

the Foreign Service, and other Federal Government agencies, for their service, sacrifices, and heroism in Iraq; and

- (9) commends the people of Iraq for—  
 (A) the courage they have shown;  
 (B) the sacrifices they have endured; and  
 (C) the hard-won gains they have made in fighting terrorism, finding peace, and building democracy.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 438—DESIGNATING MARCH 2, 2010, AS “READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY”**

Mr. REED (for himself and Ms. COLLINS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

**S. RES. 438**

Whereas reading is a basic requirement for quality education and professional success, and is a source of pleasure throughout life;

Whereas the people of the United States must be able to read if the United States is to remain competitive in the global economy;

Whereas Congress, through the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (Public Law 107-110) and the Reading First, Early Reading First, and Improving Literacy Through School Libraries programs, has placed great emphasis on reading intervention and providing additional resources for reading assistance; and

Whereas more than 50 national organizations concerned about reading and education have joined with the National Education Association to use March 2, the anniversary of the birth of Theodor Geisel, also known as Dr. Seuss, to celebrate reading: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates March 2, 2010, as “Read Across America Day”;

(2) honors Theodor Geisel, also known as Dr. Seuss, for his success in encouraging children to discover the joy of reading;

(3) honors the 13th anniversary of Read Across America Day;

(4) encourages parents to read with their children for at least 30 minutes on Read Across America Day in honor of the commitment of the Senate to building a Nation of readers; and

(5) encourages the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 439—RECOGNIZING THE EXEMPLARY SERVICE, DEVOTION TO COUNTRY, AND SELFLESS SACRIFICE OF SPECIAL WARFARE OPERATORS 2ND CLASS MATTHEW McCABE AND JONATHAN KEEFE AND SPECIAL WARFARE OPERATOR 1ST CLASS JULIO HUERTAS IN CAPTURING AHMED HASHIM ABED, ONE OF THE MOST-WANTED TERRORISTS IN IRAQ, AND PLEDGING TO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES SERVING IN HARM’S WAY**

Mr. ENSIGN submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

**S. RES. 439**

Whereas in September 2009, Special Warfare Operators 2nd Class Matthew McCabe and Jonathan Keefe and Special Warfare Operator 1st Class Julio Huertas successfully

captured Ahmed Hashim Abed, one of the most-wanted terrorists in Iraq;

Whereas Ahmed Hashim Abed is the alleged planner of the March 21, 2004, ambush of a supply convoy in Fallujah, Iraq, which resulted in the brutal killing of 4 Blackwater security contractors;

Whereas Ahmed Hashim Abed evaded capture in Iraq for more than 5 years until his capture by the 3 Navy SEALs;

Whereas Special Warfare Operators 2nd Class Matthew McCabe and Jonathan Keefe and Special Warfare Operator 1st Class Julio Huertas are exceptional sailors who accomplished their mission in the finest tradition of the Navy SEALs and the United States Armed Forces while defending their country and protecting the citizens of Iraq;

Whereas the capture of Ahmed Hashim Abed serves as an important reminder that the United States is still engaged in a Global War on Terror; and

Whereas it is because of the efforts of these courageous Navy SEALs and other members of the Armed Forces that Americans continue to be free: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the exemplarily service, devotion to country, and selfless sacrifice of Special Warfare Operators 2nd Class Matthew McCabe and Jonathan Keefe and Special Warfare Operator 1st Class Julio Huertas; and

(2) pledges to continue to support members of the United States Armed Forces serving in harm’s way.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 440—IMPROVING THE SENATE CLOTURE PROCESS**

Mr. BENNET submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

**S. RES. 440**

Whereas the Senate rules regarding cloture serve the legitimate purpose of protecting the rights of the minority;

Whereas the Senate has never been intended to operate solely on the basis of majority rule; and

Whereas the Senate rules should not be abused for the purpose of delaying or otherwise preventing the business of the Senate: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*,

**SECTION 1. MOTIONS TO PROCEED.**

Paragraph 2 of rule VIII of the Standing Rules of the Senate is amended to read as follows:

“2. All motions to proceed to the consideration of any matter shall be determined without debate, except motions to proceed to a proposal to change the Standing Rules which shall be debatable.”

**SEC. 2. PROCESS FOR ENDING THE DEBATE.**

(a) **MOTION TO REDUCE TIME FOR CLOTURE PETITION TO RIPEN.**—The first sentence of paragraph 2 of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate is amended by inserting after “but one” the following: “(unless by two-thirds affirmative vote of the Senators duly chosen and sworn the Senate has agreed to a motion to reduce time)”.

(b) **ALLOWING FOR A MOTION TO REDUCE TIME POSTCLOTURE.**—The fourth undesignated paragraph of paragraph 2 of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate is amended by striking the second and third sentences and inserting: “The thirty hours may be increased or decreased by the adoption of a motion, decided without debate, by a three-fifths affirmative vote of the Senators present and voting, and any such time

thus agreed upon shall be equally divided and controlled by the Majority and Minority Leaders or their designees. However, only one motion to reduce or extend time, specified above, may be made in any one calendar day.”.

(c) **MINORITY MUST VOTE IN THE NEGATIVE, OR ELSE CLOTURE IS INVOKED.**—The second undesignated paragraph of paragraph 2 of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate is amended by striking “And if that question shall be decided in the affirmative by three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn” and inserting “And if that question is decided in the affirmative and there are not negative votes by at least forty-one hundredths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn”.

(d) **ENCOURAGING BIPARTISAN NEGOTIATIONS AND BIPARTISAN COALITION BUILDING.**—Paragraph 2 of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate is amended by inserting at the end the following:

“In the event that 3 attempts to bring the debate to a close on any particular measure, motion, other matter pending before the Senate, or the unfinished business, have not received the requisite number of votes to bring the debate to a close under this paragraph, then for any subsequent attempt to bring the debate to a close on that particular measure, motion, other matter pending before the Senate, or the unfinished business, the threshold required of those voting in the negative in order to prevent the debate from coming to a close shall be 45 hundredths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn, unless at least one of the Senators present and voting in the negative, caucuses with the party of the Majority Leader, in which case the threshold required of those voting in the negative in order to prevent the debate from coming to a close shall remain 41 hundredths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn. If there is one member of the Majority voting to maintain the filibuster for purposes of the preceding sentence maintaining the threshold for blocking cloture at 41 hundredths, the threshold shall be raised to 45 hundredths if 3 of those voting in the affirmative to bring debate to a close caucus with the party of the Minority Leader. For purposes of this undesignated paragraph, only those Senators permitted to caucus with the party of the Majority Leader, by the Majority Leader, shall be considered to caucus with the party of the Majority Leader. The Majority Leader shall request that a list of Senators caucusing with the party of the Majority Leader be listed in the Congressional Record, and any time that the Majority Leader shall regard composition of such list as having changed, the Majority Leader shall request that a new and updated list be printed in the Congressional Record.”.

**SEC. 3. HOLDS.**

The Standing Rules of the Senate are amended by inserting at the end the following:

**“RULE XLV**

**“PROCESS FOR HOLDS**

“1. A Senator who provides notice either to leadership or during open public debate in the full Senate of intention to object to proceeding to a motion or matter shall disclose the objection in the Congressional Record not later than 2 session days after the date of such notice. Upon the placement of the disclosure of objection in the Congressional Record, the Senate shall only continue to recognize the objection if the objection is raised as provided in this paragraph at least by one Senator who caucuses with the party of the Majority Leader and by one Senator who caucuses with the party of the Minority Leader. Under no circumstance shall a particular objection to a nomination be recognized for more than 30 days.