earlier today.

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 629) recognizing Hispanic Heritage Month and celebrating the heritage and culture of Latinos in the United States and their immense contributions to the Nation.

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

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, I rise today to recognize September 15 through October 15 as Hispanic Heritage Month. America has always celebrated its diverse heritage with pride. It has always honored those who have contributed and made this Nation great.

Irish Americans, Italian Americans, African Americans, Asian Americans—all Americans—have come to this Nation and added to the rich and colorful patchwork quilt of American democracy.

This resolution recognizes Hispanic Americans for the contributions they have made to the rich fabric of America. It designates the next 30 days as Hispanic Heritage Month and in so doing celebrates the long history of Latinos in the United States and the extraordinary contribution they have made to this Nation throughout our history. That history is clear—written boldly but sometimes little known. But this is our history in America, and it is America's history.

Latinos have proudly served this Nation, helped build it and defend it, and continue to serve today.

We have been contributing to and have been part of the American tapestry for hundreds of years. Hispanics fought for freedom alongside the patriots in the American Revolution.

Increasingly, we find references to those who came before us—Bernardo de Galvez, a Spanish army officer—the Governor of Louisiana from 1775 to 1785—who played a role in blocking British advances against George Washington in the American Revolution. And Jorge Farragut, a Spanish ship captain who came to America and fought for the colonies against the British.

He was the father of the Civil War hero ADM David Farragut, known for his famous rallying cry, "Damn the torpedoes, full steam ahead."

I would imagine that few who walk past Farragut Square in Washington—not far from this Chamber—realize that Admiral Farragut was of Hispanic origin.

Latinos fought and died on both sides of the Civil War and have participated in every war since. There were at least 10,000 Mexican Americans fighting for the Union during the Civil War and a number of others fighting for the Confederacy.

In one of the folkloric tales of the Civil War, there was the story of Loretta Velasquez who was born in Cuba and claimed that she disguised herself as a male lieutenant and fought against Union forces at several battles, including Bull Run, and later claimed to have worked as a spy for the Confederacy.