

Whereas national marine sanctuaries increase access to nature for all, support coastal communities, and generate billions of dollars annually in local communities by providing jobs in the United States, supporting commercial, Tribal, and recreational fisheries, bolstering tourism and recreation, engaging businesses in stewardship, and driving the growth of the blue economy;

Whereas national marine sanctuaries connect people and communities through science, education, United States history, recreation, and stewardship and inspire community-based solutions that help individuals understand and protect the spectacular underwater habitats, wildlife, archaeological resources, and cultural seascapes of the United States;

Whereas national marine sanctuaries are living laboratories that enable cooperative science and research that improves resource management and advances innovative public-private partnerships;

Whereas national marine sanctuaries can help make oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes more resilient by protecting ecosystems that sequester carbon, by safeguarding coastal communities from flooding and storms, and by protecting biodiversity;

Whereas the United States is a historic maritime Nation, and oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes are central to the way of life of the people of the United States;

Whereas engaging communities as stewards of these protected waters makes national marine sanctuaries unique and provides a comprehensive, ecosystem-based, highly participatory approach to managing and conserving marine and Great Lakes environments for current and future generations; and

Whereas October 23, 2023, is recognized as “National Marine Sanctuary Day” to increase awareness about the importance of the National Marine Sanctuary System and healthy oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and to celebrate the many recreational opportunities available for the enjoyment of this network of protected waters: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 23, 2023, as “National Marine Sanctuary Day”;

(2) encourages the people of the United States and the world to responsibly visit, experience, recreate in, and support the treasured national marine sanctuaries of the United States;

(3) acknowledges the importance of national marine sanctuaries in supporting community resilience, protecting biodiversity, and increasing access to nature;

(4) recognizes the importance of national marine sanctuaries for their recreational opportunities and contributions to local and national economies across the United States;

(5) celebrates the ability of the National Marine Sanctuary System to protect nationally significant places in oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes;

(6) calls on the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to partner with communities and to complete designations of new national marine sanctuaries; and

(7) encourages Federal agencies to balance priorities and work together to support the priorities of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (33 U.S.C. 1401 et seq.).

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 420—DESIGNATING BETTY K. KOED AS HISTORIAN EMERITA OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE

Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BAR-

RASSO, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BRAUN, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BUDD, Ms. BUTLER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. ERNST, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAGERTY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEE, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MORAN, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PETERS, Mr. REED, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. VANCE, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. YOUNG) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

#### S. RES. 420

Whereas Betty K. Koed will retire from the United States Senate after serving with distinction, first as Assistant Historian from 1998 to 2009, then as Associate Historian from 2009 to 2015, and then as Senate Historian from 2015 to 2023, the first woman to hold that position;

Whereas Betty K. Koed has dedicated her Senate service to preserving, protecting, and promoting the history of the Senate and its members;

Whereas Betty K. Koed has produced or directed production of numerous publications detailing the rich institutional history of the Senate;

Whereas Betty K. Koed has been instrumental in preserving, organizing, and making available to scholars the vast archival holdings of the Senate and its members;

Whereas Betty K. Koed has assisted in the Senate's commemoration of events of historical significance and in the development of exhibitions and educational programs on the history of the Senate and the United States Capitol;

Whereas Betty K. Koed has upheld the high standards and traditions of the Senate with abiding devotion and has performed her Senate duties in an impartial and professional manner; and

Whereas Betty K. Koed has earned the respect, affection, and esteem of the United States Senate: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That, effective October 21, 2023, as a token of the appreciation of the Senate for her long and faithful service, Betty K. Koed is hereby designated as Historian Emerita of the United States Senate.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 421—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 15 THROUGH 21, 2023, AS “NATIONAL CHEMISTRY WEEK”

Mr. COONS (for himself, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. PETERS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

#### S. RES. 421

Whereas chemistry is the science of the basic units of matter and, consequently, plays a role in every aspect of human life;

Whereas chemistry has broad applications, including in food science, soil science, maintaining water quality, energy production, sustainability, medicine, and electronics;

Whereas the science of chemistry is vital to improving the quality of human life and plays an important role in addressing critical global challenges;

Whereas innovations in chemistry continue to spur economic growth, create jobs, and have applications for a wide range of industries;

Whereas the practitioners of chemistry are catalysts of positive change in their communities and the world;

Whereas National Chemistry Week is part of a broader vision to improve human life through chemistry and to advance the chemistry enterprise;

Whereas the purpose of National Chemistry Week is to reach the public with educational messages about chemistry in order to foster greater understanding of and appreciation for the applications and benefits of chemistry;

Whereas National Chemistry Week strives to stimulate the interest of young people, including women and underrepresented groups, in enthusiastically studying science, technology, engineering, and mathematics and in pursuing science-related careers that lead to innovations and major scientific breakthroughs;

Whereas National Chemistry Week signifies the collaborative nature of science and promotes partnership between scientific societies, academia, industry, and the public;

Whereas National Chemistry Week highlights many of the everyday uses of chemistry, including in food, dyes, pigments, plastics, soaps, detergents, health products, and energy technologies;

Whereas the theme of the 34th annual National Chemistry Week is “The Healing Power of Chemistry”; and

Whereas students who participate in National Chemistry Week deserve recognition and support for their efforts: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week beginning on October 15, 2023, as “National Chemistry Week”;

(2) supports the goals and welcomes the participants of the 34th annual National Chemistry Week;

(3) recognizes the need to promote the fields of science, including chemistry, technology, engineering, and mathematics, and to encourage youth, including from underrepresented groups, to pursue careers in these fields; and

(4) commends the American Chemical Society and the partners of that society for seeking opportunities to engage with the public and for organizing and convening events and activities surrounding National Chemistry Week each year.

# SENATE RESOLUTION 422—DESIGNATING AUGUST 1, 2023, AS “GOLD STAR CHILDREN’S DAY”

Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. MANCHIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 422

Whereas the recognition of Gold Star Families in the United States dates back to World War I, when the families of fallen service members displayed a service flag with a gold star in the window of their homes;

Whereas, in 1936, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed into law legislation declaring Gold Star Mother’s Day, a national observance honoring the mothers of fallen service members annually on the last Sunday of September;

Whereas, since 2010, the Senate has honored Gold Star Spouses by resolution annually, recognizing the unique sacrifices made by spouses of fallen service members;

Whereas thousands of sons and daughters of military families have lost mothers or fathers who served in the Armed Forces and also deserve national recognition for the burden and legacy they carry; and

Whereas no date has existed to specifically recognize the children of fallen service members of the United States as part of a national debt of gratitude that the people of the United States owe to the service members who sacrificed all in protecting the freedom of the United States and the people of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates August 1, 2023, as “Gold Star Children’s Day”;

(2) honors the sacrifices and hardships of the children of fallen service members; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe Gold Star Children’s Day in support of children of the fallen men and women of the Armed Forces of the United States.

## AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1354. Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mr. MORAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

## TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

**SA 1354.** Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mr. MORAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_.** **PROHIBITION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO REPORT CERTAIN INFORMATION REGARDING VETERANS.**

None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs under section 5502 of title 38, United States Code, in any case arising out

of the administration by the Secretary of laws and benefits under such title, to report a person who is deemed mentally incapacitated, mentally incompetent, or to be experiencing an extended loss of consciousness as a person who has been adjudicated as a mental defective under subsection (d)(4) or (g)(4) of section 922 of title 18, United States Code, without the order or finding of a judge, magistrate, or other judicial authority of competent jurisdiction that such person is a danger to himself or herself or others.

## AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I have four requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

### COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet in open and closed session during the session of the Senate on Thursday, October 19, 2023, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

### COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, October 19, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

### COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, October 19, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

### COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet in open session during the session of the Senate on Thursday, October 19, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

## PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that privileges of the floor be extended to Matt Squeri, member of my team, for the balance of the day.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection.

## ORDERS FOR MONDAY, OCTOBER, 23, 2023, THROUGH TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2023

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 12 noon on Monday, October 23, for a pro forma session only, with no business conducted; that when the Senate adjourns on Monday, it next convene at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, October 24; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings

be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Whitaker nomination; that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings; that the cloture motions filed during today’s session ripen at 2:15 p.m.; and, finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Tuesday’s session, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action.

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

## ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2023

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 5:49 p.m., adjourned until Monday, October, 23, 2023, at 12 noon.

## NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

### IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

#### To be colonel

LA RITA S. ABEL  
DANA M. ADRIAN  
TAMERA G. BORCHARDT  
KARLA M. DENNARD  
SARAH L. HUFFMAN  
JEANAE M. JACKSON  
JANICE M. PECUA  
FRANKLIN PORCIL  
KAWANA A. RAWLS  
MICHELE S. SUGGS  
SALVADOR V. VARGAS  
DARA J. WARREN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

#### To be colonel

SAUNYA N. BRIGHT  
BRANDON N. CHRISTENSEN  
STEVEN A. DEZELL  
JIMMEY N. LABIT, JR.  
TIMOTHY J. MCDOWELL  
JENNIE S. SHEFFIELD  
STEPHEN C. SIMPSON  
TRACY L. SNYDER  
LEONARDO E. TATO  
ROBBIE L. WHEELER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

#### To be colonel

SHELLEY L. ALDRICH  
KEVIN D. ALFORD  
PETER A. BALDWIN  
JEFFREY G. BELISLE  
HALTON W. BEUMER  
MICHELLE M. BRAY  
MICHAEL DAVID BREWER  
KIMBERLY K. BROUGHTON  
ANDREW W. BURSAR  
JOSEPH G. COLLES  
CHRISTIAN F. COOPER  
JAMES D. COVELLI  
RYAN E. DAVIS  
ELIZABETH A. DWYER  
STEPHEN B. EDSTROM  
TARRA I. A. FAULK  
BRENT A. FELDT  
PHILIP MARK FLATAU  
JUSTIN P. FOX  
JASON C. GARNER  
KATHRYN K. GARNER