

the immediate consideration of S. Res. 682, submitted earlier today by this Senator from Colorado.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 682) recognizing Hispanic Heritage Month and celebrating the heritage and culture of Hispanic Americans and their immense contribution to the Nation.

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

Mr. SALAZAR. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 682) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 682

Whereas from September 15, 2008, through October 15, 2008, the country celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month;

Whereas the Census Bureau estimates the Hispanic population in the United States at 45,500,000 people, making Hispanic Americans the largest ethnic minority within the United States;

Whereas 1 in 3 United States public school students is Hispanic, and the total number of Hispanic students enrolled in our Nation's public schools is expected to reach 28,000,000 by 2050;

Whereas the purchasing power of Hispanic Americans has reached \$870,000,000,000 by 2008 and there are more than 1,600,000 Hispanic-owned firms in the United States, supporting 1,536,795 employees nationwide;

Whereas Hispanic Americans serve in all branches of the Armed Forces, bravely fought in every war in United States history, and continue to serve with distinction in Afghanistan and Iraq;

Whereas 140,000 Hispanic soldiers served in the Korean War;

Whereas more than 80,000 Hispanics served in the Vietnam War, representing 5.5 percent of those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country in that conflict although they comprised only 4.5 percent of the United States population at the time;

Whereas, as of August 2, 2008, approximately 11 percent of the more than 4,122 United States military fatalities in Iraq have been Hispanic;

Whereas there are more than 1,100,000 Hispanic veterans of the United States Armed Forces;

Whereas 43 Hispanic Americans have received the Congressional Medal of Honor, the highest award for valor in action against an enemy force which can be bestowed upon an individual serving in the United States Armed Forces;

Whereas Hispanic Americans are dedicated public servants, holding posts at the highest levels of government, including 3 seats in the United States Senate; and

Whereas Hispanic Americans harbor a deep commitment to family and community, an enduring work ethic, and a perseverance to succeed and contribute to society: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15, 2008, through October 15, 2008;

(2) honors the heritage and culture of Hispanic Americans and their immense contributions to the life of the Nation; and

(3) urges the people of the United States to observe Hispanic Heritage Month with appropriate programs and activities.

NATIONAL CHILDHOOD LEAD
POISONING PREVENTION WEEK

Mr. SALAZAR. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 683, submitted earlier today by Senator REED of Rhode Island.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 683) designating the week of October 19 through October 25, 2008, as "National Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Week."

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

Mr. SALAZAR. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to; the preamble be agreed to; the motions 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. 683) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 683

Whereas lead poisoning is one of the leading environmental health hazards facing children in the United States;

Whereas approximately 240,000 children in the United States under the age of 6 currently have harmful levels of lead in their blood;

Whereas lead poisoning may cause serious, long-term harm to children, including reduced intelligence and attention span, behavior problems, learning disabilities, and impaired growth;

Whereas children from low-income families are significantly more likely to be poisoned by lead than are children from high-income families;

Whereas children may be poisoned by lead in water, soil, housing, or consumable products;

Whereas children most often are poisoned in their homes through exposure to lead particles when lead-based paint deteriorates or is disturbed during home renovation and repainting; and

Whereas lead poisoning crosses all barriers of race, income, and geography: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of October 19 through October 25, 2008, as "National Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Week"; and
(2) calls upon the people of the United States to observe National Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Week with appropriate programs and activities.

STRATEGY TO ADDRESS CRISIS IN
DARFUR, SUDAN

Mr. SALAZAR. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Sen-

ate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 684, introduced earlier today by Senator DURBIN.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 684) calling for a comprehensive strategy to address the crisis in Darfur, Sudan.

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

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, as we wrap up the work of the 110th Congress and look ahead to a new administration, let us take a moment to consider a part of the world that desperately needs our continued attention. I am talking about the tragic situation in Darfur.

The United Nations estimates that more than 300,000 people have died in Darfur since 2003. In that time, another 2.5 million people have been displaced.

Just over 4 years ago the House unanimously passed a resolution calling the situation in Darfur genocide. The resolution urged the President to consider multilateral—even unilateral—intervention to address this crisis.

The legislation spoke of Congress's hope that the United States would not allow what happened in Rwanda to happen again.

Not on our watch.

Since then we have passed legislation increasing economic pressure on Sudan. The U.N. Security Council has passed resolutions and implemented arms embargos. Members of Congress have met with Ambassadors and U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon.

And yet we have failed to bring an end to this nightmare—a nightmare that is now entering its sixth year.

In May, Senator SNOWE and 27 other Senators joined me in a letter to President Bush saying that it was time for definitive U.S. leadership to bring a long-term resolution to the crisis in Sudan. This bipartisan letter from almost a third of the Senate said:

Fourteen years ago the world watched as genocide unfolded in Rwanda. Despite dire warnings and pleas for help, 800,000 people were brutally killed in less than one hundred days. Today the world looks back in painful regret at its failure to take action. Yet, we are likely to face a similarly harsh historical judgment if we do not once and for all take action against the genocide in Darfur.

A rogue regime guilty of killing hundreds of thousands of its own people—guilty of rape, torture, and the creation of millions of refugees—must not be allowed to thumb its nose any further at the international community.

Yet the Sudanese regime continues to stall the deployment of a historic peacekeeping force—a force that is still only one-third deployed more than 1 year after it was approved by the U.N. Security Council.

I and others repeatedly have raised directly with President Bush and with Secretary Rice the need for decisive Presidential leadership.