

The resolution (S. Res. 160) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 160

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 the service of such men and women in the Armed Forces possible;

Whereas military spouses have been separated from loved ones because of deployment in support of overseas contingency operations and other military missions carried out by the Armed Forces;

Whereas the establishment of “Military Spouse Appreciation Day” is an appropriate way to honor the spouses of members of the Armed Forces; and

Whereas May 6, 2011, would be an appropriate date to establish as “Military Spouse Appreciation Day”: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates May 6, 2011, 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 the role of military spouses in the lives of members of the Armed Forces and veterans.

NATIONAL INVENTORS MONTH

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 161.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 161) designating May 2011 as “National Inventors Month.”

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

Mr. REID. Madam 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, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating to the measure be printed in the RECORD.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 161) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 161

Whereas the first United States patent was issued in 1790 to Samuel Hopkins of the State of Vermont for a process to make better fertilizer;

Whereas American inventors have contributed to advances in life sciences, technology, and manufacturing;

Whereas the Constitution specifically provides for the granting of exclusive rights to inventors for their discoveries;

Whereas the United States patent system is intended to implement that constitutional imperative and incentivize inventions;

Whereas American inventors benefit from an up-to-date and efficient patent system and the economy, jobs, and consumers of the United States benefit from the inventions;

Whereas the next great American invention could be among the 700,000 patent applications pending as of the date of approval of this resolution in the United States Patent and Trademark Office;

Whereas the last changes to the United States patent system were made nearly 60 years ago;

Whereas an updated patent system will unleash innovation and create jobs in the United States without adding to the deficit;

Whereas every May, a new class of inventors is inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame;

Whereas in the 112th Congress, a bill was introduced in the House of Representatives entitled the “America Invents Act” (H.R. 1249) to make reforms to the United States patent system; and

Whereas the Senate on March 8, 2011, passed the bill entitled the “America Invents Act” (S. 23), which will make the first comprehensive reforms to the United States patent system in nearly 60 years: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate designates May 2011, as “National Inventors Month”.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I am pleased that the Senate has acted quickly to pass a resolution designating May 2011 as National Inventors Month. On May 4, the National Inventors Hall of Fame, in partnership with the United States Patent and Trademark Office, will hold its 39th Annual National Inventors Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony.

Our Nation’s inventors are the catalyst of our economy. Their inventions, when protected by a strong, efficient, and balanced patent system lead to new products and processes for American consumers and new jobs for American workers.

Earlier this year, the United States Senate passed overwhelmingly the America Invents Act, to ensure that our Nation’s inventors and innovators have a 21st Century patent system that speeds high quality patents to market. The United States House Committee on the Judiciary recently voted to approve a very similar version of this legislation on a strong bipartisan vote. I

look forward to working together to get the America Invents Act to the President’s desk and providing our inventors with the legal landscape they need to flourish.

I appreciate the efforts of Inventors Digest Magazine and others who have promoted National Inventors Month.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 2011

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, May 4; that 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 the Senate then proceed to a period for the transaction of morning business for debate only until 12 p.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 30 minutes and the Republicans controlling the next 30 minutes; further, that the filing deadline for all second-degree amendments to S. 493 be at 11 a.m.; finally, I ask unanimous consent that the cloture vote with respect to S. 493 occur at 12 p.m. on Wednesday.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Madam President, there will be up to two rollcall votes at noon tomorrow. The first rollcall vote will be on the motion to invoke cloture on S. 493, the small business jobs bill. If cloture is not invoked on the bill, the Senate will immediately proceed to a rollcall vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of John McConnell to be a U.S. District Judge for the District of Rhode Island.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. REID. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 4:59 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, May 4, 2011, at 10 a.m.