

NATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOLS WEEK

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 134, which was introduced earlier today.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 134) congratulating the students, parents, teachers, and administrators at charter schools across the United States for their ongoing contributions to education and supporting the ideas and goals of the 10th annual National Charter Schools Week, May 3 through May 9, 2009.

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

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements related to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 134) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 134

Whereas charter schools deliver high-quality education and challenge all students to reach their potential;

Whereas charter schools provide thousands of families with diverse and innovative educational options for their children;

Whereas charter schools are public schools authorized by a designated public entity that respond to the needs of communities, families, and students in the United States and promote the principles of quality, choice, and innovation;

Whereas, in exchange for the flexibility and autonomy given to charter schools, they are held accountable by their sponsors for improving student achievement and for their financial and other operations;

Whereas 40 States and the District of Columbia have passed laws authorizing charter schools;

Whereas approximately 4,700 charter schools are now operating in 40 States and the District of Columbia, serving more than 1,400,000 students;

Whereas, during the last 14 years, Congress has provided more than \$2,478,288,000 in financial assistance to the charter school movement through facilities financing assistance and grants for planning, startup, implementation, and dissemination;

Whereas many charter schools improve the achievements of students and stimulate improvement in traditional public schools;

Whereas charter schools must meet the student achievement accountability requirements under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.) in the same manner as traditional public schools and often set higher and additional individual goals to ensure that charter schools are of high quality and truly accountable to the public;

Whereas charter schools give parents new freedom to choose public schools, routinely measure parental satisfaction levels, and must prove their ongoing success to parents, policymakers, and their communities;

Whereas more than 50 percent of charter schools report having a waiting list, and the total number of students on all such waiting lists is enough to fill more than 1,100 average-sized charter schools;

Whereas the President has called for increased Federal support for replicating and expanding high-performing charter schools to meet the dramatic demand created by the more than 365,000 children on charter school waiting lists; and

Whereas the 10th annual National Charter Schools Week is May 3 through May 9, 2009: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the students, parents, teachers, and administrators of charter schools across the United States for their ongoing contributions to education, especially their impressive results in closing the persistent achievement gap in the United States, and improving and strengthening the public school system in the United States;

(2) supports the ideas and goals of the 10th annual National Charter Schools Week, a week-long celebration to be held May 3 through May 9, 2009, in communities throughout the United States; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to conduct appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities during National Charter Schools Week to demonstrate support for charter schools.

MILITARY SPOUSE APPRECIATION DAY

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 135, which was submitted earlier today.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 135) designating May 8, 2009, as “Military Spouse Appreciation Day.”

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

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 135) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 135

Whereas the month of May marks National Military Appreciation Month;

Whereas military spouses provide vital support to men and women in the Armed Forces and help to make their service to the Armed Forces possible;

Whereas military spouses have been separated from their loved ones because of deployment in support of the Global War on Terrorism and other military missions carried out by the Armed Forces;

Whereas the establishment of Military Spouse Appreciation Day would be an appropriate way to honor the spouses of members of the Armed Forces; and

Whereas May 8, 2009, would be an appropriate date to establish as “Military Spouse Appreciation Day”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates May 8, 2009, as “Military Spouse Appreciation Day”;

(2) honors and recognizes the contributions made by spouses of members of the Armed Forces; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe Military Spouse Appreciation Day to promote awareness of the contributions of spouses of members of the Armed Forces and the importance of their role in the lives of members of the Armed Forces and veterans.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2009

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m. tomorrow, Thursday, May 7; 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 their use later in the day, and there be a period of morning business until 10:30 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the majority controlling the first half and the Republicans controlling the second half; further, I ask that at 10:30 a.m. the Senate resume consideration of S. 454, the Weapon Systems Acquisition Reform Act of 2009.

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

PROGRAM

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, roll-call votes in relation to the procurement bill are expected during tomorrow's session. Senators will be notified when the votes are scheduled.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mrs. MURRAY. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent the Senate stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:01 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, May 7, 2009, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

WILMA A. LEWIS, OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, VICE C. STEPHEN ALLRED, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

CARMEN R. NAZARIO, OF PUERTO RICO, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR FAMILY SUPPORT, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, VICE DIANE D. RATH.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ERIC P. SCHWARTZ, OF NEW YORK, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (POPULATION, REFUGEES, AND MIGRATION), VICE ELLEN R. SAUERBREY.

ANDREW J. SHAPIRO, OF NEW YORK, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (POLITICAL-MILITARY AFFAIRS), VICE MARK KIMMITT, RESIGNED.

ELLEN O. TAUSCHER, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ARMS CONTROL AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY, VICE ROBERT JOSEPH, RESIGNED.