

SENATE RESOLUTION 789—COM-MENDING THE MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY, MANKATO WOMEN'S AND MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAMS FOR WINNING THE 2024 NCAA DIVISION II BASKETBALL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Ms. SMITH) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 789

Whereas, on March 29, 2024, the Minnesota State University, Mankato women's basketball team (referred to in this preamble as the "women's basketball team") won the 2024 National Collegiate Athletic Association (referred to in this preamble as the "NCAA") Division II women's basketball national championship game against the Texas Woman's University Pioneers by a score of 89 to 73;

Whereas the women's basketball team, the number 5 seed in the tournament, claimed its first national championship since 2009, when the program won its only other national title;

Whereas sophomore Natalie Bremer, from Lake City, Minnesota—

(1) led the offense of the women's basketball team with 27 points, hitting 9 of 17 shots from the field, 3 of 4 shots from beyond the arc, and 6 of 6 shots at the free throw line;

(2) was named the NCAA Elite Eight Most Outstanding Player with an average of 23.3 points, 5.6 rebounds, and 3.6 steals per game, shooting 50.9 percent from the field; and

(3) became the 26th member of the Minnesota State 1,000 Point Club by scoring 29 points in the national semifinal game against California State University San Marcos;

Whereas senior Joey Batt, from New Ulm, Minnesota—

(1) was honored as an NCAA Central Region Tournament Most Valuable Player, with an average of 18.3 points, 4 assists, and 3 steals per game;

(2) was named to the NCAA Elite Eight team after averaging 14.6 points, 4.6 assists, and 3 steals per game at the NCAA Elite Eight;

(3) led the women's basketball team in scoring, averaging 16 points per game and shooting 44.5 percent from the field and 36 percent from 3-point range;

(4) led the women's basketball team in steals with 117 steals;

(5) finished second on the women's basketball team in assists with 104 assists;

(6) was named a Women's Basketball Coaches Association All-American;

(7) was named to the Division II Conference Commissioners Association All-American Third Team; and

(8) was named the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference Defensive Player of the Year;

Whereas Head Coach Emilee Thiesse—

(1) led the women's basketball team to an overall record of 32 wins and only 5 losses in the 2023–2024 season;

(2) finished the 2023–2024 season on an 11-game winning streak; and

(3) was named the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference Coach of the Year;

Whereas the NCAA Division II women's basketball national runner-up, Texas Woman's University, finished the 2023–2024 season with 34 wins and only 5 losses;

Whereas, on March 30, 2024, the Minnesota State University, Mankato men's basketball team (referred to in this preamble as the "men's basketball team") won the 2024

NCAA Division II men's basketball national championship game against Nova Southeastern University by a score of 88 to 85;

Whereas junior guard Kyreese Willingham hit a game-winning 3-point shot from the corner with 0.8 seconds on the clock off of a pass from his brother, senior guard Malik Willingham;

Whereas senior forward Dylan Peeters—

(1) led the men's basketball team with 19 points; and

(2) made 9 of 10 shots from the field;

Whereas Malik Willingham, from Waseca, Minnesota—

(1) was named the NCAA Elite Eight Most Outstanding Player;

(2) averaged 17.3 points, 5.7 rebounds, and 5 assists per game in the tournament; and

(3) finished his career as the third leading scorer in Minnesota State University history;

Whereas Kyreese Willingham, from Waseca, Minnesota—

(1) was named the Most Valuable Player of the NCAA Central Region Tournament, posting 17 points and 6.7 rebounds per game while shooting 61.3 percent from the field; and

(2) was named to the NCAA Elite Eight All-Tournament Team, recording 14 points and 4 rebounds per game;

Whereas, in his 23rd season as head coach, Coach Matt Margenthaler—

(1) guided the men's basketball team to a season of 35 wins and 2 losses;

(2) guided the men's basketball team to their first NCAA Division II Championship in program history;

(3) was named the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference Coach of the Year; and

(4) was named the National Association of Basketball Coaches Division II Coach of the Year;

Whereas the men's basketball team finished the 2023–2024 season ranked second in attendance in Division II of the NCAA; and

Whereas the NCAA Division II men's basketball national runner-up, Nova Southeastern University, finished with a record of 32 wins and 3 losses 1 year after winning the Division II Men's Basketball National Championship:

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the Minnesota State University, Mankato women's basketball team for its victory in the 2024 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II women's basketball national championship game;

(2) recognizes the dedication, perseverance, togetherness, and hard work of the players, coaches, students, alumni, fans, administration, and support staff that directly contributed to the victory of the Minnesota State University women's basketball team in the 2024 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II women's basketball national championship game;

(3) commends Texas Women's University on a great season as the Division II women's basketball national runner-up;

(4) commends the Minnesota State University, Mankato men's basketball team for its victory in the 2024 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II men's basketball national championship game;

(5) recognizes the dedication, perseverance, togetherness, and hard work of the players, coaches, students, alumni, fans, administration, and support staff that directly contributed to the victory of the Minnesota State University men's basketball team in the 2024 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II men's basketball national championship game; and

(6) commends Nova Southeastern University on a great season as the Division II men's basketball national runner-up.

SENATE RESOLUTION 790—COM-MENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2024 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION MEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

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

S. RES. 790

Whereas, on Monday, April 8, 2024, the University of Connecticut's men's basketball team (referred to in this preamble as the "UConn Huskies") won the 2024 National Collegiate Athletic Association (referred to in this preamble as the "NCAA") Men's Basketball Championship with a 75–60 win over the Purdue University Boilermakers;

Whereas this is the UConn Huskies' sixth national championship, continuing the team's undefeated streak in national championship games;

Whereas this is the UConn Huskies' second consecutive national championship, becoming only the eighth NCAA Division I men's basketball team to accomplish this feat;

Whereas the UConn Huskies earned all 6 national titles since 1999, a feat that no other college team has surpassed during that time;

Whereas Tristen Newton was named the Most Outstanding Player of the NCAA tournament, averaging 14.5 points per game;

Whereas the UConn Huskies won every NCAA tournament game by 14 points or more for a second straight year and set the record this year for the largest margin of victory over its 6-game run with 140 combined points; and

Whereas, because the University of Connecticut is also home to the most successful NCAA Division I women's basketball program, having won a record 11 national championships and appearing in their twenty-third Final Four this year, Storrs, Connecticut, is the Basketball Capital of the World: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the University of Connecticut men's basketball team for winning the 2024 National Collegiate Athletic Association Men's Basketball Championship;

(2) congratulates the fans, students, and faculty of the University of Connecticut; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) the President of the University of Connecticut, Radenka Maric; and

(B) the Head Coach of the University of Connecticut men's basketball team, Dan Hurley.

SENATE RESOLUTION 791—DESIGNATING AUGUST 1, 2024, 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. 791

Whereas the recognition of Gold Star Families in the United States dates back to World War I, when the families of fallen members of the Armed Forces 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, now known as

“Gold Star Mother’s and Family’s Day”, a national observance honoring the mothers of fallen members of the Armed Forces annually on the last Sunday of September;

Whereas, since 2010, the Senate has honored Gold Star Spouses by resolution annually on April 5, recognizing the unique sacrifices made by spouses of fallen members of the Armed Forces;

Whereas many thousands of children of military families have lost parents 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 members of the Armed Forces as part of a national debt of gratitude that the people of the United States owe to the members of the Armed Forces 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, 2024, as “Gold Star Children’s Day”;

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

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

SENATE RESOLUTION 792—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2024 AS “NATIONAL CHILD AWARENESS MONTH” TO PROMOTE AWARENESS OF CHARITIES THAT BENEFIT CHILDREN AS WELL AS YOUTH-SERVING ORGANIZATIONS THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES AND RECOGNIZING THE EFFORTS MADE BY THOSE CHARITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS ON BEHALF OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH AS CRITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FUTURE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. LANKFORD (for himself, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. PADILLA, and Mrs. CAPITO) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 792

Whereas the millions of children and youth in the United States represent the hopes and the future of the United States;

Whereas numerous individuals, charities benefitting children, and youth-serving organizations that work with children and youth collaborate to provide invaluable services to enrich and better the lives of children and youth throughout the United States;

Whereas raising awareness of and increasing support for organizations that provide access to health care, social services, education, the arts, sports, and other services will result in the development of character in, and the future success of, the children and youth of the United States;

Whereas the month of September, as the school year begins, is a time when parents, families, teachers, school administrators, and communities increase the focus on children and youth throughout the United States;

Whereas the month of September is a time for the people of the United States to highlight and be mindful of the needs of children and youth;

Whereas private corporations and businesses have joined with hundreds of national and local charitable organizations throughout the United States in support of a month-long focus on children and youth; and

Whereas a long-term commitment to children and youth is in the public interest and will encourage widespread support for charities and organizations that seek to provide a better future for the children and youth of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate designates September 2024 as “National Child Awareness Month”—

(1) to promote awareness of—

(A) charities that benefit children; and

(B) youth-serving organizations throughout the United States;

(2) to recognize the efforts made by the charities and organizations described in paragraph (1) on behalf of children and youth as critical contributions to the future of the United States; and

(3) to recognize the importance of meeting the needs of at-risk children and youth, including children and youth who—

(A) have experienced homelessness;

(B) are in the foster care system;

(C) have been victims, or are at risk of becoming victims, of child sex trafficking;

(D) have been impacted by violence;

(E) have experienced trauma; and

(F) have serious physical and mental health needs.

SENATE RESOLUTION 793—DESIGNATING JULY 30, 2024, AS “NATIONAL WHISTLEBLOWER APPRECIATION DAY”

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. JOHNSON, Ms. ERNST, Mr. PETERS, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. CARPER, Mrs. FISCHER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. MORAN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. WICKER, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. WARNOCK) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 793

Whereas, in 1777, before the passage of the Bill of Rights, 10 sailors and marines blew the whistle on fraud and misconduct that was harmful to the United States;

Whereas the Founding Fathers unanimously supported the whistleblowers in words and deeds, including by releasing government records and providing monetary assistance for the reasonable legal expenses necessary to prevent retaliation against the whistleblowers;

Whereas, on July 30, 1778, in demonstration of their full support for whistleblowers, the members of the Continental Congress unanimously passed the first whistleblower legislation in the United States that read: “*Resolved*, That it is the duty of all persons in the service of the United States, as well as all other the inhabitants thereof, to give the earliest information to Congress or other proper authority of any misconduct, frauds or misdemeanors committed by any officers or persons in the service of these states, which may come to their knowledge” (legislation of July 30, 1778, reprinted in *Journals of the Continental Congress, 1774–1789*, ed. Worthington C. Ford et al. (Washington, DC, 1904–37), 11:732);

Whereas whistleblowers risk their careers, jobs, and reputations by reporting waste, fraud, and abuse to the proper authorities;

Whereas, in providing the proper authorities with lawful disclosures, whistleblowers save the taxpayers of the United States billions of dollars each year and serve the public interest by ensuring that the United States remains an ethical and safe place; and

Whereas it is the public policy of the United States to encourage, in accordance

with Federal law (including the Constitution of the United States, rules, and regulations) and consistent with the protection of classified information (including sources and methods of detection of classified information), honest and good faith reporting of misconduct, fraud, misdemeanors, and other crimes to the appropriate authority at the earliest time possible: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates July 30, 2024, as “National Whistleblower Appreciation Day”; and

(2) ensures that the Federal Government implements the intent of the Founding Fathers, as reflected in the legislation passed on July 30, 1778 (relating to whistleblowers), by encouraging each executive agency to recognize National Whistleblower Appreciation Day by—

(A) informing employees, contractors working on behalf of the taxpayers of the United States, and members of the public about the legal right of a United States citizen to “blow the whistle” to the appropriate authority by honest and good faith reporting of misconduct, fraud, misdemeanors, or other crimes; and

(B) acknowledging the contributions of whistleblowers to combating waste, fraud, abuse, and violations of laws and regulations of the United States.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 39—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE BEEN WRONGFULLY OR UNJUSTLY DEPORTED FROM THE UNITED STATES WHO ESTABLISHED SIGNIFICANT TIES TO THE UNITED STATES THROUGH YEARS OF LIFE IN THE UNITED STATES DESERVE A CHANCE TO COME HOME TO REUNITE WITH LOVED ONES THROUGH A FAIR AND CENTRALIZED PROCESS WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. PADILLA, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. HIRONO, and Ms. DUCKWORTH) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. CON. RES. 39

Whereas, since 2014, the United States has deported over 2,000,000 individuals, and not every such deportation was fair, just, or accurate under Federal law;

Whereas many individuals who were wrongfully or unjustly deported had resided in the United States for years or even decades, raising their families, building their own businesses, and contributing to their communities and the United States economy;

Whereas, in *Padilla v. Kentucky* (2010), the Supreme Court states that deportation is a “particularly harsh penalty” and recognizes “the severity of deportation” as “the equivalent of banishment or exile”;

Whereas nearly all individuals who were deported based on an unjust removal order, or who have a new claim to lawful status in the United States since their deportation, do not have an avenue to meaningfully present their case to return home and reunite with their loved ones in the United States;

Whereas there are limited but critical procedures under United States immigration law for allowing wrongfully or unjustly deported individuals to seek return to the United States after deportation, but in practice such mechanisms are difficult to access