

Australian Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Defence and the United States Secretaries of State and Defense, including a meeting in San Francisco in September 2011 that commemorated the 60th anniversary of the United States-Australia alliance;

Whereas the alliance remains fundamental to the security of Australia and the United States and to the peace, stability, and prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region, and is one dimension of a broad and deep relationship between the two countries that encompasses robust bilateral strategic, intelligence, trade, and investment relations based on shared interests and values, a common history and cultural traditions, and mutual respect;

Whereas numerous visits by Presidents of the United States, including this week by President Barack Obama, and by the Australian Prime Minister to the United States, including in 2011 when Prime Minister Julia Gillard addressed a Joint Session of Congress, have underscored the strength and closeness of the relationship;

Whereas members of the United States and Australian armed forces have fought side-by-side in every major conflict since the First World War, with the commitment to mutual defense and security between the United States and Australia being longstanding and unshakable, as was demonstrated by the joint decision to invoke the ANZUS Treaty in the aftermath of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks;

Whereas the Governments of the United States and Australia continue to share a common approach to the most pressing issues in global defense and security, including in Afghanistan, where about 1,550 Australian Defence Force personnel are deployed, and in response to natural disasters and humanitarian crises, such as in Japan following the earthquake and subsequent tsunami in March 2011;

Whereas Secretary of State Hillary Clinton recently stated, "We are expanding our alliance with Australia from a Pacific partnership to an Indo-Pacific one, and indeed a global partnership. . . . Australia's counsel and commitment have been indispensable.;"

Whereas Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta recently remarked that "the United States has no closer ally than Australia. . . . [We] affirm this alliance, affirm that it remains strong, and that we are determined to deepen our security cooperation even further to counter the threats and challenges that we face in the future.;"

Whereas the Governments of the United States and Australia agreed to set up a Force Posture Working Group at the November 2010 AUSMIN to examine options to align respective force postures consistent with the national security requirements of both countries and to help positively shape the regional security environment;

Whereas the United States and Australia committed in a Joint Statement on Cyberspace during the 2011 AUSMIN meeting to consult together and determine appropriate options to address any threats;

Whereas the Government of Australia is a major purchaser of United States military resources, approximately 50 percent of Australia's war-fighting assets are sourced from the United States, and the Government of Australia has plans to spend a substantial sum over the next 10-15 years to update or replace up to about 85 percent of its military equipment;

Whereas, on September 29, 2010, the Senate provided its advice and consent to ratification of the Treaty Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Australia Concerning Defense Trade Cooperation, signed at Sydney, Australia, September 5, 2007, which will facili-

tate defense trade between the two nations and enhance interoperability between military forces;

Whereas the Governments of the United States and Australia support open, transparent, and inclusive regional architectures to preserve and enhance peace, security, and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region;

Whereas the Governments of the United States and Australia cooperate closely in regional and global forums, as evidenced by Australia's support for the United States as the host this month of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum in 2011 and the United States' support for Australia to host the G-20 in 2014;

Whereas the United States and Australia elevated their trade relationship through the Australia-United States Free Trade Agreement that entered into force on January 1, 2005, and exports of United States goods to Australia have risen by 53 percent since that time, totaling \$21,900,000,000 in 2010;

Whereas the United States is Australia's largest destination for foreign investment, helping create jobs for United States workers, with Australian companies employing more than 88,000 people directly in the United States;

Whereas the Governments and people of the United States and Australia work closely to advance and support human rights, the rule of law, and basic freedoms worldwide;

Whereas the Governments and people of the United States and Australia work jointly and separately to support democracy, economic reform, and good governance in the Pacific Islands, Southeast Asia, South and Central Asia, the Middle East, and North Africa, among other areas of the world; and

Whereas the Governments of the United States and Australia are working through their respective aid agencies (USAID and AusAID) and also exploring opportunities for collaboration across a wide variety of areas: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) celebrates the 60th Anniversary of the United States-Australia alliance and takes this opportunity to reiterate the enduring significance of this historic friendship that serves as an anchor of peace, stability, and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region and in the world;

(2) supports United States efforts to strengthen military, diplomatic, trade, economic, and people-to-people cooperation with Australia, including initiatives to positively shape the evolving strategic and economic environment that connects the Indian and the Pacific Oceans; and

(3) urges close consultation between the Governments of the United States and Australia in preparation for the East Asia Summit to be chaired by Indonesia on November 19, 2011, and encourages other, new forms of cooperation with the Government and people of Australia that strengthen regional architectures to enhance peace, security, and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region.

SENATE RESOLUTION 325—RECOGNIZING THE 2012 WORLD CHOIR GAMES IN CINCINNATI, OHIO, AS A GLOBAL EVENT OF CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE TO THE UNITED STATES AND EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR DESIGNATION OF JULY 2012 AS WORLD CHOIR GAMES MONTH IN THE UNITED STATES

Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. BROWN of Ohio) submitted the following resolution; which was referred

to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 325

Whereas the World Choir Games, the largest choral competition in the world, takes place every 2 years, is known as the "Olympics of choral music", and has the goal of uniting people from all countries through singing in peaceful competition;

Whereas, from July 4 through July 14, 2012, Cincinnati, Ohio, will be first city in the United States to host the World Choir Games;

Whereas the Seventh World Choir Games are expected to include more than 400 choirs from more than 70 countries, 20,000 official participants, including performers, event officials, delegations, and international jury members, and up to 200,000 spectators;

Whereas choirs will compete in 23 different musical genres evaluated by an impartial international jury of choral music experts;

Whereas the genres of barbershop and show choir will be added as competition categories for the first time in recognition of their popularity in the United States;

Whereas the uniting of the people of the world through singing in peaceful competition in the United States in 2012 affirms the commitment of the United States to global cultural awareness, understanding, and appreciation; and

Whereas it is appropriate to designate July 2012 as World Choir Games Month in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the global significance of the Seventh World Choir Games to be hosted in Cincinnati, Ohio, from July 4 through July 14, 2012;

(2) recognizes Interkultur, the Cincinnati Organizing Committee for the Seventh World Choir Games, the Cincinnati USA Convention and Visitors Bureau, the city of Cincinnati, and the State of Ohio for their efforts to secure and host the World Choir Games;

(3) expresses appreciation to all people of the world who will participate in the World Choir Games, either in competition or as visitors, and to all of the volunteers who will welcome the participants and other visitors to the United States;

(4) supports the designation of July 2012 as World Choir Games Month in the United States; and

(5) renews the commitment of the United States to world peace and friendship and increasing global cultural understanding through singing in peaceful competition.

SENATE RESOLUTION 326—DESIGNATING THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2011, AS "FEED AMERICA DAY"

Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LUGAR, and Mr. UDALL of New Mexico) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 326

Whereas Thanksgiving Day celebrates the spirit of selfless giving and an appreciation for family and friends;

Whereas the spirit of Thanksgiving Day is a virtue upon which the United States was founded;

Whereas, according to the Department of Agriculture, roughly 48,000,000 people in the United States, including 16,200,000 children, continue to live in households that do not have an adequate supply of food; and

Whereas selfless sacrifice breeds a genuine spirit of thanksgiving, both affirming and restoring fundamental principles in our society: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates Thursday, November 17, 2011, as “Feed America Day”; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to sacrifice 2 meals on Thursday, November 17, 2011, and to donate the money that would have been spent on that food to the religious or charitable organization of their choice for the purpose of feeding the hungry.

SENATE RESOLUTION 327—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF AMERICAN DIABETES MONTH

Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. KIRK, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. AKAKA, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. LAUTENBERG) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 327

Whereas according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (referred to in this preamble as “CDC”), nearly 26,000,000 people of the United States have diabetes and 79,000,000 people of the United States have pre-diabetes

Whereas diabetes is a serious chronic condition that affects people of every age, race, ethnicity, and income level;

Whereas the CDC reports that Hispanic, African, Asian, and Native Americans are disproportionately affected by diabetes and suffer from diabetes at rates that are much higher than the general population;

Whereas according to the CDC, someone is diagnosed with diabetes every 17 seconds;

Whereas each day, approximately 5,082 people are diagnosed with diabetes;

Whereas in 2010, the CDC estimated that approximately 1,900,000 individuals aged 20 and older were newly diagnosed with diabetes;

Whereas a joint National Institutes of Health and CDC study found that approximately 15,000 youth in the United States are diagnosed with type 1 diabetes annually and approximately 3,600 youth are diagnosed with type 2 diabetes annually;

Whereas according to the CDC, between 1980 and 2007, diabetes prevalence in the United States increased by more than 300 percent;

Whereas the CDC reports that over 27 percent of individuals with diabetes are undiagnosed;

Whereas the National Diabetes Fact Sheet issued by the CDC states that more than 11 percent of adults of the United States and 26.9 percent of people of the United States age 60 and older have diabetes;

Whereas the CDC estimates as many as 1 in 3 American adults will have diabetes in 2050 if present trends continue;

Whereas the CDC estimates that as many as 1 in 2 Hispanic, African, Asian, and Native American adults will have diabetes in 2050 if present trends continue;

Whereas according to the American Diabetes Association, in 2007, the total cost of diagnosed diabetes in the United States was \$174,000,000,000, and 1 in 10 dollars spent on health care was attributed to diabetes and its complications;

Whereas according to a Lewin Group study, in 2007, the total cost of diabetes (including both diagnosed and undiagnosed diabetes, pre-diabetes, and gestational diabetes) was \$218,000,000,000;

Whereas a Mathematica Policy Research study in 2007 found that, for each fiscal year, total expenditures for Medicare beneficiaries with diabetes comprise 32.7 percent of the Medicare budget;

Whereas according to the CDC, diabetes was the seventh leading cause of death in 2007 and contributed to the deaths of over 230,000 Americans in 2007;

Whereas there is not yet a cure for diabetes;

Whereas there are proven means to reduce the incidence of, and delay the onset of, type 2 diabetes;

Whereas with the proper management and treatment, people with diabetes live healthy, productive lives; and

Whereas American Diabetes Month is celebrated in November: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of American Diabetes Month, including—

(A) encouraging the people of the United States to fight diabetes through public awareness about prevention and treatment options; and

(B) increasing education about the disease;

(2) recognizes the importance of early detection of diabetes, awareness of the symptoms of diabetes, and the risk factors that often lead to the development of diabetes, including—

(A) being over the age of 45;

(B) having a specific racial and ethnic background;

(C) being overweight;

(D) having a low level of physical activity level;

(E) having high blood pressure; and

(F) having a family history of diabetes or a history of diabetes during pregnancy; and

(3) supports decreasing the prevalence of type 1, type 2, and gestational diabetes in the United States through increased research, treatment, and prevention.

SENATE RESOLUTION 328—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 14 THROUGH 20, 2011, AS “GLOBAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP WEEK/USA”

Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. MORAN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 328

Whereas research has shown that between 1980 and 2005 the majority of jobs in the United States were created by entrepreneurs and the young companies of those entrepreneurs;

Whereas the economy and society of the United States, as well as the country as a whole, have greatly benefitted from the everyday use of breakthrough innovations developed and brought to market by entrepreneurs;

Whereas Global Entrepreneurship Week/USA is an initiative to celebrate the innovators and job creators who launch startups that bring ideas to life, drive economic growth, and improve human welfare;

Whereas Global Entrepreneurship Week/USA helps existing and aspiring entrepreneurs to acquire the knowledge, skills, and networks needed to create vibrant enterprises that will improve the lives and communities of the entrepreneurs;

Whereas, in 2010, more than 445,896 individuals participated in the more than 3,200 entrepreneurial activities held in the United States alone during Global Entrepreneurship Week;

Whereas, in 2010, more than 1,300 partner organizations participated in Global Entre-

preneurship Week/USA, including startup accelerators, business incubators, chambers of commerce, institutions of higher education, high schools, businesses, and State and local governments; and

Whereas, in 2011, thousands of organizations in the United States will join in the celebration by planning activities designed to inspire, connect, mentor, and engage the next generation of entrepreneurs throughout Global Entrepreneurship Week/USA: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of November 14 through 20, 2011, as “Global Entrepreneurship Week/USA”; and

(2) supports the goals of Global Entrepreneurship Week/USA, including—

(A) inspiring young people everywhere to embrace innovation, imagination, and creativity; and

(B) training the next generation of entrepreneurial leaders.

SENATE RESOLUTION 329—RECOGNIZING NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH AND CELEBRATING THE HERITAGES AND CULTURES OF NATIVE AMERICANS AND THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF NATIVE AMERICANS TO THE UNITED STATES

Mr. AKAKA (for himself, Mr. REID of Nevada, Mr. BARRASSO, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. INOUE, Mr. JOHANNIS, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. TESTER, and Mr. UDALL of New Mexico) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 329

Whereas from November 1, 2011, through November 30, 2011, the United States celebrates National Native American Heritage Month;

Whereas Native Americans are descendants of the original, indigenous inhabitants of what is now the United States;

Whereas the United States Bureau of the Census estimated in 2009 that there were almost 5,000,000 individuals in the United States of Native American descent;

Whereas Native Americans maintain vibrant cultures and traditions and hold a deeply rooted sense of community;

Whereas Native Americans have moving stories of tragedy, triumph, and perseverance that need to be shared with future generations;

Whereas Native Americans speak and preserve indigenous languages, which have contributed to the English language by being used as names of individuals and locations throughout the United States;

Whereas Congress has recently reaffirmed its support of tribal self-governance and its commitment to improving the lives of all Native Americans by enhancing health care services, increasing law enforcement resources, and approving settlements of litigation involving Indian tribes and the United States;

Whereas Congress is committed to improving the housing conditions and socioeconomic status of Native Americans;

Whereas the United States is committed to strengthening the government-to-government relationship that it has maintained with the various Indian tribes;

Whereas Congress has recognized the contributions of the Iroquois Confederacy, and its influence on the Founding Fathers in the drafting of the Constitution of the United States with the concepts of freedom of