

Whereas Filipino Americans have contributed greatly to the fine arts, music, dance, literature, education, business, literature, journalism, sports, fashion, politics, government, science, technology, and other fields in the United States that enrich the landscape of the country;

Whereas efforts should continue to promote the study of Filipino-American history and culture, as mandated in the mission statement of the Filipino American National Historical Society, because the roles of Filipino Americans and other people of color have been overlooked in the writing, teaching, and learning of United States history;

Whereas it is imperative for Filipino-American youth to have positive role models to instill in them the importance of education, complemented with the richness of their ethnicity and the value of their legacy; and

Whereas Filipino American History Month is celebrated during the month of October 2009: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the celebration of Filipino American History Month 2009 as a study of the advancement of Filipino Americans, as a time of reflection and remembrance, and as a time to renew efforts toward the research and examination of history and culture in order to provide an opportunity for all people in the United States to learn and appreciate more about Filipino Americans and their historic contributions to the Nation; and

(2) urges the people of the United States to observe Filipino American History Month 2009 with appropriate programs and activities.

NATIONAL INFANT MORTALITY AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 299.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 299) expressing support for the goals and ideals of National Infant Mortality Awareness Month 2009.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, 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. 299) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 299

Whereas infant mortality refers to the death of a baby before his or her first birthday;

Whereas the United States ranks 29th among industrialized nations in the rate of infant mortality;

Whereas premature birth, low-birth weight, and shorter gestation periods account for more than 60 percent of infant deaths in the United States;

Whereas high rates of infant mortality are especially prevalent in communities with

large minority populations, high rates of unemployment and poverty, and limited access to safe housing and medical providers;

Whereas premature birth is a leading cause of infant mortality and, according to the Institute of Medicine, costs the United States more than \$26,000,000,000 annually;

Whereas infant mortality rates can be substantially reduced through community-based services such as outreach, home visitation, case management, health education, and interconceptional care;

Whereas support for community-based programs to reduce infant mortality can result in lower future spending on medical interventions, special education, and other social services that may be needed for infants and children who are born with a low-birth weight;

Whereas the United States Department of Health and Human Services, through the Office of Minority Health, has implemented the "A Healthy Baby Begins With You" campaign;

Whereas public awareness and education campaigns on infant mortality are held during the month of September 2009; and

Whereas September 2009 has been designated as National Infant Mortality Awareness Month: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Infant Mortality Awareness Month 2009;

(2) supports efforts to educate Americans about infant mortality and its contributing factors;

(3) supports efforts to reduce infant deaths, low-birth weight, pre-term births, and disparities in perinatal outcomes;

(4) recognizes the critical importance of including efforts to reduce infant mortality and its contributing factors as part of prevention and wellness strategies; and

(5) calls upon the people of the United States to observe National Infant Mortality Awareness Month during September 2009 with appropriate programs and activities.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 300, which was submitted earlier today.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 300) supporting the goals and ideals of Fire Prevention Week and the work of firefighters in educating and protecting the communities of this Nation.

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

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise in support of S. Res. 300, supporting the work of firefighters to educate and protect the Nation's communities, and the goals and ideals of Fire Prevention Week. Senators CARPER, DODD, and MCCAIN join me in sponsoring this resolution to honor and promote the life-saving work of the National Fire Protection Association.

Fire prevention is an ancient concern. Two thousand years ago, the city of Rome not only had had thousands of paid firefighters, but also wardens who would patrol the streets and enforce fire-prevention laws.

Thousands of American cities and towns such as San Francisco, Chicago,

and Portland, ME, have suffered disastrous fires in the past. Even in our agrarian, Colonial era, cities such as Boston and Philadelphia were organizing paid and volunteer fire companies to fight the hazards of fire.

Today, flames continue to exact a deadly toll on citizens and firefighters every year. The National Fire Protection Association reports that in 2008, an estimated 1.45 million fires in this country killed nearly 3,320 civilians and injured another 16,705, while also killing 103 firefighters.

When President Harding designated the first Fire Prevention Week in 1922, fires were killing about 15,000 Americans every year. Advances in safety technology, education, fire prevention, and firefighting have brought great progress in reducing the number of fatalities, especially considering the great increase in population. But fire still poses an enormous threat to life, health, and property of all Americans.

As a cochair of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus, I have proudly joined in bipartisan efforts to honor the heroic service of our firefighters and to support legislation to assist them in securing the personnel, equipment, training, and benefits they need. Today, I am proud to submit this resolution to support their work in educating the public on the vital concern of fire prevention.

The more people understand the importance of avoiding fire hazards and dangerous practices, of installing and maintaining smoke alarms, and of planning escape routes, the fewer lives will be lost among our citizens and our firefighters.

I thank my colleagues for joining me in support of this resolution in support of our firefighters' work and of the Fire Prevention Week of October 4 through 10, 2009.

Mr. REID. 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. 300) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 300

Whereas since the organization of the first fire departments during the colonial era of this Nation, firefighters have maintained their dedication to protecting the health and safety of the American public;

Whereas firefighters presently provide a multitude of services to our communities, including emergency medical services, special rescue response, hazardous material and terrorism response, and public safety education;

Whereas 103 firefighters lost their lives in the line of duty in 2008;

Whereas the Nation's fire departments respond to emergency calls nearly once per second and are dispatched to fire emergencies every 22 seconds;

Whereas approximately 1,145,000 fires were reported in 2008;

Whereas firefighters always respond with courage, whether they are confronted with