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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 159

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2013

No. 178

House of Representatives

The House met at 11 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SENSENBRENNER).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 16, 2013.

I hereby appoint the Honorable F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR. to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Reverend Patrick Riffle, St. Peter's Catholic Church, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

Heavenly Father, during this festive time of year we as Your people pause and reflect on Your abundant blessings. We thank You for family and friends. We thank You for the gift of this great Nation and for the gift of our liberty.

NOTICE

If the 113th Congress, 1st Session, adjourns sine die on or before December 24, 2013, a final issue of the *Congressional Record* for the 113th Congress, 1st Session, will be published on Tuesday, December 31, 2013, to permit Members to insert statements.

All material for insertion must be signed by the Member and delivered to the respective offices of the Official Reporters of Debates (Room HT-59 or S-123 of the Capitol), Monday through Friday, between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. through Monday, December 30. The final issue will be dated Tuesday, December 31, 2013, and will be delivered on Thursday, January 2, 2014.

None of the material printed in the final issue of the *Congressional Record* may contain subject matter, or relate to any event, that occurred after the sine die date.

Senators' statements should also be formatted according to the instructions at http://webster/secretary/cong_record.pdf, and submitted electronically, either on a disk to accompany the signed statement, or by e-mail to the Official Reporters of Debates at "Record@Sec.Senate.gov".

Members of the House of Representatives' statements may also be submitted electronically by e-mail, to accompany the signed statement, and formatted according to the instructions for the Extensions of Remarks template at <http://clerk.house.gov/forms>. The Official Reporters will transmit to GPO the template formatted electronic file only after receipt of, and authentication with, the hard copy, and signed manuscript. Deliver statements to the Official Reporters in Room HT-59.

Members of Congress desiring to purchase reprints of material submitted for inclusion in the *Congressional Record* may do so by contacting the Office of Congressional Publishing Services, at the Government Printing Office, on 512-0224, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. daily.

By order of the Joint Committee on Printing.

CHARLES E. SCHUMER, *Chairman.*

And while we reflect on our many blessings, we also remember those among us who are in need, especially the poor and marginalized of our society.

We remember those who are separated from family and friends, espe-

cially the men and women of our Armed Forces. May they know of our untiring support for them and their families, for the sacrifices they make for us each day.

Father, we ask You in a particular way to show Your love upon these our

brothers and sisters, that our love and concern for them may be an act of gratitude for the blessings You have bestowed upon us.

We ask this all in Your most holy name.

Amen.

This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

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THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 6(a) of House Resolution 438, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 13, 2013.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
*The Speaker, U.S. Capitol,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on December 13, 2013 at 2:59 p.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 3458.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported that on December 13, 2013, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills:

H.R. 2871. To amend title 28, United States Code, to modify the composition of the southern judicial district of Mississippi to improve judicial efficiency, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2922. To extend the authority of the Supreme Court Police to protect court officials away from the Supreme Court grounds.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 6(b) of House Resolution 438, the House stands adjourned until 11 a.m. on Thursday, December 19, 2013.

Thereupon (at 11 o'clock and 3 minutes a.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Thursday, December 19, 2013, at 11 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

4173. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting

a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Richard C. Harding, United States Air Force, and his advancement on the retired list in the grade of lieutenant general; to the Committee on Armed Services.

4174. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Terry A. Wolff, United States Army, and his advancement on the retired list in the grade of lieutenant general; to the Committee on Armed Services.

4175. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Delaware; Attainment Plan for the Philadelphia-Wilmington, Pennsylvania-New Jersey-Delaware Nonattainment Area for the 1997 Annual Fine Particulate Matter Standard [EPA-R03-OAR-2010-0141; FRL-9904-14-Region 3] received December 11, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4176. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Michigan [EPA-R05-OAR-2010-0566; FRL-9904-11-Region 5] received December 11, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4177. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Philadelphia County Reasonably Available Control Technology under the 1997 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard [EPA-R03-OAR-2008-0603; FRL-9904-12-Region 3] received December 11, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4178. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; New Mexico; Prevention of Significant Deterioration; Greenhouse Gas Plantwide Applicability Limit Permitting Revisions [EPA-R06-OAR-2013-0060; FRL-9903-98-Region 6] received December 11, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4179. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Flocicamid; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2013-0038; FRL-9902-07] received December 11, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4180. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting Transmittal No. 13-02, Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer and Acceptance, pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

4181. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting Transmittal No. 13-17, Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer and Acceptance, pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

4182. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting Transmittal No. 13-19, Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer and Acceptance, pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

4183. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting

Transmittal No. 13-33, Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer and Acceptance, pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

4184. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 13-150, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

4185. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 13-140, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

4186. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 13-159, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

4187. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 13-151, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

4188. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 13-156, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

4189. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 13-165, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

4190. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 13-172, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

4191. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's report entitled, "Human Rights Report for International Military Education and Training Recipients", in accordance with Section 549 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

4192. A letter from the Acting Director, Peace Corps, transmitting the Inspector General's semiannual report to Congress for the reporting period April 1, 2013 through September 30, 2013; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4193. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Hackensack River, Kearney and Jersey City, NJ [Docket No.: USCG-2013-0639] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received December 13, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4194. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Umpqua River, Reedsport, OR [Docket No.: USCG-2013-0526] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received December 13, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4195. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Regulated Navigation Area; Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Piscataqua River, Portsmouth, NH [Docket No.: USCG-2013-0956] (RIN: 1625-AA11) received December 13, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4196. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Local Regulation; Lake Havasu City Christmas Boat Parade of Lights; Colorado River; Lake Havasu, AZ [Docket No.: USCG-2013-0917] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received December 13, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4197. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Genessee River, Rochester, NY [Docket No.: USCG-2013-0921] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received December 13, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 3008. A bill to provide for the conveyance of a small parcel of National Forest System land in Los Padres National Forest in California, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 113-295). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 2954. A bill to authorize Escambia County, Florida, to convey certain property that was formerly part of Santa Rosa Island National Monument and that was conveyed to Escambia County subject to restrictions on use and reconveyance (Rept. 113-296). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 1170. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Land Management and the Bureau of Reclamation, to convey, by quitclaim deed, to the City of Fernley, Nevada, all right, title, and interest to the United States, to any Federal land within that city that is under the jurisdiction of either of those agencies; with an amendment (Rept. 113-297). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 585. A bill to provide for the unencumbering of title to non-Federal land owned by the city of Anchorage, Alaska, for purposes of economic development by conveyance of the Federal reversion interest to the City (Rept. 113-298). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Ms. JACKSON LEE:

H.R. 3773. A bill to extend the emergency unemployment compensation program until January 1, 2015; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. LEE of California (for herself, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MOORE, Ms. SCHA-KOWSKY, Mrs. CAPPS, and Mr. FARR):

H.R. 3774. A bill to amend title V of the Social Security Act to eliminate the abstinence-only education program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee

on Appropriations, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BARR:

H.R. 3775. A bill to amend titles 10 and 38, United States Code, to improve the treatment of members of the Armed Forces and veterans who are victims of military sexual assault; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BOUSTANY (for himself, Mr. KIND, Mr. BUCSHON, and Mr. VEASEY):

H.R. 3776. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to create alternative sanctions for technical noncompliance with the Stark rule under Medicare, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DAINES:

H.R. 3777. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to disregard students as employees for purposes of determining employer health care shared responsibility; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. DAVIS of California:

H.R. 3778. A bill to direct the Secretary of Education to award grants to States to pay the Federal share of carrying out full-day prekindergarten programs; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. HIMES (for himself and Mr. SCHIFF):

H.R. 3779. A bill to require the Director of National Intelligence to annually submit reports on violations of law or executive order by personnel of the intelligence community, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select).

By Mr. HOLT (for himself, Mr. DEFALZIO, and Mr. LOWENTHAL):

H.R. 3780. A bill to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish an Ocean Energy Safety Institute, to promote the use of best available and safest offshore drilling technologies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LOWENTHAL:

H.R. 3781. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow small employers a credit against income tax for hiring individuals receiving unemployment compensation; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico:

H.R. 3782. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture, in consultation with Indian tribes, to make grants, competitive grants, and special research grants to, and enter into cooperative agreements and other contracting instruments with, eligible entities to conduct research and education and training programs to protect and preserve Native American seeds, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico:

H.R. 3783. A bill to amend section 1101 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to extend for one year the high risk

health insurance pool program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. YOHO (for himself, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. HALL, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. SALMON, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. POSEY, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. STOCKMAN, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. PITTENGER, Mr. JONES, Mr. MESSER, and Mr. HULTGREN):

H.R. 3784. A bill to repeal the Affordable Care Act unless the initial enrollment target for Exchanges has been met, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, Education and the Workforce, the Judiciary, Natural Resources, House Administration, Rules, and Appropriations, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. YOHO (for himself, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. POSEY, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina):

H.R. 3785. A bill to provide for a reduction in the pay of the Secretary of Health and Human Services until the healthcare.gov Web site is certified as fully functional; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:

H.R. 3786. A bill to direct the Administrator of General Services, on behalf of the Archivist of the United States, to convey certain Federal property located in the State of Alaska to the Municipality of Anchorage, Alaska; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. JACKSON LEE:

H. Res. 446. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that both Houses of Congress should reconvene on or before December 18, 2013, to take appropriate action to enact legislation extending the Emergency Unemployment Compensation Program until January 1, 2015; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ENGEL (for himself, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KEATING, and Mr. GERLACH):

H. Res. 447. A resolution supporting the democratic and European aspirations of the people of Ukraine, and their right to choose their own future free of intimidation and fear; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Ms. JACKSON LEE:

H.R. 3773.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. LEE of California:

H.R. 3774.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

By Mr. BARR:

H.R. 3775.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clauses 12 and 13, which gives Congress the power "To raise and support Armies," and "To provide and maintain a Navy."

By Mr. BOUSTANY:

H.R. 3776.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. DAINES:

H.R. 3777.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1, and Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.

By Mrs. DAVIS of California:

H.R. 3778.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. HIMES:

H.R. 3779.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. HOLT:

H.R. 3780.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. LOWENTHAL:

H.R. 3781.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1

The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

By Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico:

H.R. 3782.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the US Constitution

By Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico:

H.R. 3783.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. YOHO:

H.R. 3784.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Consistent with the original understanding of the commerce clause, the authority to enact this legislation is found in Clause 3 of Section 8, Article 1 of the Constitution. The bill repeals the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, which exceeds the authority vested in Congress by the Constitution. Finally, the bill removed government intrusion into the doctor-patient relationship, which is protected by the Ninth and Tenth Amendments to the Constitution.

By Mr. YOHO:

H.R. 3785.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The authority to enact this legislation is found in Clause 18 of Section 8, Article 1 of the Constitution—to make laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other powers vested by the Constitution in Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof. The bill affects salaries paid to an Officer of the Health and Human Services Department

By Mr. YOUNG OF ALASKA:

H.R. 3786.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 and Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 292: Mr. WALZ.

H.R. 784: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 895: Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 942: Mr. KILDEE.

H.R. 1015: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 1173: Ms. HANABUSA.

H.R. 1175: Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 1250: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.

H.R. 1318: Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD.

H.R. 1466: Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD.

H.R. 1528: Mr. DENHAM, Mr. GARCIA, and Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 1661: Ms. PINGREE of Maine and Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York.

H.R. 1666: Mr. RYAN of Ohio.

H.R. 1726: Mrs. DAVIS of California and Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.

H.R. 1761: Ms. FRANKEL of Florida.

H.R. 1763: Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. BONAMICI, and Ms. MENG.

H.R. 1832: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.

H.R. 1844: Ms. DEGETTE.

H.R. 1967: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 2028: Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 2142: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York.

H.R. 2237: Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. MENG, Ms. TSONGAS, and Ms. BONAMICI.

H.R. 2384: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 2663: Mr. BILIRAKIS.

H.R. 2702: Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD.

H.R. 2738: Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD.

H.R. 2780: Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD.

H.R. 2805: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 2825: Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD.

H.R. 2831: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 2866: Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. PETERS of California, and Mr. COURTNEY.

H.R. 2901: Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD.

H.R. 2921: Mr. REED.

H.R. 2959: Mr. REED, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, and Mr. THORNBERRY.

H.R. 2975: Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 2998: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 3040: Mr. FOSTER.

H.R. 3061: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.

H.R. 3077: Mr. SHMKUS, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. CALVERT, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, and Mr. THOMPSON of California.

H.R. 3097: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 3111: Mr. ENYART.

H.R. 3169: Mr. CALVERT.

H.R. 3172: Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H.R. 3361: Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. MESSER, and Mr. JORDAN.

H.R. 3367: Mr. MEEHAN.

H.R. 3404: Mr. BISHOP of New York and Mr. LARSEN of Washington.

H.R. 3474: Mr. NEUGEBAUER and Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan.

H.R. 3481: Mr. ISRAEL and Mr. DELANEY.

H.R. 3485: Mr. HOLDING.

H.R. 3489: Mr. SALMON.

H.R. 3490: Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. BONAMICI, and Ms. MENG.

H.R. 3494: Mr. SMITH of Washington.

H.R. 3543: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 3555: Mr. DEUTCH.

H.R. 3573: Mr. TONKO.

H.R. 3579: Mr. REED.

H.R. 3591: Mr. KILDEE.

H.R. 3606: Mr. DENHAM.

H.R. 3643: Ms. ESTY.

H.R. 3648: Mr. KIND and Mrs. BUSTOS.

H.R. 3656: Mr. PAULSEN.

H.R. 3685: Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. WHITFIELD, and Mrs. CAPITO.

H.R. 3708: Mr. LONG.

H.R. 3717: Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. STIVERS, Mrs. ELLMERS, and Mr. TERRY.

H.R. 3724: Mr. CHAFFETZ.

H.R. 3745: Ms. KUSTER, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. MAFFEI, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. NADLER, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. ENYART, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. LOEBSACK, Ms. SINEMA, and Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 3747: Ms. PINGREE of Maine.

H. Res. 231: Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. KIND, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. BURGESS, and Mr. WELCH.

H. Res. 440: Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico.



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 159

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2013

No. 178

Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Gracious God, You remain faithful even when we are unfaithful. Nothing is impossible for You, for You have all power in Your hands. Thank You for being wonderfully kind, tolerant, and patient with us.

Lord, continue to guide our Senators. May they seek to be instruments of Your glory, striving to please You in

all that they do. Make them so ethically congruent that they practice what they profess. May their hearts be so transformed by Your spirit that they seek Your approbation above any earthly approval.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

NOTICE

If the 113th Congress, 1st Session, adjourns sine die on or before December 24, 2013, a final issue of the *Congressional Record* for the 113th Congress, 1st Session, will be published on Tuesday, December 31, 2013, to permit Members to insert statements.

All material for insertion must be signed by the Member and delivered to the respective offices of the Official Reporters of Debates (Room HT-59 or S-123 of the Capitol), Monday through Friday, between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. through Monday, December 30. The final issue will be dated Tuesday, December 31, 2013, and will be delivered on Thursday, January 2, 2014.

None of the material printed in the final issue of the *Congressional Record* may contain subject matter, or relate to any event, that occurred after the sine die date.

Senators' statements should also be formatted according to the instructions at http://webster/secretary/cong_record.pdf, and submitted electronically, either on a disk to accompany the signed statement, or by e-mail to the Official Reporters of Debates at "Record@Sec.Senate.gov".

Members of the House of Representatives' statements may also be submitted electronically by e-mail, to accompany the signed statement, and formatted according to the instructions for the Extensions of Remarks template at <http://clerk.house.gov/forms>. The Official Reporters will transmit to GPO the template formatted electronic file only after receipt of, and authentication with, the hard copy, and signed manuscript. Deliver statements to the Official Reporters in Room HT-59.

Members of Congress desiring to purchase reprints of material submitted for inclusion in the *Congressional Record* may do so by contacting the Office of Congressional Publishing Services, at the Government Printing Office, on 512-0224, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. daily.

By order of the Joint Committee on Printing.

CHARLES E. SCHUMER, *Chairman*.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT OF 2013—MOTION TO PROCEED—Resumed

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 243, S. 1356.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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S8823

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 243, S. 1356, a bill to amend the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to strengthen the United States workforce development system through innovation in, and alignment and improvement of, employment, training, and education programs in the United States, and to promote individual and national economic growth, and for other purposes.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, the Senate will be in morning business until 5:30 this afternoon. At 5:30 the Senate will proceed to executive session. There will be at least 3 rollcall votes: Confirmation of the Patterson nomination, cloture on the Johnson nomination, and confirmation of the Johnson nomination.

NOMINATIONS

Mr. President, last week was difficult for the entire Senate community. When cooperation is lacking, as it was last week, completing the business before this body becomes much more difficult. Last week, though, the Senate confirmed four district court judges, two DC Circuit Court of Appeals judges, an Equal Employment Opportunity Commissioner, the Secretary of the Air Force, a Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board member, and a Deputy Secretary of State.

Although we accomplished a great deal, the process was neither easy nor pleasant. This week the Senate has just as much to achieve as it did last week. Without cooperation we will face another daunting vote schedule. But I am optimistic the same spirit of cooperation that made tonight's votes possible will last all week long.

Tonight the Senate will vote on Anne Patterson's nomination to be Assistant Secretary of State. We will also vote on cloture on the nomination of Jeh Johnson to be Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security. If cloture is invoked, this body will immediately vote on Johnson's confirmation.

As General Counsel of the Defense Department from 2009 to 2012, Mr. Johnson served as the senior lawyer for the largest government agency in the world. He oversaw the work of more than 10,000 military and civilian lawyers. Prior to his work at the Defense Department, Mr. Johnson served as Assistant U.S. Attorney and spent nearly 2 decades in private legal practice. He is eminently qualified, and we all look forward to his confirmation.

THE BUDGET

Tomorrow, the Senate will begin consideration of the budget measure passed by the House last week. Although neither side got everything it wanted from this agreement, the legislation should help break a terrible cycle of governing by crisis. It rolls back the painful and arbitrary cuts of the sequester, protects Social Security and Medicare benefits, and will help prevent another dangerous government shutdown in the new year.

On Wednesday, the Senate will turn to the Defense authorization measure,

crucial legislation that safeguards our Nation, ensures our troops have the resources and training they need, and provides for the military families who support our fighting men and women.

The Senate must also confirm Janet Yellen to head the Federal Reserve, Alejandro Mayorkas to be Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security, and John Koskinen to head the Internal Revenue Service. The nominations of Robert Wilkins to be a member of the DC Circuit Court of Appeals and Brian Davis of Florida to be a district court judge are also priorities for us. Mr. Davis' nomination has been pending for 2 years.

The Senate must also move quickly to confirm Sarah Sewall as Under Secretary of State, Jessica Wright to be Under Secretary for Readiness at the Defense Department, Sarah Bloom Raskin to be second in command at Treasury, and Mike Connor to be second in command at Interior, and Sloan Gibson to be deputy at the Veterans Affairs Department, and Rick Engler's nomination for the Chemical Safety Board.

Christmas is 1 week from Wednesday. We have a lot to do. We could complete all of our work by Thursday, by Friday, by Saturday, by Sunday, by Monday, or Tuesday, but finish it we must. I have outlined what we need to do. It is up to the minority to determine what, if anything, they are going to stop us from doing.

I am happy to work with them on time. But there are several items that I have indicated we have got to get done before Christmas.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HIRONO.) Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 5:30 p.m. with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I would suggest the absence of a quorum and ask unanimous consent that the time be equally divided for all quorum calls.

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

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CARPER. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

JOHNSON NOMINATION

Mr. CARPER. I am proud to rise to speak in strong support of the nomination of Jeh Johnson to serve as the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security. As my colleagues know,

I have been concerned for many months about the high number of senior-level vacancies that exist at the Department. In fact, the Department of Homeland Security has been without a Senate-confirmed Deputy Secretary since April and without a Senate-confirmed Secretary since early September. That is simply too long for such critical positions to be vacant, especially since the Department of Homeland Security has been without Senate-confirmed leadership in a number of other senior leadership positions too.

That list of vacancies includes the position of Deputy Secretary, as well as the heads of Customs and Border Protection, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and the Inspector General.

Working with the President, we need to do something about it. Today we can. It is my hope and expectation that we will vote to confirm a new Secretary to lead the Department within the next few hours, allowing Jeh Johnson to be sworn in and start work later this week.

Getting a Secretary of Homeland Security quickly confirmed is essential to help effectively run this Department and protect the safety of our citizens. This Department is a large and complex entity with a diverse set of missions and challenges.

It is composed of 22 distinct agencies spread across various locations throughout the country. In the 10 years after its creation, the Department of Homeland Security still lacks a strong sense of cohesion.

Moreover, given the Nation's fiscal challenges, the Department, as many Federal agencies, is being asked to do more and get even better results with fewer Federal dollars.

That being said, over its 10 years, the Department has celebrated a number of important milestones. In fact, only last week, for the first time ever, the Department of Homeland Security received a clean financial audit.

There is one outlier among the major departments of our government that hasn't received that clean financial audit, and that is the Department of Defense, which has been around for approximately 70 years.

The Department of Homeland Security took 10 years and has been on the GAO high-risk list for all of those 10 years. I was delighted when I received word last week that this goal had been achieved. It is a major accomplishment and one for which I heartily congratulate the Department.

There is an old saying that goes something such as this: You can't manage what you can't measure.

Now the Department of Homeland Security achieved a clean financial audit. It is my hope that its financial management practices will continue to improve. In order to build upon this and other successes, I believe the Department needs Senate-confirmed leadership.

There is no doubt that even on a good day, serving as Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security is a very hard job. Jeh Johnson, however, is no doubt up to this enormous task. Again, I strongly support his nomination.

Mr. Johnson is a seasoned national security expert who is eminently qualified to take the reins to run the challenging Department of Homeland Security. After graduating from Morehouse College and then Columbia Law School, Jeh Johnson started his career in private practice. Later he became an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Southern District of New York, where he prosecuted public corruption cases. He then returned to the private sector where he became a partner with the law firm of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison.

While working with this law firm, Mr. Johnson again answered the call to public service, first as the Air Force's top lawyer during the second term of the Clinton administration and, more recently, in the first term of the Obama administration, as the top lawyer for the entire Department of Defense. In both positions he was confirmed by the Senate with strong bipartisan support.

Having served in such important positions at the Department of Defense has no doubt helped him develop a number of outstanding skills that will enable him to lead this Department effectively.

There are few better places to learn how to manage a complex national security bureaucracy than at the Department of Defense. For example, for 4 years he was a partner and a part of the senior leadership team that ran the Defense Department. He played a critical role in overseeing more than 3 million military and civilian personnel scattered around the country and across the world, including having direct responsibility for nearly 10,000 attorneys.

He provided key advice to two exceptional Defense Secretaries—Bob Gates and Leon Panetta—and was an important member of their management teams. To me, this is an invaluable experience for the huge task to which he has been nominated.

He also participated in almost every discussion of consequence for the Department, helping to shape the policies that directly impacted the lives of our brave men and women in uniform and their families.

In fact, during his time at the Pentagon, Mr. Johnson developed a reputation for tackling some of the toughest issues in the Department of Defense and finding a way to build consensus and develop thoughtful and effective policy. For example, he won praise from both sides of the aisle for his work on the issue of don't ask, don't tell and on the military commission system.

Additionally, Mr. Johnson was an influential member of the President's national security team and helped design

and implement many of the country's policies to fight terrorism and dismantle the core of Al Qaeda. Because of his experience in these positions and in other commanding roles, Mr. Johnson is well prepared to face the challenges that will await him if he is confirmed by the Senate today.

People don't have to take my word for it. Mr. Johnson has received high praise from many distinguished former government officials from both sides of the aisle.

In a letter to our Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, for example, every single former Secretary of that Department—Tom Ridge, Michael Chertoff, and Janet Napolitano—lauded Mr. Johnson as an "eminently qualified nominee."

They went on further to state, and I paraphrase: Jeh Johnson's service at the highest levels of the Department of Defense—the largest government agency in the world—provided him a keen understanding of how to successfully execute large-scale operational missions of varying complexity and purpose.

This is what former Defense Secretary Bob Gates, a highly regarded and much-admired manager himself, said about Jeh Johnson and his time at the Department of Defense:

Take my word for it: [Jeh Johnson] has successfully managed an array of major initiatives across the biggest bureaucracy in the government—and, in so doing, won the esteem of virtually everyone with whom he worked.

Similarly, former Defense Secretary Leon Panetta said this about Jeh Johnson:

Jeh has proven himself to be a talented, capable, bipartisan, and trusted public servant. I give my strongest recommendation and full support to his confirmation as the Nation's next Secretary of Homeland Security.

Former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral Mike Mullen, who stepped down in late 2011, has also expressed his deep confidence in the nominee, stating:

Jeh Johnson is as fine a person and professional as I have ever met.

I wish to state that again. Admiral Mike Mullen states:

Jeh Johnson is as fine a person and professional as I have ever met. I am confident in his choice and that he will succeed in leading this most complex organization at a critical time in our country.

Mr. Johnson has also received encouraging words and praise from a number of law enforcement groups, including the Major Cities Chiefs Association and the national Fraternal Order of Police.

I would also add that at Mr. Johnson's confirmation hearing, our ranking member, Dr. COBURN, made known his support for Jeh Johnson and even went so far as to ask him to consider staying on as Secretary after the 2016 election, a high compliment indeed. I might add as an aside, Mr. Johnson's wife was sitting immediately behind him, and when Dr. COBURN asked for that assurance from the nominee, I

wasn't sure if she was going to come out of her seat—and it wasn't in support of the idea.

Mr. Johnson is undoubtedly a highly skilled leader. He is just the type of person that we need for this extremely important and challenging position.

Mr. Johnson, of course, will not be alone in the task of leading the Department of Homeland Security. It is critically important that Mr. Johnson be allowed to surround himself with a capable leadership team. We can help. Indeed, we must help.

At the Department of Homeland Security alone, there are 14 Presidentially appointed positions that are without a permanent replacement. Of these, 10 require Senate confirmation. This is an edition of what I call executive branch Swiss cheese.

As we consider Mr. Johnson's nomination, we must remember that protecting the homeland is a team sport, and those of us in the legislative branch are critical members of this important team. If Mr. Johnson is confirmed, we must do our part to expeditiously, but thoroughly, vet and confirm his leadership team as well.

We need to put aside our partisan differences, work together, and give the President and the Department the entire team it needs to better protect our homeland. That includes confirming Ali Mayorkas for Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security.

Today the question before us is Mr. Johnson's nomination. For my colleagues still on the fence about Mr. Johnson's nomination, I leave us with a few thoughts on his character and his integrity. I have gotten to know Jeh Johnson very well over the last couple of months. I have been impressed by his forthrightness, his thoughtfulness, his core values, and his impeccable moral character, as well as his deep commitment to public service and serving our Nation. He treasures his family, and he strives to honor the legacy through his work.

I had the privilege of meeting several members of his family at the confirmation hearing last month. His wife is an accomplished professional in her own right. In fact, Jeh met his wife when she was practicing dentistry—and I think he might have been the patient.

Together they are the proud parents of two young adults that any parent would be proud to call their own. He is also a devoted son and brother. Although they could not attend his confirmation hearing, I know his parents are deeply proud of the son that they raised.

I noticed in his confirmation hearing that Jeh proudly wore a pin that was his grandfather's. His great grandfather worked as a Pullman train car porter in the early 20th century. I think that quiet statement says a lot about the importance of family to Jeh and how the values and character his family instilled in him are always with him.

It is clear he is a student of history and draws inspiration from the civil rights movement. One of Jeh Johnson's guiding principles is a lesson he learned from Dr. Benjamin "Bennie" Mays, the former president of Morehouse College and a mentor to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who said, "You earn a living by what you get; you earn a life by what you give." Think about that for a second. "You earn a living by what you get; you earn a life by what you give." Think about that and think about all the times Jeh Johnson has left the comforts of the private sector—three times before—so that he could give back and serve the people of our country as a leader in our government. With that in mind, I think we know what kind of leader we are getting in Jeh Johnson and what he will bring to the Department of Homeland Security.

I urge my colleagues to join me in voting today for Jeh Johnson.

I thank the Chair, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

BUDGET CONTROL ACT

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam President, I wish to share some thoughts about the bipartisan Budget Control Act which passed through the House and is now here, and we are going to have a cloture vote on it in the morning.

I appreciate the hard work which Chairman RYAN and Chairman MURRAY put into that. It is a complicated and important task. But I am not going to be able to support it.

I am the ranking member on the Budget Committee. I have dealt with these issues, and Chairman RYAN and Chairman MURRAY and I have all talked about them for a number of years. There are a lot of things which are important as we work through this. The proposal before us would increase spending, increase taxes and fees, and it would violate the core promise Congress made when passing the debt ceiling in 2011.

In August of 2011, we told the American people that if they allow us to raise the debt ceiling \$2.1 trillion, we would cut \$2.1 trillion in discretionary spending, essentially over the next 10 years. We would try to reach a bigger agreement. But if we didn't, we would cut money through the discretionary accounts: Defense and nondefense. No agreement was reached. The automatic cuts went into place.

I think we could modify those reductions in spending in a way which makes them less harmful and gives the agencies and departments—particularly Defense—much better ability to

meet the reductions in spending we asked them to meet, without doing unwise damage as I think we probably are today. We could make it a lot better, but not to spend more than we agreed over the now 8 years remaining in the Budget Control Act's time.

I am willing to give and take on some of this, but I am a bit frustrated that we are now going to spend from \$63 billion to \$65 billion more mostly in the next 2 years over the Budget Control Act's limits, which include the sequester that we agreed to. I am worried about that. It is going to be spent, and we are going to try to cut somewhere else to fund it. Over half the cuts that are going to fund this \$65 billion occur outside the 8 years remaining on the Budget Control Act, in the last 2 years. That is not good.

We promised in 2011 we would reduce spending \$65 billion more this year, or contain its growth, more than this legislation says. We promised that. Now this legislation is going to cost from \$63 billion to \$65 billion more this year and next year in spending which we promised just 2 years ago. So I am a little uneasy that we are going to say we are going to pay for that extra spending in years 8 and 10 over the next 10-year budget.

Forgive me if that causes me concern, but it does. I am worried about it, and I hope that our colleagues will study this.

There are a couple of big issues that are out there. One is a real hit to retired military. People who served 20 years are going to have their military retirement pay until they are 62 reduced significantly.

In addition, we have a problem which I think is even more serious and important to me. As a member of the Budget Committee who has made and raised budget points of order on the floor of the Senate, I wish to make this point clear:

There is a budget point of order under current law that—if this Congress attempts to spend more money than was agreed to in the Budget Control Act and the sequester—that any Member can raise, and I have raised it on at least three occasions, and we prevailed on each one of those three occasions.

What it says is: Even though you may say you have more money—you raised taxes or fees—we agreed not to spend over this level. This is our spending limit. It shows growth over 10 years in spending. It is not a real cut, although it cuts in the short term this year. But after this year, defense and nondefense discretionary spending will grow 2.5 percent each year. So this is not a permanent savaging of the Federal budget.

The point is, it was an agreement to limit spending. Somehow, in this agreement reached by Chairman MURRAY, the Democratic Senate budget leader, and Chairman RYAN, the House Republican budget leader—who is not familiar with Senate rules, but Senator

MURRAY is—the Democrats obviously insisted that we change that budget point of order. That means if somebody proposes to spend more than the Budget Control Act says and proposes to pay for it with taxes and fees, it is no longer subject to a 60-vote point of order. That will undermine in a real way our ability to be successful, because it will pit unpopular taxes on some business against some needy cause, and it will say that you didn't vote to help people in need; whereas, in truth we agreed to spending limits, and we should adhere to those limits.

In the past we have had votes, and the vote was simply: This amendment, this bill that is before the Senate, spent more money than we agreed to spend. Go back and find some other way to fund this good cause you want to fund, not by more taxes and more spending. So this has been eroded significantly, and I am worried about it.

There are a number of other problems with the legislation, and I know people will complain about it. But nothing is perfect. I know that, and I know we would like to have an agreement, and hopefully somehow we can.

But what should happen is the Senate should not agree to reduce military retirees' benefits, at least not before we know there is no other alternative, and that other employees of the Federal Government at least have the same kind of reductions. It doesn't appear to be so here, and we ought not to have changed the internal budgetary enforcement powers included in this point of order. That should not be eliminated, and, unfortunately, that is what has happened today.

JOHNSON NOMINATION

In a bit we will be voting on the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security. This is a very, very important position, one of the most important positions in our entire government. It is a massive agency. It was cobbled together under President Bush's tenure after pushing from Congress.

What happened was President Bush, after 2001 and the attack of 9/11, was pressured to have a new agency for homeland security. He didn't go for that at first, but the pressure built, and he decided to do it. He submitted legislation to do so. I supported it, but being a Federal prosecutor, having worked with virtually all of these Federal agencies, I probably knew better. It was a big deal, and it is very, very hard to cobble these agencies together—with their own history, their own administrations, their own policies, their own rules and regulations—into one. I am not sure it is a totally win-win. But we did it, and I voted for it eventually. Now it is the law of the land. The problem is it has not yet been brought under control. It has not yet been unified in an effective way.

There are over 240,000 employees of the Department of Homeland Security, and we need a strong leader to make this happen. We need a strong leader

who can blend these agencies into one harmonious whole. I don't know why Coach Nick Saban came to mind. But you need somebody who is strong enough to drive the special interests, the old historical biases, the old ideas of doing things, into one focused whole to make this the best agency in the U.S. Government. That is what we need.

The nominee, Mr. Jeh Johnson, doesn't come close to that. He is not a good choice for this position. I am not saying he is not a good man. I am saying he is not a good choice.

Let's go over some of these things here. With over 240,000 employees, the Department of Homeland Security is the third largest cabinet-level department, behind only the Department of Defense and Veterans Affairs, and it is less cohesive than those two by far. When it was established, it subsumed 22 government agencies which all came together.

Some of the many DHS components which still exist today as part of Homeland Security include the U.S. Customs and Border Protection service, which itself has 25 component parts; the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service, which itself has 21 parts. They are an unhappy group. Their officers association has complained to this administration about the lack of support and lack of commitment to law. The U.S. Coast Guard is part of Homeland Security; FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which has 37 component parts; and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, ICE. The ICE Office of Principal Legal Advisor alone has 41 component parts.

ICE is an important agency. It has been decimated under this administration. They have voted "no confidence" unanimously in their Director John Morton, who finally retired. All of these report directly to the Secretary of Homeland Security.

Before the Judiciary Committee 2½ years ago, I asked Secretary Napolitano if she was aware of the ICE officers association morale, which according to government surveys was virtually the lowest in the entire U.S. Government, and would she meet with them, and she didn't make a commitment to do so. So a year later she came back before the Judiciary Committee and I said: Have you met with them yet? No. She didn't meet with them. So this is a big problem.

The U.S. Secret Service, the group which protects the President and provides security throughout the country, is a very important agency. The TSA, Transportation Security Administration, airport security people, has 21 component parts in that entity. The Domestic Nuclear Detection Office; the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center; the Director for National Protection and Programs, which includes the Office of Emergency Communications; the National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center, the Stakeholder Engagement and

Cyber Infrastructure Resilience Division, the Federal Network Resilience Division, and the Network Security Deployment Division.

I was a U.S. attorney. I worked with many of these Federal agencies for years, but I never heard of those. But they are out there, and they are important. The Directorate for Science and Technology, which has 37 component parts; the Office of Infrastructure Protection, which has 5 divisions; the Office of Operations Coordination and Planning; the Office of Intelligence and Analysis—and that doesn't include 10 other offices.

On December 12, 2013, the Government Accountability Office—our independent agency that investigates departments and provides information to Congress—published a report stating that since its inception in 2003, the Department of Homeland Security "has faced challenges in implementing its human capital functions and Federal surveys have consistently found that DHS employees are less satisfied with their jobs than the government-wide average of Federal employees."

Some of those agencies are at the very bottom of satisfaction and so forth.

DHS has ranked 36 out of 37 agencies that participated in the Office of Personnel Management Employee Viewpoint Survey. They surveyed the employees. How do you view your agency? They are at the bottom. We need a leader who can turn that around. This program is down. We need a coach who can build a winner.

This survey includes questions such as whether leaders generate high levels of motivation and commitment in the workforce and whether employees have a high level of respect for their organization's senior leaders. That is what they ask when they do this survey. From the years 2006 through 2013, DHS scored lower than the governmentwide average each year. While the governmentwide scores for this index have declined 3 percentage points since 2011, DHS's scores have decreased by even more—by 5 percentage points from their previous level.

My point is that this is a massively important agency on which we spend billions of dollars, and it needs a top-flight manager, a proven leader, somebody who understands law enforcement. It could be a Governor, it could be a State attorney general, but in my opinion we really need somebody who is a Federal law enforcement officer who has been a leader or deputy leader at the very top of some of these agencies—the FBI, the Secret Service, the Coast Guard—somebody who understands these issues and is committed to turning this agency around.

I have to tell you that the secret is that there is no real intent to turn this agency around because the immigration system—U.S. Customs, ICE, the Border Patrol, the Customs and Immigration Service, which evaluates requests for admission to the United

States—is in disarray. This administration's goal is to further undermine their ability to be effective because they do not really want vigorous enforcement in these agencies. That is one reason their morale is so bad.

The ICE officers of the United States of America filed a lawsuit in court in Texas. They said their supervisors were instructing them not to fulfill their sworn duty, which was to enforce the laws of the United States. The lawsuit went on for some time. It eventually got dismissed on technical grounds, but the judge found that the supervisors of these agencies, the top people in these agencies, could not direct people not to enforce the law—which is what they are doing. We can go into that in some depth, and I am going to do that if I have the time. I am going to document, for the last 4 or 5 years, the systematic action by the President of the United States and his homeland security officers and Secretary and sub-Secretaries to undermine law enforcement, not to help our officers do better but to block them from doing their job. It is breathtaking. We have had too little discussion of it.

Jonathan Turley, legal scholar, supporter of President Obama, has said this goes beyond—this crosses the line. This goes beyond what is an Executive power that the President has. It goes beyond his power to basically tell his agencies to implement a DREAM Act law that Congress three times refused to pass. Congress wouldn't pass it, so he directed his agencies to do it anyway.

Professor Turley said this is a breathtaking violation of the Madisonian concept of three branches of government. It crosses the line. He was crystal clear. If I have time, I am going to talk about what he said about that.

Mr. Johnson, who is a nice individual and capable, is a lawyer. He came by to see me. We talked some about this. I expressed, frankly, my concerns to him.

The administration has pointed to Mr. Johnson's position as General Counsel for the Department of Defense as proof of his management ability. That position is actually substantially equivalent to being an Assistant Secretary of Defense. There are 15 of those. But one thing that counsel for the Department of Defense does not do is manage the Department and deal with all the conflicts about the agencies and departments and so forth.

An Assistant Secretary of Defense is the fifth highest ranking official within the Department's organizational hierarchy. First, there is the Secretary of Defense, then the Deputy Secretary of Defense, then the Executive Secretary, Under Secretaries, and Deputy Chief Management Officer. You have to go that low, and then he is the counsel—not a manager, a lawyer.

He was previously a litigator at some big New York law firm and an assistant

U.S. attorney for 2 years. I was U.S. attorney. I managed an office—a relatively small office—of 12. He was for 2 years an assistant U.S. attorney. He is now supposed to be able to manage this entire monstrosity of an agency.

The first Secretary of Homeland Security, Tom Ridge, had served as Governor of Pennsylvania for 6 years. That is a big State. That requires some management skills. And he was President Bush's Homeland Security Advisor from 2001 to 2003 and was a part of the post-9/11 response, and President Bush appointed him and he was the first leader in the Department of Homeland Security.

His successor, Mike Chertoff, had been a judge on the U.S. court of appeals, but, more significantly to me, he had a long term in the Department of Justice and as U.S. attorney in one of the big offices in America, the District of New Jersey. He worked with every one of those agencies for a long period of time, spent decades of prosecuting cases, and he understood the culture of the agencies that came together to form Homeland Security.

Even Secretary Napolitano had been Governor of Arizona for 6 years and had been State attorney general, both of which were management positions.

In an interview with the blog *abovethelaw.com*, nominee Mr. Johnson was asked why he left a lucrative private practice to join the Department of Justice, and he replied: "Loyalty to this President, commitment to public service, and safety for our country." The first thing he mentioned was loyalty to this President.

According to one article, Johnson was described as "a loyal political operative of the President who often referred to himself as 'the President's man' at the Department of Defense." So the President had his man, the lawyer, at the Department of Defense. I suppose that is OK, to have a friend at the Department of Defense, but is he capable of running the Department of Homeland Security?

On October 18 of this year, at the press conference announcing his nomination, Mr. Johnson said, "I love this country, I care about the safety of our people, I believe in public service, and I remain loyal to you, Mr. President."

While at the Department of Defense, Mr. Johnson is credited with spearheading the President's effort to repeal the don't ask, don't tell law or policy despite the fact that a poll of the combat units showed they didn't favor that. A report he produced dismissed these attitudes as laden with emotion and misperception. He was hailed as "a hero of don't ask, don't tell repeal" by the *Washington Post*. I think that is what he has been given the most credit for, being active in that issue. I am not saying that is disqualifying; I am saying that is what he spent his time doing at the Department of Defense. He wasn't dealing with how much aircraft carriers are going to cost. He wasn't dealing with the kind of weapons we

need to be providing or building today to be used by our military down the road and doing so in a constrained budget.

According to Senator McCAIN, recently the White House instructed Mr. Johnson not to be responsive to Senators' requests for information in relation to his nomination, and he has complied with that instruction. I think it was a concern of Senator McCAIN's that Cabinet members have a duty to be responsive to the U.S. Congress and that when you ask a nominee or Cabinet member a question, they need to respond. If they are going to be loyal to the President to the extent they do not respond to legitimate questions from Congress, then maybe they do not need to be confirmed to the job. Are they not going to respond? And who at the White House told him to do that? It was probably not the President; it was probably some staffer, maybe in his thirties, never done any of this stuff before, and they decided politically they didn't want him to answer questions, so they told him not to, and he didn't do it.

We are having a problem today with this. Getting responses is an important matter for any Cabinet head. But, of course, he had some other matters. I am not attacking Mr. Johnson's integrity. I am not attacking him in any way personally. But according to the Federal Election Commission, he has donated over \$130,000 to various Democratic candidates since 1998, including the President's 2008 campaign. According to the Web site *opensecrets.org*, Mr. Johnson was a bundler for President Obama's 2008 campaign to the tune of \$65,000. He also served on President Obama's fundraising committee. He donated to many other groups, and he was counsel to Senator Kerry's 2004 campaign.

He is an insider. He is close to the President. They are close personally. He is, perhaps, a good lawyer. Maybe he has some good political skills, but we have a department that is in disarray, a department that is hurting perhaps more than any other department in Washington. It is a massive department that needs real leadership. They need a new coach. They need somebody to whip them into shape, break down these barriers, and eliminate the petty turf fights that are still going on in that agency.

We need strength, integrity, and a commitment there, and I don't believe Mr. Johnson has ever had the opportunity to demonstrate that. He has not been trained in those kinds of issues, and he has had no example of it.

My colleagues remember the execution of the nuclear option in this very Chamber in which the majority leader broke the rules of the Senate to change the rules of the Senate, to eliminate the ability of the Senate to have 60 votes to confirm nominees, although most of the President's nominees were being confirmed and have overwhelmingly been confirmed.

They got irritable about a few judges so they changed the rules of the Senate. It has been a devastating change for a lot of reasons. One of the ramifications is—with loyal Democratic senatorial support—that Mr. Johnson doesn't have to respond to my letter or to the inquiries of Senator McCAIN. He has to respond to some staffer in the White House who said: Don't give them any information. Just give them some general junk. He will still be confirmed because we have 55 Senators, and they only have to have 51. The ability to put pressure on these nominees is important.

I know my friend Senator REID made a huge error. He has a tough job, but he did not need to go along with this. I know he had radical and progressive groups pushing him to do this nuclear option, pull the trigger, stick it to them, do it, and he eventually ended up doing it.

It has been reported that when Senator REID left the Senate Chamber and went to the Mansfield room, there was raucous applause and cheering from the ACLU and many leftwing groups that were over there that wanted this thing to happen.

I know the hard left wanted that. They have been pushing for elimination of the classic Senate prerogatives that make us different from the House of Representatives. I guess this was the first big step they feel they achieved. It has certainly undermined our ability to ask this nominee, before we confirm him to this hugely important agency, to get some commitments from him about how he is going to manage this agency.

Ranking member of the Judiciary Committee, Senator GRASSLEY, along with myself, as ranking member of the Budget Committee, Senator HATCH, as the ranking Republican on the Finance Committee, Senator CORNYN, who is second in command and the whip in the Senate for the Republicans, and Senators LEE and CRUZ, sent a letter to Mr. Johnson on November 15 regarding several issues. Most of the issues focused on the outright refusal of this administration to enforce immigration law as written.

On Friday we received a letter that can only be described as insufficient. He refused to give a straight answer to a single question. He said he would provide his "more general views as they exist at this stage."

What kind of commitment is that? I am going to give you some of my "more general views as they exist at this stage." Is that the kind of response the Congress should expect from a man about to head this agency? I am sure it is the kind of response the White House staff told him to give.

Mr. Johnson's answers are critical to the ability of Senators in this body to properly judge him. It goes to the essence of his qualifications for the post and one of the central areas of responsibility under his direction.

According to Senator McCAIN, Mr. Johnson said the White House prevented him from giving more complete answers.

Now that President Obama, Majority Leader REID, and the leftwing interest groups have decided and successfully nullified the Senate's constitutional right of advice and consent, why should any nominee be responsive to questions on any topic, let alone controversial ones such as: Will you enforce the immigration laws of America? Isn't that something we ought to be able to ask him? Or will you continue to direct your officers to violate their oath and not enforce the law faithfully? That is what is being done right now, as I will document, if we have time do so.

This Department has been at the epicenter of this administration's refusal to enforce our laws. The administration's political appointees have amounted to little more than rubberstamps, and they abdicated their sworn duty to enforce the law.

The White House has summarily suspended entire portions of Federal immigration law, granting unilateral reprieves to people based on everything from family connections, age of entry, and criminal record. These policies, I fear, are only the tip of the iceberg.

The one thing Mr. Johnson was clear about in his letter is that he supports the Senate's immigration bill, one that passed the Senate, but the House has said it was dead on arrival. This bill provides amnesty without ever securing the border, that further erodes what interior law enforcement is left, is even weaker than current law, and provides the Secretary of Homeland Security unprecedented discretion and waiver authority. One of the big problems—and one of the reasons the law is not being enforced—is the Secretary says that I am waiving all of these portions of the law, and that is why you don't enforce the law, officers.

Under the bill that cleared the Senate, it gave even broader power to the Secretary to not enforce plain law.

I think there is no doubt that if Mr. Johnson is confirmed, he will use the additional powers he has to even further undermine enforcement.

Speaker BOEHNER of the House has said they will not take up the Senate bill but will take up several immigration bills in a step-by-step approach. Does anyone believe this administration will actually enforce anything they pass? They are not enforcing current law.

Before the House gets into passing laws and conferring on any kind of comprehensive bill, I urge that they start insisting—and help us insist—that this administration enforce the law they have. If they just refuse to do it, why should we assume that passing the bill has any ability to change the path we are on?

The first responsibility of Congress must be to restore the rule of law, secure the border, and bring the administration into compliance with the laws

of the United States. Until that happens, there is no reason or basis to offer any legalization plans considered in the Congress.

Congress cannot capitulate into this overreach. The first place we ought to start is Mr. Jeh Johnson, the nominee of Homeland Security. He would control the Customs officers, the Border Patrol officers, and the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Those are all under his direct control, and they need to be strengthened and not further undermined.

The record of lawlessness is what we sought to explore in our policy-oriented inquiry to Mr. Johnson, but we got no response to it.

In September 2011, the President said:

We live in a democracy. You have to pass bills through the legislature and then I can sign it.

Yet less than 1 year after he personally disputed the notion that the executive branch could not act on its own, he decided to grant legal status to a class of individuals. He instituted an action called the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, a directive to all the agency department heads—all the way down to the officers at the lowest level—which would grant legal status to a mass population of individuals who are in the country illegally.

The directive, combined with the so-called Morton memo, ordered law enforcement agencies in the field to stop apprehending and removing people in the country illegally and instead allow them an opportunity to apply for legal status.

There is no law that allows them to apply for legal status. The law came up three times in Congress and three times Congress rejected the law.

As Professor Turley said, this is a big deal. Three times Congress rejects the law and then the President directed his officers to execute a law that was never passed; in fact, it was rejected.

The President told an audience in November of this year that he did not have the power to halt deportations, stating:

If, in fact, I could solve all these problems without passing this through Congress, then I would do so. We're a Nation of laws . . . the easy way out is to try to yell and pretend like I can do something by violating our laws.

He said that, but he is doing just the opposite. His statement is accurate.

Every Member of Congress should be alarmed by this.

I asked my Democratic friends who have been awfully quiet on this issue: What would you do if a President refused to enforce welfare laws or minimum wage laws or fair housing laws? What would you do if a President circumvented Congress to implement a policy you disagreed with and Congress had explicitly rejected? Would your reaction be the same silence we are seeing today?

Once the rule of law begins to be undermined, this whole Republic is in

danger. The American people get it. They talk to me about it all the time. They use different phrases. They say: What is a Constitution? The people don't tell the truth. The law is not being enforced. How can he amend ObamaCare—the Affordable Care Act?

I was taught in elementary school and high school that the President executes the laws; he doesn't make law. How can he change the law you guys just passed? I get asked that all the time. I have to say it is not a frivolous question because we have an abuse—as Professor Turley and others have said—that is very significant. It has to end. No one is above the law. That is what the judge in Texas said and that is what the judge said to President Nixon when he didn't want to do some things. He said: You are not above the law. They said it to President Clinton too.

Failure to uphold our laws violates our legal and moral responsibilities to our own citizens and those who came to this country legally and creates the preconditions necessary for a repressive and capricious government.

When the majority leader can stand before this Senate—and the rules of the Senate say that to change the rules of the Senate, you must have a two-thirds vote. In order to shut off debate, you must have 60 percent of the people vote for it. When you make a parliamentary inquiry and overrule the Parliamentarian and Presiding Officer who rule exactly that and say we can shut off debate on Presidential nominees with 51 votes, something bad has happened. That is a very clear problem we have.

I spoke to Mr. Johnson, and we had, by chance, an opportunity to have a few minutes in my office, and he said he supported the law. So I asked him why he wanted this job because he was not going to be allowed to enforce the law because this President's policies were contrary to that. He had his own ideas about immigration, inconsistent with the law of the land, and he was executing his ideas about immigration laws, not what is the law of the land.

So I am going to detail—if I don't finish, I will offer the information for the record and maybe speak on it later—a long, continuous trail of violations of law and improper policies designed to block the enforcement of law in America concerning immigration. It is stunning, and we should be talking about that with Mr. Johnson, but he doesn't have to answer our questions. He just says he will give us some general ideas about what his views are and the views he has at this time. Of course, they may change.

Most Americans probably don't know that a law enforcement officer who apprehends someone for speeding and discovers the person is illegally in the country does nothing. The Federal people will not come to pick them up; it is against the policy. They just release them on the spot. They could have caught him for other lesser offenses. They are released because people won't

come and get them. It is actually being applied to people in prison who are supposed to be deported.

In early 2009 there was an Immigration and Customs Enforcement raid—and this story explains how we got into this—initiated and planned while President Bush was in office. And he had been weak on enforcement of the laws too, but he was actually getting a little better. He called out the National Guard, and momentum was moving in the right direction. So they executed an enforcement action at an engine machine shop in Washington State, where ICE agents detained illegal immigrants without authorization. In a statement about the operation, ICE said they were investigating criminal activity. They discovered hiring records revealing a significant number of people who were using bogus Social Security numbers and counterfeit documents. They found 26 illegal immigrants working at this company. It was a completely legitimate and justified law enforcement action, but President Obama had just taken office and he had clearly promised this kind of thing wouldn't happen. Shortly thereafter, certain pro-amnesty groups criticized him. As a result, Secretary Napolitano vowed she would "get to the bottom of it." An article in the Washington Times quoted a Homeland Security official as saying, "The Secretary is not happy about it." And instead of enforcing the law, the Secretary investigated the law enforcement officers for simply doing their duty—apparently in response to some secret demand made or promises made to advocacy groups during the campaign.

I appreciate the opportunity to share these thoughts. As I said, that was the first event, and we have had a series of those since—a long list of them—that got us then to a point where we need to know where the Secretary of Homeland Security stands on these issues. We should not confirm somebody who is not crystal clear about what their policy would be for this great office and we shouldn't confirm somebody who has no apparent training or background or capacity to be the kind of strong leader we need at this point in time in history.

I see Senator MCCONNELL is on the floor. I appreciate his leadership in trying to make sure we adhere to our spending agreements and do the right thing on our spending. I thank Senator MCCONNELL for his steadfast and solid good judgment as we wrestle with some very tough issues.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). The minority leader is recognized.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I thank my friend from Alabama for his

kind words, and I commend him for the great job he has been doing in outlining the issues before us, not to mention the particular nominee he was speaking about.

A few weeks ago the Obama administration essentially declared that it had met its goals for fixing the ObamaCare Web site. With the Web site fixed, they led us to assume that ObamaCare was "fixed" as well, but that was never true. As I have been saying all along, the problems are much bigger than a Web site.

Even the administration's claims about the Web site have been exaggerated. Recent news reports suggest that many Americans who thought they had enrolled on the exchanges will find that they do not, in fact, have coverage on January 1, largely as a result of lingering problems with the site.

An even larger problem lies with the coverage options folks are actually finding if they manage to make it through the Web site. For folks patient enough to successfully navigate through healthcare.gov, many are finding that ObamaCare offers higher premiums, higher costs, or higher deductibles—sometimes all three—in exchange for coverage that is in many cases inferior to what they had before: fewer choices, restricted hospital networks, losing doctors our constituents know and trust. That is what many are getting in exchange for higher costs and skyrocketing premiums, even after the President promised ObamaCare would "cut costs and make coverage more affordable for families and for small businesses."

Despite the President's serial pledges to the contrary, the government's own studies on this issue now indicate that ObamaCare will actually increase the cost of health care in America by more than \$620 billion. ObamaCare will actually increase the cost of health care in America by more than \$620 billion.

As one California woman recently put it, for her, ObamaCare has meant being forced into lower coverage for more money. Many Kentuckians feel exactly the same way.

Giselle Martino is a constituent of mine from Prospect, KY. Here is what she recently wrote to me after losing her coverage:

I paid a very high premium to have a major medical plan. I am now forced into the exchange for a lesser plan with more exclusions and higher deductibles. I will most likely never reach those deductibles. How does this help me? I am basically paying into the plan for the others. If I must pay for my higher tier heart drugs anyway, why should I bother with the health plan? What a disappointment this administration has caused.

Higher costs and less care, that is what ObamaCare means for Giselle Martino.

ObamaCare has been a disappointment for Mike Conn from Prestonsburg too. Here is what he had to say about this law:

A policy that has similar coverage to what we had would cost us around \$1,100 a month. [That] is a 100-percent increase for me and

my wife. I was informed by the individual that was helping me find coverage that it was because we live in eastern Kentucky.

Mike says his plan is no longer available in that part of the State, and now he is evidently facing a 100-percent increase in cost because of where he lives—a 100-percent increase in cost because of where he lives. It is not fair.

Mike and Giselle both have every right to be upset. But that is the reality of ObamaCare for too many Kentuckians, a State where 280,000 people have already lost the coverage they had because of this law. It is a reality facing millions of Americans across our country. When the White House was asked today whether they were confident that the millions of Americans with canceled policies would be able to sign up for new insurance before January 1, they couldn't give a straight answer.

That is why we Republicans are going to maintain our focus where it belongs—on the people we represent and on the issues that truly matter to them because our constituents understand that ObamaCare is about so much more than a Web site. The administration needs to start understanding that too. Fixing a few lines of code isn't going to help people keep the plans they like, plans that work for their families. It isn't going to help our constituents afford the law's exorbitant premiums and deductibles. It isn't going to help our constituents cope with fewer choices and lower quality of care. These are the things that actually matter to the middle class.

The administration and its allies in Congress can talk until they are hoarse about a Web site or about nominees or about whatever else they think they can say to distract Americans from the failures of this law, but that isn't going to work.

To the millions of Americans suffering under ObamaCare, people should know that Republicans are on their side. We are going to keep fighting for true health reform that lowers costs, for reform that promotes choice and a better quality of care, and we are going to keep fighting against the idea that government knows better than our constituents when it comes to their families' health care. That is what our constituents expect of us, I know that is what Kentuckians expect, and that is just what Republicans are going to continue to do.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

HONORING MAYOR TOM MENINO

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor one of the great leaders in the history of Boston. It might seem odd to describe a man who is still with us today, alive and well, as a figure in history, but in the almost 400 years since Boston was founded, a history that is filled with names known across this country—Winthrop, Adams, Lowell, Lodge—in this 400-year history, few have done more for Boston than our mayor Tom Menino.

Looking back at his 20 years in office, it is clear how much Tom Menino has done for our city. Mayor Menino revitalized Boston. From the waterfront and Innovation District to Dudley Square and Roxbury, Mayor Menino led the resurgence of our neighborhoods, expanded parks and livable spaces, and created a city whose innovative potential is unbounded.

Mayor Menino worked for Boston. With firm convictions, he cautioned against predatory lenders, starting the “Don’t Borrow Trouble” campaign long before the great recession. With political will and courage, he improved education for all our kids, creating full-day kindergarten and making Boston schools some of the best in the country. With foresight of the next frontiers, he fought for hospitals and scientific research, giving Boston the world’s leading health care institutions. With fierce moral clarity, he stood firmly for equality—equal opportunity for immigrants, equal rights and equal marriage for the LGBT community, equal pay for women.

Perhaps most importantly, Mayor Menino has been there for Boston. It is often said that more than 50 percent of Boston residents have met Mayor Menino personally. I do not believe this is true. I believe the number must be much greater. It seems as if the mayor attends every community event, every potluck dinner, every school play, and every soccer game. From Grove Hall to the North End, Bowdoin to West Roxbury, we know Mayor Menino will be there for us in our moments of greatest triumph—ribbon cuttings for new buildings and parks, World Series victories, a new Bostonian’s citizenship, a child’s graduation—and we know he will be there for us in our moments of great tragedy—the death of a loved one, terror in Copley Square.

Of course, Mayor Menino could not have done it alone. By his side for all these years he has had Angela Menino. Angela is a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother. To all of us in Boston, she was not just a first lady but a first friend. Angela championed causes that often went unheralded in the press, supporting women and children, employment and education, and fighting to end homelessness. Today we thank Angela as well for helping make our city into a warm and thriving community.

Almost 400 years ago, on a ship sailing from England to the New World, John Winthrop declared that the new

city they would found, Boston, would be a “city upon a hill, the eyes of all people are upon us.” And if that experiment, our city, was to succeed, he said “we must be knit together . . . we must entertain each other in brotherly affection . . . we must rejoice together, mourn together, labor and suffer together, always having before our eyes our commission and community in the work, as members of the same body.”

For 20 years Mayor Menino has made Boston into a city that all eyes can see is a model for the country and for the world. He has succeeded because he knew all along that our fortunes depend on our work together—as one people, as one community, as one Boston.

On behalf of a grateful people, Tom Menino, we thank you for your hard work, for your service, and most of all for your dedication to making Boston a better place.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

TRIBUTE TO LAURA HERZOG

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about an outstanding member of our staff, a friend, and a very special person who will soon leave the Senate—after almost 11 years of service—with her family to go to Nashville to begin the next exciting phase of their lives.

I first met Laura Lefler when she was a staffer working in Senator LAMAR ALEXANDER’s front office answering the phones and greeting visitors. I was in Washington to try to decide, like the Presiding Officer, whether running for the U.S. Senate was something I should consider. Seeing her smiling face and listening to her Tennessee accent certainly made me feel at home.

Later, after I decided to run, we became involved in one of the most difficult races in the country in 2006. I was the only new Republican to make it through. Toward the end, with the race nationalized and dealing with all kinds of issues, a whole crew of folks descended upon our office to help us get across the top. One of those was young Laura Lefler, who helped us in our communications office. I think she was surprised by the fierceness of a campaign such as this. She took it all very personally—a sign of someone you want to be at your side.

Then came the transition. Laura was the first person to open our office, and she helped us interview people and find our way through the daunting task of opening a new Senate office. When it came down to deciding who would lead our communications office, we had gotten down to people who had been here

and done it for a long time and Ms. Laura Lefler. She always said I was concerned about whether she should really be the person, and, in fairness, now that she is leaving, I will say I was. She was young. She had never done this before. Certainly I had never done this before. And I wondered whether we needed someone who was more seasoned and had different experiences. Without question, hiring Laura to lead our communications office is one of the best decisions I have ever made in my life. I cannot imagine the last 7 years without Laura in our office, and I know the rest of our staff feels the same way.

Laura has been instrumental to our office in every way. No doubt, she has done an outstanding job as a communications director. I think every person in our office, those in other offices, and the media people throughout the Capitol and throughout Tennessee would all speak to the fact that she has been a professional, she has been endearing and a responsible communications director.

She has also been instrumental in other ways, such as always ensuring that I have never forgotten where I came from. She has that knack when we are making a decision over a tough vote to slip in toward the end and sit down privately and express her own feelings—something I value greatly.

As time went on, I realized something was different about other Senate offices. Most Senate offices center around the U.S. Senator. Our office has never been that way; it has always revolved around Laura.

It began with this guy named John Herzog, whom she later married. Was he going to end up having the kind of job that would allow him to know he could support a family? And then when he did, was he going to ask her to marry him? This went on for months and months.

Then there was the wedding after he asked. I do not think I have ever seen so many photographs of dresses and flower arrangements, nor have others in our office.

Then came the decision about their home purchase. Where would it be? What would it look like? How far of a drive would it be? You know the drill.

Then came young Jack. His hair was so perfect when he was born, he instantly was dubbed “the Weatherman.” Then, of course, which daycare would he attend? Would it be close enough? Would she continue to be a communications director and a good mom? As we all knew would be the case, she has been exceptional at both.

Then more of the same in Tennessee. I remember a townhall meeting in Loudon, TN, where over 1,000 people showed up at the gymnasium—a place where Laura Lefler had been the valdicatorian. I remember walking in with such excitement that so many people would be there at this townhall meeting to hear me discuss the big issues facing our Nation, but, not surprisingly, the first thing that was said

when I walked in the door was, "Where's Laura?"

Now, as we all knew would happen at some point, it is time for them to move on to the next phase in their lives. While we have all been a part of her life and lived the ups and downs, she has been a part of all of ours. We will miss her greatly. She knows full well that I would gladly continue to be second fiddle in our office if she would stay. But we all know it is time for her and John, with their wonderful son Jack and possibly others to come, to go back to Tennessee, time to go back and be a part of other people's lives the way they have been a part of ours.

She has made life better for all of us over the last 7 years. Her big smile and ability to take ribbing—and also dish it out—have made each day so much more enjoyable. She is a consummate professional, always seeking perfection but with the ability to make it fun along the way. We will miss her, but we are so happy for her, for John, and for Jack. We are happy for her mother, who lives just across the line in Kentucky, and her dad, who lives right up the road in Loudon. We know Nashville will be a much better place with the Herzogs there. We look forward to visiting them often, and we all hope they will continue to involve us all in their wonderful life, their story, and the evolution of the Herzog family in Tennessee.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I rise to speak in morning business for approximately 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is recognized.

BIPARTISAN BUDGET AGREEMENT

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to urge my colleagues to support the bipartisan budget agreement.

I congratulate our colleagues, especially Budget Committee chairwoman MURRAY for her outstanding leadership in forging this bipartisan agreement with her House counterpart, Mr. RYAN. They reached this agreement in a way that is indeed a compromise—not everyone's desired outcome but a fair and necessary one. I urge my colleagues to support it. I think it is fantastic that they actually got a budget done. This is the first time in several years we are actually going to vote on a bipartisan budget conference agreement, and I think it bodes well for future activity where we return to the due order of passing legislation, one in each House, having a conference committee to hammer out the disagreements, and then it coming back to us for final agreement.

What I like about this agreement is it creates certainty by avoiding sequester for 2 years, giving the top-line funding to us on the Appropriations Committee for 2014 and 2015. Many people

do not realize that we on the Appropriations Committee who actually put money in the Federal checkbook to be spent have a cap put on our spending by the Budget Committee. That is called the 302(a) or the top line. We have not been able to do our Appropriations Committee work because we have not had a top line. This enables us to have one for 2014. We are under a mandate to bring it back to the Senate and to the House by January 14. We will meet that deadline. It is going to be tough. It is going to be stringent. But we are going to get the job done. It also gives us certainty for 2015 so we can return to a regular order of actually knowing where we stand with our cap, holding our hearings, and bringing bills to the committee.

The other facet I like about this bipartisan budget agreement is it prevents harm. It protects seniors and families. It preserves the social safety net, such as Medicare and Social Security.

Finally, the agreement ends gridlock. The American people are tired of shutdown, slowdown, slam-down politics. This agreement ends the lurching from crisis to crisis and shows we can compromise and we can govern.

First of all, and foremost, this budget agreement creates certainty for America's businesses and families. By avoiding sequester for 2 years, it prevents further across-the-board cuts—not that we do not need strategic cuts, and we will come up with them in the Appropriations Committee—but across-the-board cuts where we do not know if a program works or if a program is dysfunctional. This way, we can actually look at those programs that we do need to cut—those that are dated, those that are duplicative, those that are dysfunctional. Sure, let's cut those.

But at the same time let's keep the good programs and make sure that they are adequately funded. I believe that avoiding the sequester and the meat-ax approach to cuts really helps us to have better governance. We will have a more frugal government, and we will have a more sensible way of spending.

It also gives us this top line funding for 2014 and 2015 for the Appropriations Committee. It means that we can write an omnibus bill. What does an omnibus bill mean? We on the Appropriations Committee have 12 subcommittees. We would like to have brought these subcommittees up one by one and have the House exercise their due diligence in looking at the bills to see what they want to add, subtract or change.

We could not do it because we failed to have this budget agreement to give us the top line. What we will now be able to do is for 2014 we will be able to bring them all up at one time in a bill called the omnibus. I hope it is a bus that really moves. It will enable us to make smart choices about our investments in America instead of government on autopilot through a continuing funding resolution.

This agreement saves America from lurching from one continuing funding resolution to another. It is a fair compromise. For 2014 it is \$45 billion above the House-proposed budget, but it is \$45 billion below the Senate-proposed budget. Our budget leadership met in the middle and really thought that would be an adequate compromise. I would have preferred the 1.058 level, but it is adequate.

The bipartisan agreement also, as I said, prevents harm to the middle class. What America is looking for, though, is not only numbers and programs and so on, they want us to get our act together. They want us to really do our job, and do it in a way that is sensible and civil.

I believe that is what was done in that budget committee. They want us to work together across the aisle and across the dome. This bipartisan agreement shows what can be done when we do meet in the middle to make progress for the middle class and for those people who are neither right or left but want to take the middle of the road.

This compromise is not perfect. Compromises never are. For me, some of the pay-fors were not exactly what I was happy about. For example, they require new Federal employees to pay more for their retirement and working-age military retirees to receive smaller COLAs. I would have preferred an agreement that closed tax loopholes or canceled some of those out-of-date farm subsidies left over from the 1930s.

However, by avoiding the sequester, we also will be able to avoid furloughs. If you talk to the civilian employees at Defense, and you talk to Federal employees in the domestic agencies about this whole idea of furloughs and sequester, some of them had to have a double furlough, such as at the FBI. We were facing furloughs in the FBI. We did not have gas for the FBI cars. That is not right.

We want to make sure we continue to fund our government and meet our responsibilities. I cannot stress enough how important this bipartisan agreement is. If we continued the path that we left and the sequester was left in place, it is would cost our economy 800,000 jobs in 1 year—800,000 jobs.

Maryland already lost 21,000 jobs because of the sequester. We have important Federal agencies. We have over 250,000 contractors, both in defense and civilian agencies, and the ripple effect through my State had an impact on institutions like Johns Hopkins and the University of Maryland and on major flagship companies like Lockheed Martin, and it was really significant.

By passing this, we have a certainty that enables us to keep those jobs. The Appropriations Committee is ready to write a funding bill that will create jobs today and jobs tomorrow. Jobs today and important investments in infrastructure, education, research and development, and jobs tomorrow.

Let's take this bipartisan agreement, and we will produce a bill. We on the

Appropriations Committee will produce a bill that meets our national security needs, our compelling human needs, and at the same time lay the groundwork for a more prosperous America.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill and end gridlock and deadlock. Let's get on with making sure that we have certainty and reliability in funding the government of the United States of America.

I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Mr. REED. Mr. President, in 12 days, unemployment insurance will expire for 1.3 million Americans. This will impact virtually every State. Over the course of the next year, it will set back millions of hard-working families, slow down job growth, and slow our economic recovery.

Today I filed three amendments to the Bipartisan Budget Agreement Act. The amendments would extend UI for 1 month, 3 months, or a year respectively. While I believe the best policy is to extend unemployment insurance for 1 year in order to keep our economic recovery moving forward, I am willing to work with my colleagues who object to extending it for the full year to find a path forward.

What we must, I think, provide is at least a message to those people that they will not see their benefits eliminated on December 28, and that we will, in fact, be working to make sure that this protection is in place for families all across this country. Over the next several days I will be coming to the floor seeking consent and urging my colleagues to extend unemployment insurance.

The expiration of unemployment insurance will be devastating to families across the entire Nation who rely on this as the last remaining source of support, in many cases for people who have worked hard for many years and because of this economy have lost their jobs.

This is a stressful time.

My home State of Rhode Island has an unemployment rate of 9.2 percent. We have been struggling since 2008 and 2009. This is very difficult for people. This difficulty will be particularly hard to bear as we celebrate the holidays—at a time when people should be able to consider and count their blessings—they will instead be looking ahead a few days afterward to the loss of valuable, irreplaceable income.

It is also a devastating blow to our local businesses and economy. Extend-

ing UI is not only doing the right thing for American families, this is doing the right and smart thing for the American economy.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that if we fail to extend unemployment insurance, we will lose 200,000 jobs—at a time when our major priority should be getting as many jobs as we can—and will slow economic growth by about .2 percent GDP.

This is not only the right thing to do in terms of the families of America, it is the smart and right thing to do for our economy. There is a compelling, economic rationale to provide these extended unemployment insurance benefits.

Mark Zandi, a noted economist, estimates that for every \$1 we put into the UI Program we get \$1.55 in return of economic activity. It makes sense. People who are living without their income from employment, when they take this money, they go to the store, they put food on the table, they pay rent. They pay for heat in the Northeast where the President pro tempore resides.

They are not stashing it away. In some cases, they are putting it right back into the economy. So this is a wise, economic policy, as well as a humane and decent policy.

Now is not the time to let this program expire for the individuals or for the economy. We have to extend UI immediately. December 28 is the day it stops; it is a cliff. People are off the program. Then, throughout the year, as people exhaust their State benefits at 26 weeks, they fall off because there is no Unemployment Insurance Program.

This is an economy where we are just beginning to see some recovery. Last month's numbers suggested about a 200,000-job gain. That was good, but hidden in those statistics was increasing evidence that long-term unemployment is increasing. Those people who haven't found jobs quickly are not finding jobs very well at all.

That trend is continuing and that is another reason we need the long-term benefits that are provided by the Federal program.

I am going to do my best to try to bring people together to recognize that this is an issue that is about American workers. People don't get unemployment insurance unless they have worked. It is about American families, because it is so necessary to support these families, and it is about States all across this country. Rhode Island has a 9.2-percent unemployment record. Nevada is the highest with 9.3 percent.

We can look at States—North, South, East, West—scattered across this country that have unemployment rates over 8 percent that need this program for their residents. I hope we can come together, work together, and get this done.

I urge, again, in the next few days that we all stop and think about our obligations, not only to the families of

America but to keeping the momentum of economic growth moving forward. I would particularly ask those colleagues who are representing States with unemployment rates that are above the national average—and the national average is 7 percent—to think very hard about what they are going to tell many of their constituents on December 28 when they have lost their benefits.

I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COATS. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

Mr. COATS. I know we will be voting shortly. The narrative out of the White House is that this health care plan is starting to work. That is not what I am hearing from home, and many are questioning this.

The Wall Street Journal today published an analysis showing how the health care law will raise premium rates. We all are familiar with the President's promise that rates will not increase under the ObamaCare, Affordable Care Act. According to The Wall Street Journal, Americans—particularly young, healthy adults—"could see insurance rates double or even triple when they look to buy individual coverage." Other groups, Oliver Wyman, PricewaterhouseCoopers, and Milliman, all issued reports estimating that ObamaCare would increase premiums by up to 60 percent.

On and on this drama goes with broken promises. The American people are learning and discovering promises were made when this law was passed—and all through the 3½ years leading up to where we are—and assurances were coming from the President and the White House: Don't worry. Your premiums won't go up, period. You can keep the doctor that you have, period. It is not going to cost any more money, period.

Those promises have been broken and Hoosiers are finding out about this every day.

Regardless of the statements coming out—don't worry, everything is going to be OK, sort of take it to the bank, trust us—that is not what is happening on the ground.

People are writing to me. They are calling our office. They are tweeting, emailing, and doing everything they can to give us these horror stories, saying: Do I have to do this?

Unfortunately, they do. Edward from Chesterton, IN, said he has spent countless hours on healthcare.gov searching for a health care plan. He discovered that the plans offered under the ObamaCare exchange had expensive premiums that he hadn't anticipated. In order to afford the monthly premiums, he has to choose the plan for

his family with unaffordable deductibles in order to keep his premiums at the level he can afford to pay. It is basically: Edward, don't get sick. Don't have a medical expense throughout your family every year, and you will be OK. But if you do, what you didn't pay in premiums you are going to have to pay in much higher deductibles.

John from Martinsville, IN, was finally able to get on the healthcare.gov Web site. He found the bronze plan that was going to be at least \$100 more per month. He doesn't qualify for a government subsidy, and he doesn't see any way this new law will be saving money for his family. John says the only thing he sees is that he now will be subsidizing the health care system even more than before the law was passed.

DeWayne from Shipshewana, IN, wrote to tell me that not only is the small group health insurance plan his business currently offers not available any longer starting in 2014, but in his 15 years of administering the business health plans, he said he has never seen a rate increase this high.

DeWayne's health insurance plan for him and his business employees will increase 65 percent in this coming year. DeWayne's small group health insurance is increasing 65 percent for 2014—and this is called the Affordable Care Act?

I wish to give one more broken promise. William from Granger, IN, wrote and told me that his wife who works as a part-time nurse will no longer be offered health care since she works part-time. I assume they have children at home or maybe the hospital has determined they want to stay under that 40-hour workweek level, so they put her on part-time. I am not exactly sure what the case is.

In any event, they have discovered they will have premiums rise from \$11,544 a year under their current plan to \$19,076 per year, an increase of over \$7,500.

He goes on to say: "So much for [the President's promise] if you like your plan . . . if you like your doctor . . . your costs will go down by \$2,500."

William's costs go up by \$7,500.

This isn't only Republicans in Washington highlighting these health care costs. These are Hoosiers from all backgrounds, Republicans, Democrats, and from all walks of life, sharing their stories with me about how they are paying the price for the President's broken promises.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF ANNE W. PATTERSON TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Anne W. Patterson, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Ambassador, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Near Eastern Affairs).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all postcloture time has expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Anne W. Patterson, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State?

Mr. COATS. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN) would have voted "nay."

The result was announced—yeas 78, nays 16, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 274 Ex.]

YEAS—78

Ayotte	Durbin	Levin
Baldwin	Feinstein	Manchin
Baucus	Fischer	Markey
Begich	Flake	McCaskill
Bennet	Franken	McConnell
Blumenthal	Gillibrand	Menendez
Booker	Grassley	Merkley
Boozman	Hagan	Mikulski
Boxer	Harkin	Murkowski
Brown	Hatch	Murphy
Burr	Heinrich	Murray
Cantwell	Heitkamp	Nelson
Cardin	Hirono	Portman
Carper	Hoeven	Pryor
Casey	Inhofe	Reed
Chambliss	Isakson	Reid
Coats	Johnson (SD)	Rockefeller
Cochran	Johnson (WI)	Sanders
Collins	Kaine	Schatz
Coons	King	Schumer
Corker	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cornyn	Landrieu	Stabenow
Donnelly	Leahy	Tester

Thune	Udall (NM)	Whitehouse
Toomey	Warner	Wicker
Udall (CO)	Warren	Wyden

NAYS—16

Alexander	Heller	Rubio
Barrasso	Johanns	Scott
Coburn	Lee	Sessions
Crapo	Moran	Shelby
Cruz	Risch	
Enzi	Roberts	

NOT VOTING—6

Blunt	Kirk	Paul
Graham	McCain	Vitter

The nomination was confirmed.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows.

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Jeh Charles Johnson, of New Jersey, to be Secretary of Homeland Security.

Harry Reid, Sherrod Brown, Christopher Murphy, Robert Menendez, Christopher A. Coons, Angus S. King, Jr., Martin Heinrich, Amy Klobuchar, Dianne Feinstein, Tom Udall, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Bernard Sanders, Barbara Boxer, Brian Schatz, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Thomas R. Carper, Benjamin L. Cardin, Michael F. Bennet.

QUORUM CALL

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair now directs the clerk to call the roll to ascertain the presence of a quorum.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll and the following Senators entered the Chamber and answered to their names:

[Quorum No. 13]

Alexander	Grassley	Nelson
Ayotte	Harkin	Portman
Baldwin	Hatch	Pryor
Barrasso	Heinrich	Reid
Baucus	Heitkamp	Risch
Bennet	Heller	Roberts
Booker	Hoeven	Rockefeller
Boozman	Isakson	Sanders
Boxer	Johnson (WI)	Schatz
Brown	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Scott
Cardin	Landrieu	Sessions
Coats	Leahy	Shaheen
Coburn	Lee	Stabenow
Cochran	Manchin	Thune
Cornyn	Markey	Toomey
Crapo	McConnell	Udall (NM)
Donnelly	Menendez	Warner
Durbin	Merkley	Warren
Feinstein	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Fischer	Murkowski	
Franken	Murray	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. A quorum is present.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Jeh Charles Johnson, of New Jersey, to be Secretary of Homeland Security, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator

from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN) would have voted “nay.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DONNELLY). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 57, nays 37, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 275 Ex.]

YEAS—57

Baldwin	Hagan	Murphy
Baucus	Harkin	Murray
Begich	Heinrich	Nelson
Bennet	Heitkamp	Pryor
Blumenthal	Hirono	Reed
Booker	Johnson (SD)	Reid
Boxer	Kaine	Rockefeller
Brown	King	Sanders
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Schatz
Cardin	Landrieu	Schumer
Carper	Leahy	Shaheen
Casey	Levin	Stabenow
Collins	Manchin	Tester
Coons	Markey	Udall (CO)
Donnelly	McCaskill	Udall (NM)
Durbin	Menendez	Warner
Feinstein	Merkley	Warren
Franken	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murkowski	Wyden

NAYS—37

Alexander	Enzi	Moran
Ayotte	Fischer	Portman
Barrasso	Flake	Risch
Boozman	Grassley	Roberts
Burr	Hatch	Rubio
Chambliss	Heller	Scott
Coats	Hoeven	Sessions
Coburn	Inhofe	Shelby
Cochran	Isakson	Thune
Corker	Johanns	Toomey
Cornyn	Johnson (WI)	Wicker
Crapo	Lee	
Cruz	McConnell	

NOT VOTING—6

Blunt	Kirk	Paul
Graham	McCain	Vitter

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the yeas are 57, the nays are 37.

The motion is agreed to.

The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the remaining votes this evening be 10 minutes in duration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATION OF JEH CHARLES JOHNSON TO BE SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Jeh Charles Johnson, of New Jersey, to be Secretary of Homeland Security.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Cloture having been invoked, under the previous order all postcloture time is yielded back.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Jeh Charles Johnson, of New Jersey, to be Secretary of Homeland Security.

Mr. COATS. I ask for the yeas and nays.

Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

The result was announced—yeas 78, nays 16, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 276 Ex.]

YEAS—78

Alexander	Feinstein	Mikulski
Ayotte	Flake	Moran
Baldwin	Franken	Murkowski
Barrasso	Gillibrand	Murphy
Baucus	Hagan	Murray
Begich	Harkin	Nelson
Bennet	Hatch	Pryor
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Reed
Booker	Heitkamp	Reid
Boxer	Heller	Roberts
Brown	Hirono	Rockefeller
Burr	Isakson	Sanders
Cantwell	Johanns	Schatz
Cardin	Johnson (SD)	Schumer
Carper	Johnson (WI)	Shaheen
Casey	Kaine	Stabenow
Chambliss	King	Tester
Coats	Klobuchar	Thune
Coburn	Landrieu	Toomey
Cochran	Leahy	Udall (CO)
Collins	Levin	Udall (NM)
Coons	Manchin	Warner
Corker	Markey	Warren
Donnelly	McCaskill	Whitehouse
Durbin	Menendez	Wicker
Enzi	Merkley	Wyden

NAYS—16

Boozman	Hoeven	Rubio
Cornyn	Inhofe	Scott
Crapo	Lee	Sessions
Cruz	McConnell	Shelby
Fischer	Portman	
Grassley	Risch	

NOT VOTING—6

Blunt	Kirk	Paul
Graham	McCain	Vitter

The nomination was confirmed.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am pleased to support the confirmation of Jeh Johnson to be the Secretary of Homeland Security. Mr. Johnson’s distinguished career in public service, including his service as a Federal prosecutor and as general counsel of the Department of Defense, will suit him well as he takes on this new and very challenging responsibility. I look forward to inviting Mr. Johnson to testify before the Senate Judiciary Committee for an oversight hearing in the new year, which he has committed to do. Mr. Johnson will oversee many issues within the Judiciary Committee’s jurisdiction, not the least of which is Federal immigration policy.

I had the opportunity to meet with Mr. Johnson recently and discuss some of the issues that have been of interest to me over the last several years. I encouraged him to continue to support the exceptional work U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Director Alejandro Mayorkas has done to make

USCIS a better, stronger agency. In particular, I encouraged Mr. Johnson to build upon Director Mayorkas’ work to strengthen and improve the EB-5 Regional Center Program, which is a successful, job-creating immigration program that has transformed parts of Vermont and other communities across the country. I look forward to working with Mr. Johnson and Director Mayorkas following his confirmation as Deputy Secretary for Homeland Security to continue the partnership the Senate Judiciary Committee developed with USCIS to make the improvements necessary to maintain the highest standards of integrity in this important program, and to sustain it as a significant economic engine for the United States.

I relayed to Mr. Johnson my concerns about Border Patrol checkpoints in the interior of the country, such as the one that the previous administration implemented and operated nearly 100 miles south of the Canadian border on Interstate 91 in Vermont. Over the past several years, I have heard from many Vermonters who find the idea of a Federal checkpoint 100 miles from the Canadian border, deep into the State of Vermont, entirely inconsistent with Vermont values and an overbearing Federal presence that creates an environment susceptible to racial profiling and the needless harassment of law abiding citizens. I continue to have serious questions about the effectiveness of checkpoints such as these, especially when weighed against the significant intrusion into the privacy of Americans.

I also discussed with Mr. Johnson my concerns related to the treatment of Americans returning to the United States, in particular the practice of CBP officials conducting warrantless searches of Americans’ persons and belongings, including conducting forensic searches of electronic devices. These searches within the border zone are not subject to the usual protections provided by the Fourth Amendment to Americans. Recent CBP activities have raised serious questions about whether Federal officials are circumventing the protections of the Fourth Amendment by conducting opportunistic searches on individuals when those officials know they will be reentering the United States. As I wrote in a letter to the current acting secretary, such authority must be used with great restraint. I look forward to continuing my discussions about these important issues with Mr. Johnson.

Finally, I will seek to work with Mr. Johnson to address the overbroad material support bar in our immigration law. It has resulted in people, including vulnerable refugees, being unfairly barred from the United States based solely on de minimus commercial or social conduct that has negligible connection to the support of terrorism. One example involves an individual who sold flowers to members of a terrorist group, and is now considered to

have provided “material support” to terrorism. That simply does not make sense and must be changed. As I have with his predecessors, I will urge Mr. Johnson to address this unjust situation as soon as possible after he takes office.

I congratulate Jeh Johnson on his confirmation and look forward to working with him as Secretary of Homeland Security.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF ALEJANDRO NICHOLAS MAYORKAS TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 456.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second? There appears to be a sufficient second. There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

The result was announced—yeas 53, nays 38, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 277 Leg.]

YEAS—53

Baldwin	Franken	Merkley
Baucus	Gillibrand	Mikulski
Begich	Hagan	Murphy
Bennet	Harkin	Murray
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Nelson
Booker	Heitkamp	Pryor
Boxer	Hirono	Reed
Brown	Johnson (SD)	Reid
Cantwell	Kaine	Rockefeller
Cardin	King	Sanders
Carper	Klobuchar	Schatz
Casey	Leahy	Schumer
Coons	Manchin	Shaheen
Donnelly	Markey	Stabenow
Durbin	McCaskill	Tester
Feinstein	Menendez	

Udall (CO)	Warner	Whitehouse
Udall (NM)	Warren	Wyden

NAYS—38

Alexander	Enzi	Moran
Barrasso	Fischer	Murkowski
Boozman	Flake	Portman
Burr	Grassley	Risch
Chambliss	Hatch	Roberts
Coats	Heller	Rubio
Coburn	Hoeven	Scott
Cochran	Inhofe	Sessions
Collins	Isakson	Shelby
Corker	Johanns	Thune
Cornyn	Johnson (WI)	Toomey
Crapo	Lee	Wicker
Cruz	McConnell	

NOT VOTING—9

Ayotte	Kirk	McCain
Blunt	Landrieu	Paul
Graham	Levin	Vitter

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Alejandro Nicholas Mayorkas, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I would ask the clerk to report a cloture motion under the direction of the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Alejandro Nicholas Mayorkas, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security.

Harry Reid, Thomas R. Carper, Barbara Boxer, Mark Begich, Richard Blumenthal, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tom Udall, Debbie Stabenow, Sheldon Whitehouse, Bernard Sanders, Mazie Hirono, Christopher A. Coons, Jon Tester, Brian Schatz, Martin Heinrich, Claire McCaskill, Heidi Heitkamp, Kirsten E. Gillibrand.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I got ahead of myself. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate move to legislative session.

Mr. MCCONNELL addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader.

Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF JOHN ANDREW KOSKINEN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE COMMISSIONER OF INTERNAL REVENUE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 459.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion to proceed.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 55, nays 37, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 278 Leg.]

YEAS—55

Baldwin	Hagan	Nelson
Baucus	Harkin	Pryor
Begich	Hatch	Reed
Bennet	Heinrich	Reid
Blumenthal	Heitkamp	Rockefeller
Booker	Hirono	Sanders
Boxer	Johnson (SD)	Schatz
Brown	Kaine	Schumer
Cantwell	King	Shaheen
Cardin	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Carper	Leahy	Tester
Casey	Manchin	Udall (CO)
Collins	Markey	Udall (NM)
Coons	McCaskill	Warner
Donnelly	Menendez	Warren
Durbin	Merkley	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Mikulski	Wyden
Franken	Murphy	
Gillibrand	Murray	

NAYS—37

Alexander	Enzi	Murkowski
Ayotte	Fischer	Portman
Barrasso	Flake	Risch
Boozman	Grassley	Roberts
Burr	Heller	Rubio
Chambliss	Hoeven	Scott
Coats	Inhofe	Sessions
Coburn	Isakson	Shelby
Cochran	Johanns	Thune
Corker	Johnson (WI)	Toomey
Cornyn	Lee	Wicker
Crapo	McCaskill	
Cruz	Moran	

NOT VOTING—8

Blunt	Landrieu	Paul
Graham	Levin	Vitter
Kirk	McCain	

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of John Andrew

Koskinen, of the District of Columbia, to be Commissioner of Internal Revenue.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of John Andrew Koskinen, of the District of Columbia, to be Commissioner of Internal Revenue.

Harry Reid, Max Baucus, Barbara Boxer, Mark Begich, Richard Blumenthal, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tom Udall, Debbie Stabenow, Sheldon Whitehouse, Bernard Sanders, Christopher A. Coons, Mazie K. Hirono, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Jon Tester, Brian Schatz, Martin Heinrich, Claire McCaskill, Joe Donnelly, Heidi Heitkamp.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

BRIAN J. DAVIS TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 382.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Brian J. Davis, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a cloture motion at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Brian J. Davis, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida.

Harry Reid, Sherrod Brown, Richard J. Durbin, Christopher Murphy, Robert Menendez, Christopher A. Coons, Angus S. King, Jr., Martin Heinrich, Amy Klobuchar, Dianne Feinstein, Tom

Udall, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Bernard Sanders, Barbara Boxer, Brian Schatz, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Thomas R. Carper, Benjamin L. Cardin, Michael F. Bennet.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF JANET L. YELLEN TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Mr. REID. I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 452.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Janet L. Yellen, of California, to be Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Janet L. Yellen, of California, to be Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

Harry Reid, Tim Johnson, Barbara Boxer, Mark Begich, Richard Blumenthal, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tom Udall, Debbie Stabenow, Sheldon Whitehouse, Bernard Sanders, Mazie K. Hirono, Jon Tester, Brian Schatz, Martin Heinrich, Claire McCaskill, Heidi Heitkamp, Kirsten E. Gillibrand.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF SLOAN D. GIBSON TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Mr. REID. I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 455.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Sloan D. Gibson, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Sloan D. Gibson, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

Harry Reid, Barbara Boxer, Mark Begich, Richard Blumenthal, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tom Udall, Debbie Stabenow, Sheldon Whitehouse, Bernard Sanders, Mazie K. Hirono, Christopher A. Coons, Jon Tester, Martin Heinrich, Brian Schatz, Claire McCaskill, Heidi Heitkamp, Kirsten E. Gillibrand.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF SARAH SEWALL TO BE AN UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE (CIVILIAN SECURITY, DEMOCRACY, AND HUMAN RIGHTS)

Mr. REID. I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 445.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Sarah Sewall, of Massachusetts, to be an Under Secretary of State (Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights).

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Sarah Sewall, of Massachusetts, to be an Under Secretary of State (Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights).

Harry Reid, Robert Menendez, Barbara Boxer, Mark Begich, Richard

Blumenthal, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tom Udall, Debbie Stabenow, Sheldon Whitehouse, Bernard Sanders, Mazie K. Hirono, Christopher A. Coons, Jon Tester, Brian Schatz, Martin Heinrich, Heidi Heitkamp, Kirsten E. Gillibrand.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF MICHAEL L. CONNOR TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

Mr. REID. I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 371.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Michael L. Connor, of New Mexico, to be Deputy Secretary of the Interior.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Michael L. Connor, of New Mexico, to be Deputy Secretary of the Interior.

Harry Reid, Sherrod Brown, Richard J. Durbin, Robert Menendez, Christopher A. Coons, Angus S. King, Jr., Martin Heinrich, Amy Klobuchar, Dianne Feinstein, Tom Udall, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Bernard Sanders, Barbara Boxer, Brian Schatz, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Thomas R. Carper, Benjamin L. Cardin, Michael F. Bennet.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF SARAH BLOOM RASKIN TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

Mr. REID. I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 457.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Sarah Bloom Raskin, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary of the Treasury.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Sarah Bloom Raskin, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary of the Treasury.

Harry Reid, Tim Johnson (SD), Barbara Boxer, Mark Begich, Richard Blumenthal, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tom Udall (NM), Debbie Stabenow, Sheldon Whitehouse, Bernard Sanders, Mazie K. Hirono, Christopher A. Coons, Jon Tester, Brian Schatz, Martin Heinrich, Claire McCaskill, Heidi Heitkamp, Kirsten E. Gillibrand.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF JESSICA GARFOLA WRIGHT TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR PERSONNEL AND READINESS

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 356.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Jessica Garfola Wright, of Pennsylvania, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the clerk will report the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Jessica Garfola Wright, of Pennsylvania, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness.

Harry Reid, Carl Levin, Barbara Boxer, Mark Begich, Richard Blumenthal,

Benjamin L. Cardin, Tom Udall (NM), Debbie Stabenow, Sheldon Whitehouse, Bernard Sanders, Mazie K. Hirono, Jon Tester, Martin Heinrich, Brian Schatz, Claire McCaskill, Heidi Heitkamp, Kirsten E. Gillibrand.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF RICHARD J. ENGLER TO BE A MEMBER OF THE CHEMICAL SAFETY AND HAZARD INVESTIGATION BOARD

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 189.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Richard J. Engler, of New Jersey, to be a Member of the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Richard J. Engler, of New Jersey, to be a Member of the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board.

Harry Reid, Barbara Boxer, Mark Begich, Richard Blumenthal, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tom Udall (NM), Debbie Stabenow, Sheldon Whitehouse, Bernard Sanders, Claire McCaskill, Patrick J. Leahy, Mazie K. Hirono, Jon Tester, Martin Heinrich, Brian Schatz, Heidi Heitkamp, Kirsten E. Gillibrand.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to proceed to morning business, with Senators allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

Mr. REID. It is my understanding that Senator SESSIONS tonight wants

to speak for up to 30 minutes. So everybody would be limited to 10 minutes each, except for him.

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

HOMETOWN HEROES SURVIVORS BENEFITS ACT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today I am proud to recognize the 10th anniversary of the enactment of the "Hometown Heroes Survivors Benefits Act" which occurred this past Saturday. Back in 2003, I worked with a bipartisan group of Senators to pass this legislation to improve the Department of Justice's Public Safety Officers' Benefits—PSOB—program by allowing families of public safety officers who suffer fatal heart attacks or strokes to qualify for Federal survivor benefits. I am proud to mark the 10-year anniversary of this important program.

I first want to thank each of our Nation's brave law enforcement officers, firefighters, and emergency medical responders for the work they do for the American public each and every day. This legislation, like the Public Safety Officers Benefits program, is for them. It is Congress' recognition of the importance of their service to their communities and to the Nation.

Our public safety officers are often the first to respond to a crime scene or emergency situation. They are often the first line of defense in a natural disaster or national security emergency. They are among our most courageous and dedicated public servants. I applaud their efforts in responding to more than 240 million emergency calls each year—whether those calls involve a fire, crime, medical emergency, natural disaster, or act of terrorism—without hesitation. They act with a steadfast commitment to the safety and protection of their fellow citizens and, sadly, sometimes lose their own lives in the protection of their communities.

Each year, hundreds of public safety officers nationwide lose their lives and thousands more are injured while performing their duties. And while these benefits can never be a substitute for the loss of a loved one, the families of all these fallen heroes deserve this financial support from the Federal government.

The PSOB program was established in 1976 to authorize a one-time financial payment to the eligible survivors of Federal, State, and local public safety officers who die in the line of duty. While there had been various efforts over the years to improve the program leading up to 2003, the benefits did not extend to officers suffering a fatal heart attack or stroke from a work-related, non-traumatic injury, such as stress or strain from the job.

The Hometown Heroes Act of 2003 expanded PSOB coverage to ensure that the survivors of public safety officers who die of heart attacks or strokes in the line of duty or within 24 hours of a

triggering effect while on duty—regardless of whether a traumatic injury is present at the time of the heart attack or stroke—are eligible to receive financial benefits. Ensuring public safety is dangerous, grueling, and stressful work. A first responder's chances of suffering a heart attack or stroke exponentially increases when he or she puts on heavy equipment and rushes into a burning building or gets into a shootout with dangerous criminals. Since enactment of the Hometown Heroes law, the Department of Justice has approved 373 claims. This is 373 families who have received this important support in the face of a tragedy. The families of these brave public servants deserve coverage under the PSOB program and I am grateful that Congress was able to pass legislation to make sure the law covered these situations.

Over the past few years I have increasingly sought ways to improve the PSOB program. Last year, as part of the National Defense Authorization Act, I was successful in adding to that legislation the Dale Long Act. The inclusion of this amendment fixed coverage gaps in the Federal PSOB program by extending benefits to private, non-emergency medical services—EMS—volunteers and personnel. In Vermont alone, this change covers an estimated 1,200 EMS personnel for the program. This legislation also streamlined what had been an unwieldy and unnecessarily long appeals process for claimants, clarified the list of eligible survivor recipients, and eliminated an artificial distinction under current law to include vascular ruptures as a type of injury that would make a public safety officer's survivors qualified for Hometown Heroes benefits. Since 2012, as a result of the Dale Long Act's enactment, an additional 23 Hometown Heroes cases have been approved.

Finally, I want to recognize the outstanding work of Director Denise O'Donnell and her staff at the Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance. Under Director O'Donnell's leadership, her dedicated staff has put into place significant reforms and improvements to the program that have increased efficiency, transparency, and communication with the survivors of fallen first responders with pending claims. They are putting to good use the new statutory provisions that were enacted as part of the Dale Long Act provisions that make the program more cost effective and easier for administrators and claimants to find resolution. As a former prosecutor, Director O'Donnell understands the importance of this program to first responders across the country and she has worked very hard to listen to their concerns and act on them. I know the staff members within the PSOB program office recognize the solemnity and importance of the work they do and recognize that each case represents a family that has endured a great sacrifice. They carry out their duties with

the respect these cases deserve and I thank them as they continue to carry out the promise Congress made to America's first responders over 30 years ago.

Public safety officers are part of the bedrock of our Nation. We must continue to recognize their hard work and selfless dedication to communities across this country and ensure that they and their families have the protections they need and most certainly deserve.

JAMES NOMINATION

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, the process for running these nominees through the Senate is unnecessary and contrived simply to ignore a number of Republican concerns.

I do not oppose all the nominees, however. I wish to strongly support the confirmation of Deborah James for Secretary of the U.S. Air Force. With three Air Force installations in Oklahoma—Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma City, Altus Air Force Base, and Vance Air Force Base in Enid—the Air Force has long been a part of the fabric of the State of Oklahoma. Oklahoma is home to five major military installations between the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Army. They employ thousands of Oklahomans and contract work throughout the State being responsible for a tremendous role in Oklahoma's economy. These installations enjoy the strong support of the communities in which they are located and the entire State of Oklahoma.

The Senate Armed Services Committee held a nomination hearing on Ms. James back in September. In addition, I have met with Ms. James, and I have had an opportunity to discuss with her my concerns about this unprecedented period in which the readiness and capabilities of the Air Force are at significant risk because of budget cuts and sequestration.

For example, the Air Force was forced to ground one-third of its combat coded active squadrons for a time during fiscal year 2013 and according to the Chief of Staff of the Air Force it will now cost a minimum of 10 percent more flying hours to fully retrain the grounded squadrons than it would have to simply keep them trained all along. Further, General Welsh stated that sequestration in fiscal year 2014 could force flying hours to be cut by 15 percent and within 3 to 4 months, many units would be unable to fly at rates required to maintain mission readiness.

Ms. James has over 30 years of senior homeland and national security management, policy, and program experience in government and the private sector. She served with SAIC in McLean, VA from 2002 as the president of SAIC Technical and Engineering Sector, executive vice president for communications and government affairs, and senior vice president for Homeland Security. Prior to those positions, she served as vice president for

International Operations and Marketing at United Technologies from 1998 to 2000.

She served as Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs from 1993 to 1998, overseeing all matters pertaining to the National Guard and Reserve Forces. She has significant experience working with Congress, as a former professional staff member on the House Armed Services Committee from 1983 to 1993. She has a bachelor's degree in comparative studies from Duke University and a master's degree in international affairs from Columbia University.

I believe she is very qualified and ready to start her new role. I look forward to working with Secretary James in her new role and strongly congratulate her.

However, I would like to point out that these nominations are not without controversy which may be why the Democratic majority would rather ignore the minority and change the Senate for the first time in over 200 years.

For example, Ms. Patricia Wald who the Administration nominated to serve on the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board has written that those accused of terrorism should be given access to the civilian trial court system and be afforded the protections of simple criminal defendants. These views ignore the devastating effects of terrorism and ignore our actual war against terrorism around the world. These acts are not simply criminal acts, they threaten our entire country. This should be the subject of debate in the Senate, not simply brushed aside for quick confirmations.

Earlier the Senate voted on the nominations of two district court judges for Montana. These are lifetime appointments. The Senate confirmed these judges by a wide margin, but the Senate should not simply group a number of nominations together to pass for lifetime appointments for circuit and district judicial vacancies simply because the majority does not even want to work with the minority. This session will end with continued confirmation votes. It is to the detriment of both parties if the prerogatives, priorities, and concerns of the minority are not considered in the Senate, but it will not be easily overlooked.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, it is with great pleasure that I join my friend Senator MANCHIN from West Virginia in introducing legislation authorizing a Congressional Gold Medal for United States Air Force Fighter Aces.

This bill specifically honors those American pilots who have shot down five or more enemy aircraft in aerial combat during a war or conflict in which American armed forces have participated.

Since the First World War, there have been 60,000 American fighter pilots who have taken to the air in harm's way, but only 1,444 have become fighter aces. Our bill authorizes the U.S. Mint to strike—at no cost to the

taxpayer—a medal of appropriate design to American fighter aces in recognition of their heroic military service and defense of our country's freedom, which as spanned the history of aviation warfare.

American Fighter Aces hail from every State in the Union are one of the most decorated military groups in American history. Twenty-two fighter aces have achieved the rank of admiral, and 79 have achieved the rank of general in the Army, Air Force, and Marines. And there are 19 Medal of Honor recipients.

One of those aces hailed from my home State of Oklahoma.

BG Robinson "Robbie" Risner was from Tulsa, OK, my hometown, and a fellow graduate of Tulsa Central High School in 1942. Risner then enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Force as an aviation cadet and began his career as one of America's most celebrated Fighter Aces.

After being stationed in Panama during World War II, he returned home to serve in the Oklahoma Air National Guard until he was called to fight in the Korean war. There, he flew 108 missions in his sweptwing F-86 Sabre and became an ace by shooting down eight enemy MiG-15s. He also received one of two Silver Stars in his valiant attempt to save a fellow pilot.

During the Vietnam war, General Risner flew 55 missions and led the first flight of air strikes over North Vietnam in Operation Rolling Thunder, earning him the Air Force Cross.

While flying in another raid in his F-105 Thunderchief on September 16, 1965, he took fire and was forced to bail out. He was captured and was a prisoner of war for 7 years 4 months and 27 days, serving most of his time in the infamous Hanoi Hilton. He was kept shackled for weeks at a time and spent more than 3 years in a darkened, solitary cell. In his 1973 memoir, "The Passing of the Night: Seven Years as a Prisoner of the North Vietnamese," he wrote, "I did not ask God to take me out of it. I prayed he would give me strength to endure it."

After his release in 1973, General Risner returned to the air in the F-4 Phantom II in the 1st Tactical Fighter Wing at MacDill Air Force Base, FL. He was later transferred to Cannon Air Force Base, NM, in February 1974 to command the 832d Air Division, in which he flew the F-111 Aardvark. He was promoted to brigadier general in May 1974, became vice commander of the USAF Tactical Fighter Weapons Center at Nellis Air Force Base, NV, in 1975 and retired in 1976. He spent his retirement years involved in community service projects and spoke often before gatherings of veterans and other pilots.

He was inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame in 1974 and passed away in his sleep on October 22, 2013, at the age of 88.

I salute Gen Robbie Risner and all other American fighter aces who have served our country so courageously and

selflessly. It is my honor to be associated with the introduction of this legislation today which authorizes a Congressional Gold Medal for U.S. Air Force fighter aces.

TRIBUTE TO STEPHEN LILLEY

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, any Senator will acknowledge that each of us is only as effective as the staff who support us. For nearly as long as I have been a Member of this body, I have enjoyed the benefit of the considerable abilities and expertise of Stephen Lilley. Stephen's tenure on my staff has drawn to a close, and the U.S. Senate loses a gifted lawyer and a dedicated public servant.

Stephen joined my team in 2008 as a Heyman Federal Public Service fellow and quickly demonstrated a keen understanding of the workings of the Senate and of the Judiciary Committee. Unwilling to part with either his sharp legal analysis or his good humor, we brought him on board full time as a counsel after his fellowship ended. After more outstanding work, he was soon promoted to chief counsel on the Subcommittee on Administrative Oversight and the Courts and later the Subcommittee on Crime and Terrorism.

Stephen has ably staffed hundreds of committee hearings and markups and advised me on every issue under the wide-ranging jurisdiction of the Judiciary Committee. In particular, he played a key role in the investigation of the Subcommittee on Administrative Oversight and the Courts into the use of so-called enhanced interrogation techniques in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001; he helped me during the confirmation of two Justices to the Supreme Court; he worked with me to promote and defend the role of the civil jury; and he has emerged as one of the Senate's leading experts on cybersecurity and intellectual property, facilitating immensely complex negotiations that brought us to the brink of comprehensive cyber legislation.

In addition to producing great work, Stephen elevated the work of those around him. His diligence, his ability to work well with other offices, his passion for doing right, and—not least—his sharp and dry wit, all made him a pleasure to work with. I particularly wish to thank his wife Jaynie and his daughter Mary Win for supporting Stephen and for sharing him with us.

Stephen's hard work brought him success before his arrival at the Senate, whether at Princeton University, where he graduated summa cum laude; at Yale University, where he earned his law degree; or as a clerk to Judge Thomas Ambro on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit and Judge Jeremy Fogel on the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California. I have no doubt he will find continued success in all of his future endeavors.

Theodore Roosevelt reminded us of the credit due to the man who spends

himself in a worthy cause. I gratefully credit Stephen Lilley for his exceptional service to the Senate, the people of Rhode Island, and the United States of America.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-3770. A communication from the Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Efficiency and Conservation Loan Program" (RIN0572-AC19) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 6, 2013; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3771. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy; Importation of Bovines and Bovine Products" ((RIN0579-AC68) (Docket No. APHIS-2008-0010)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2013; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3772. A communication from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation Funding and Fiscal Affairs; Farmer Mac Capital Planning" (RIN3052-AC80) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 7, 2013; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3773. A communication from the Acting Administrator, Rural Housing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Single Family Housing Guaranteed Loan Program" (RIN0575-AC18) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 9, 2013; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3774. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Richard C. Harding, United States Air Force, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3775. A communication from the Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Terry A. Wolff, United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3776. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Vice Admiral Allen G. Myers, IV, United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of vice admiral on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3777. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Global Strategic Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Government of Panama requesting the U.S. Government to destroy eight U.S.-origin munitions remaining from testing by the United States on San Jose Island off the coast of Panama; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3778. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Unallowable Fringe Benefit Costs" ((RIN0750-AH76) (DFARS Case 2012-D038)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 5, 2013; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3779. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Preparation of Letter of Offer and Acceptance" ((RIN0750-AH84) (DFARS Case 2012-D048)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 5, 2013; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3780. A communication from the General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary, Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, Department of Housing and Urban Development, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 5, 2013; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3781. A communication from the General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research, Department of Housing and Urban Development, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 5, 2013; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3782. A communication from the Counsel, Legal Division, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendments to the 2013 Mortgage Rules Under the Equal Credit Opportunity Act (Regulation B), Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act (Regulation X), and the Truth in Lending Act (Regulation Z)" ((RIN3170-AA37) (Docket No. CFPB-2013-0018)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 11, 2013; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3783. A communication from the Director, Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Definitions of Transmittal of Funds and Funds Transfer" (RIN1506-AB20) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 6, 2013; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3784. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report relative to the continuation of the national emergency with respect to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction that was originally declared in Executive Order 12938 of November 14, 1994; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3785. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Addition of Certain Persons to the Entity List; Amendment of Entity List Entries; and Removal of One Person from the Entity List Based on a Removal Request" (RIN0694-AF96) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the

Senate on December 4, 2013; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3786. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Suspension of Community Eligibility" ((44 CFR Part 64) (Docket No. FEMA-2013-0002)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2013; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3787. A communication from the Acting Administrator and Chief Executive Officer, Bonneville Power Administration, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's Annual Report for fiscal year 2013; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3788. A communication from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Regulations; Areas of the National Park System; New River Gorge National River, Bicycling" (RIN1024-AD95) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2013; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3789. A communication from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Regulations; Areas of the National Park System; Curecanti National Recreation Area, Snowmobiles and Off-Road Motor Vehicles" (RIN1024-AD76) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2013; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3790. A communication from the Acting General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Transmission Planning Reliability Standards" (Docket Nos. RM12-1-000 and RM13-9-000) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 19, 2013; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3791. A communication from the Acting General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Communication of Operational Information between Natural Gas Pipelines and Electric Transmission Operators" (RIN1902-AE72) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2013; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3792. A communication from the Acting General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Version 5 Critical Infrastructure Protection Reliability Standards" (Docket No. RM13-5-000) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2013; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3793. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the updated Morganza to the Gulf of Mexico, Louisiana, hurricane and storm damage risk reduction project; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3794. A communication from the Administrator, Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Corporation's annual financial audit and

management report for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3795. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Voluntary Withholding on Dividends and Other Distributions by Alaska Native Corporations" (Notice 2013-77) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 6, 2013; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3796. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "2013 Base Period T-Bill Rate" (Rev. Rul. 2013-24) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 6, 2013; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3797. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Update of CC: INTL No-Rule Revenue Procedure, Rev. Proc. 2013-7" (Rev. Proc. 2014-7) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 6, 2013; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3798. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Tier 2 Tax Rates for 2014" received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 6, 2013; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3799. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "User Fees for Processing Installment Agreements and Offers in Compromise" ((RIN1545-BL37)(TD 9647)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 6, 2013; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3800. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Dividend Equivalents from Sources within the United States" ((RIN1545-BK53)(TD 9648)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 6, 2013; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3801. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Net Investment Income Tax" ((RIN1545-BK44)(TD 9644)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 6, 2013; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3802. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to groups designated by the Secretary of State as Foreign Terrorist Organizations (OSS 2013-1799); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3803. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the United States strategy to countering the threat posed by Boko Haram (OSS 2013-1826); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3804. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Depart-

ment of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to Guantanamo (OSS 2013-1846); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3805. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to Guantanamo (OSS 2013-1800); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3806. A communication from the Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Legislative and Public Affairs, U. S. Agency for International Development (USAID), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report responding to a GAO report entitled "Global Food Security: USAID Is Improving Coordination but Needs to Require Systematic Assessments of Country-Level Risks"; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3807. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the elimination of the danger pay allowance for Haiti; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3808. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 13-154); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3809. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 13-159); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3810. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 13-140); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3811. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 13-150); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3812. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 13-151); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3813. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 13-156); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3814. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 13-105); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3815. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 13-172); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3816. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 13-145); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3817. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 13-165); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3818. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, De-

partment of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 13-163); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3819. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 13-146); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3820. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to sections 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 13-128); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3821. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 42(g)(2) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 13-177); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3822. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2013-0195-2013-0199); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3823. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Food and Drug Administration's annual report on the performance evaluation of FDA-approved mammography quality standards accreditation bodies; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3824. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Annual Report to Congress on Food Facilities, Food Imports, and FDA Foreign Offices Provisions of the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3825. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration on Aging (AoA) Report to Congress for fiscal year 2012; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3826. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Food Additives Permitted for Direct Addition to Food for Human Consumption; Acacia (Gum Arabic)" (Docket No. FDA-2011-F-0765) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 6, 2013; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3827. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Turtles Intrastate and Interstate Requirements; Confirmation of Effective Date" (Docket No. FDA-2013-N-0639) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 25, 2013; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3828. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendments to General Regulations of the Food and Drug Administration" (Docket No. FDA-2010-N-0560) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on

November 25, 2013; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3829. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Medical Devices; Ophthalmic Devices; Classification of the Scleral Plug” (Docket No. FDA-2012-N-1238) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 25, 2013; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3830. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Listing of Color Additives Exempt From Certification; Spirulina Extract; Confirmation of Effective Date” (Docket No. FDA-2011-C-0878) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 25, 2013; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3831. A communication from the General Counsel, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing and Paying Benefits” (29 CFR Part 4022) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2013; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3832. A communication from the Acting Director, Directorate of Standards and Guidance, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Record Requirements in the Mechanical Power Presses Standard” (RIN1218-AC80) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2013; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3833. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary for the Employment and Training Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Labor Certification Process for Logging Employment and Non-H-2A Agricultural Employment” (RIN1205-AB65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 20, 2013; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3834. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary for the Employment and Training Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Removal of Attestation Process for Facilities Using H-1A Registered Nurses” (RIN1205-AB67) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 20, 2013; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3835. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary for the Employment and Training Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Attestation Process for Employers Using F-1 Students in Off-Campus Work” (RIN1205-AB66) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 20, 2013; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3836. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Final Priority; Rehabilitation Training; Rehabilitation Long-Term Training Program—Vocational Rehabilitation

Counseling” (CFDA No. 84.129B) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 21, 2013; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3837. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Office of Postsecondary Education, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Program Integrity Issues” (RIN1840-AD02) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 21, 2013; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3838. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Office of Postsecondary Education, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Student Assistance General Provisions, Federal Perkins Loan Program, Federal Family Education Loan Program, and William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program” (RIN1840-AD12) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 21, 2013; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3839. A communication from the Board Chair and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration’s Semiannual Report of the Inspector General and the Semiannual Management Report on the Status of Audits for the period from April 1, 2013 through September 30, 2013; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3840. A communication from the Chief Executive Officer, Corporation for National and Community Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Report of the Inspector General and the Corporation for National and Community Service’s Report on Final Action for the period from April 1, 2013 through September 30, 2013; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3841. A communication from the Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Report of the Inspector General, the Chairman’s Semiannual Report on Final Action Resulting from Audit Reports, Inspection Reports, and Evaluation Reports for the period from April 1, 2013 through September 30, 2013; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3842. A communication from the Administrator of the Agency for International Development (USAID), transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2013, through September 30, 2013; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3843. A communication from the Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission’s Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2013 through September 30, 2013; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3844. A communication from the Chair of the Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Report of the Inspector General and a Management Report for the period from April 1, 2013 through September 30, 2013; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3845. A communication from the President, African Development Foundation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Annual Report of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2012 through September 30, 2013; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3846. A communication from the Chief Operating Officer/Acting Executive Director, U.S. Election Assistance Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission’s Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2013 through September 30, 2013; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3847. A communication from the Deputy Director, Congressional Affairs, Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2013 through September 30, 2013; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3848. A communication from the Chairman of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semi-Annual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2013 through September 30, 2013; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3849. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semi-Annual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2013 through September 30, 2013 and the Semi-Annual Report of the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3850. A communication from the Acting Director of the Peace Corps, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of Inspector General’s Semiannual Report for the period of April 1, 2013 through September 30, 2013; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3851. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20-221, “Extension of Time to Dispose of the Strand Theater Temporary Amendment Act of 2013”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3852. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20-219, “Cottage Food Amendment Act of 2013”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3853. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20-211, “Driver’s Safety Amendment Act of 2013”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3854. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20-220, “Trauma Technologists Licensure Amendment Act of 2013”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3855. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Electronic Retirement Processing” (RIN3206-AM45) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2013; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3856. A communication from the Acting Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Federal Acquisition Regulation; Technical Amendments” (FAC 2005-71) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 25, 2013; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3857. A communication from the Acting Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Small Entity Compliance Guide" (FAC 2005-71) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 25, 2013; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3858. A communication from the Acting Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Accelerated Payments to Small Business Subcontractors" (RIN9000-AM37) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 25, 2013; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3859. A communication from the Acting Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; New Designated Country—Croatia" (RIM9000-AM66) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 25, 2013; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3860. A communication from the Acting Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Introduction" (FAC 2005-71) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 25, 2013; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3861. A communication from the Chairman of the Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semi-annual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2013 through September 30, 2013; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3862. A communication from the Archivist of the United States, transmitting, the report of a draft bill entitled "Federal Register Modernization Act" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2013; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3863. A communication from the Acting General Counsel, National Indian Gaming Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Tribal Background Investigations and Licensing" (RIN3141-AA15) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2013; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-3864. A communication from the Acting General Counsel, National Indian Gaming Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Tribal Background Investigations and Licensing" (RIN3141-A15A) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2013; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-3865. A communication from the Acting General Counsel, National Indian Gaming Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Compliance and Enforcement" received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2013; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-3866. A communication from the Acting General Counsel, National Indian Gaming Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law,

the report of a rule entitled "Appeal Proceedings Before the Commission" (RIN3141-AA47) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2013; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-3867. A communication from the Acting General Counsel, National Indian Gaming Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Minimum Technical Standards for Class II Gaming Systems and Equipment" (RIN3141-AA27) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2013; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-3868. A communication from the Acting General Counsel, National Indian Gaming Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Self-Regulation of Class II Gaming" (RIN3141-AA44) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2013; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-3869. A communication from the Acting General Counsel, National Indian Gaming Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fees" (RIN3141-AA40) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2013; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-3870. A communication from the Acting General Counsel, National Indian Gaming Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Minimum Internal Control Standards" (RIN3141-AA27) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2013; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-3871. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Affairs and Collaborative Action, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Land Acquisitions: Appeals of Land Acquisition Decisions" (RIN1076-AF15) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 3, 2013; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-3872. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Diversion Control, Drug Enforcement Agency, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Schedules of Controlled Substances: Placement of Perampanel into Schedule III" (Docket No. DEA-374) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 5, 2013; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-3873. A communication from the Acting Chief Privacy and Civil Liberties Officer, Office of Privacy and Civil Liberties, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Exemption of Records Systems Under the Privacy Act" (CPCLC Order No. 006-2013) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 18, 2013; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-3874. A communication from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "2012 Annual Report of the National Institute of Justice"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-3875. A communication from the Director of the Regulation Policy and Management Office of the General Counsel, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Authorization for Non-VA Medical Services" (RIN2900-

AO46) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 6, 2013; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-3876. A communication from the Director of the Regulation Policy and Management Office of the General Counsel, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Grants to States for Construction or Acquisition of State Homes" (RIN2900-AO60) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2013; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-3877. A communication from the Director of the Regulation Policy and Management Office of the General Counsel, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Criteria for a Catastrophically Disabled Determination for Purposes of Enrollment" (RIN2900-AO21) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2013; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-3878. A communication from the Director of the Regulation Policy and Management Office of the General Counsel, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Specially Adapted Housing Eligibility for Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis" (RIN2900-AO84) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2013; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-3879. A communication from the Director of the Regulation Policy and Management Office of the General Counsel, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Copayment for Extended Care Services" (RIN2900-AO59) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2013; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-3880. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Advisory Committee; Veterinary Medicine Advisory Committee; Termination" (Docket No. FDA-2013-N-1380) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2013; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3881. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), transmitting, a report of proposed legislation entitled "A Bill to Provide for the Transfer of Naval Vessels to Certain Foreign Recipients"; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3882. A communication from the Attorney, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Implementation of the Amendments to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, and Changes to National Endorsements" ((RIN1625-AA16) (Docket No. USCG-2004-17914)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 11, 2013; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. LEVIN for the Committee on Armed Services.

Air Force nomination of Brig. Gen. Paul S. Dwan, to be Major General.

Air Force nominations beginning with Brigadier General Catherine A. Chilton and ending with Brigadier General Tommy J. Williams, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on October 28, 2013.

Air Force nomination of Col. Josef F. Schmid III, to be Brigadier General.

Air Force nominations beginning with Colonel Talentino C. Angelosante and ending with Colonel Stephen D. Vautrain, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 12, 2013.

Air Force nomination of Col. Stephen E. Rader, to be Brigadier General.

Air Force nomination of Col. Michael T. McGuire, to be Brigadier General.

Air Force nomination of Maj. Gen. John W. Raymond, to be Lieutenant General.

Army nomination of Brigadier General Charles A. Flynn, to be Major General.

Army nomination of Lt. Gen. David G. Perkins, to be General.

Army nominations beginning with Colonel James T. Iacocca and ending with Colonel Kurt L. Sonntag, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on October 28, 2013.

Army nomination of Col. Anthony L. Hall, to be Brigadier General.

Army nomination of Col. Paul S. Wilson, to be Brigadier General, Judge Advocate General's Corps.

Army nomination of Maj. Gen. Robert S. Ferrell, to be Lieutenant General.

Army nomination of Lt. Gen. Joseph Anderson, to be Lieutenant General.

Navy nomination of Rear Adm. (lh) Rebecca J. McCormick-Boyle, to be Rear Admiral.

Navy nomination of Vice Adm. Michelle J. Howard, to be Admiral.

Navy nomination of Adm. Mark E. Ferguson III, to be Admiral.

Navy nomination of Rear Adm. Joseph P. Mulloy, to be Vice Admiral.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, for the Committee on Armed Services I report favorably the following nomination lists which were printed in the RECORDS on the dates indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar that these nominations lie at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.

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

Air Force nominations beginning with Stanton J. J. Applonie and ending with Richard J. Zavadil, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on October 30, 2013.

Air Force nominations beginning with James D. Athnos and ending with Stephen M. Williams, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on October 30, 2013.

Air Force nominations beginning with Paige T. Abbott and ending with Reno Joseph Zisa, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on October 30, 2013.

Air Force nominations beginning with Scott A. Haber and ending with Yves P. Leblanc, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 7, 2013.

Army nomination of Jesus M. Munozlasalle, to be Major.

Army nominations beginning with Wayne J. Aaron and ending with Ann H. Zgrodnik, which nominations were received by the Sen-

ate and appeared in the Congressional Record on October 28, 2013.

Army nominations beginning with John R. Doolittle II and ending with Baucum W. Fulk, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on October 28, 2013.

Army nominations beginning with Steven T. Greiner and ending with Cheryl D. Sofaly, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on October 30, 2013.

Army nominations beginning with Stanley T. Breuer and ending with Deydre S. Teyhen, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on October 30, 2013.

Army nominations beginning with Kimberlee A. Aiello and ending with Jeffrey S. Yarvis, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on October 30, 2013.

Army nominations beginning with Robin M. Adamsmassenburg and ending with Veronica A. Villafranca, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on October 30, 2013.

Army nominations beginning with David A. Ceniti and ending with Edward M. Reilly, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 19, 2013.

Army nominations beginning with Nancy J. Alouise and ending with D011605, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on December 12, 2013.

Navy nomination of Corey N. Doolittle, to be Lieutenant Commander.

Navy nominations beginning with Christopher W. Acor and ending with Amanda H. Zawora, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 13, 2013.

Navy nomination of Julie A. Meier, to be Commander.

Navy nomination of Krysten J. Pelstring, to be Lieutenant Commander.

Navy nomination of Michael R. Saum, to be Captain.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. DONNELLY (for himself and Mr. COBURN):

S. 1828. A bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to modify the definitions of a mortgage originator and a high-cost mortgage; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. HEINRICH:

S. 1829. A bill to modify the boundaries of Cibola National Forest in the State of New Mexico, to transfer certain Bureau of Land Management land for inclusion in the national forest, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

S. 1830. A bill to prohibit unfair or deceptive acts or practices relating to the prices of products and services sold online, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MANCHIN:

S. 1831. A bill to establish a national Yellow Dot Program to alert law enforcement and emergency services personnel to the

medical conditions, prescriptions, and other vital information necessary to treat drivers and passengers in motor vehicles in emergency circumstances; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MARKEY:

S. 1832. A bill for the relief of Esther Karinge; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. Res. 322. A resolution to authorize the printing of a collection of the rules of the committees of the Senate; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 232

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 232, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on medical devices.

S. 313

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 313, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the tax treatment of ABLE accounts established under State programs for the care of family members with disabilities, and for other purposes.

S. 338

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 338, a bill to amend the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 to provide consistent and reliable authority for, and for the funding of, the land and water conservation fund to maximize the effectiveness of the fund for future generations, and for other purposes.

S. 367

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 367, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the Medicare outpatient rehabilitation therapy caps.

S. 411

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 411, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and modify the railroad track maintenance credit.

S. 520

At the request of Mr. BEGICH, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 520, a bill to strengthen Federal consumer protection and product traceability with respect to commercially marketed seafood, and for other purposes.

S. 526

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr.

BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 526, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the special rule for contributions of qualified conservation contributions, and for other purposes.

S. 559

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 559, a bill to establish a fund to make payments to the Americans held hostage in Iran, and to members of their families, who are identified as members of the proposed class in case number 1:08-CV-00487 (EGS) of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, and for other purposes.

S. 820

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 820, a bill to provide for a uniform national standard for the housing and treatment of egg-laying hens, and for other purposes.

S. 878

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was withdrawn as a cosponsor of S. 878, a bill to amend title 9 of the United States Code with respect to arbitration.

S. 1064

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1064, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for treatment of clinical psychologists as physicians for purposes of furnishing clinical psychologist services under the Medicare program.

S. 1357

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1357, a bill to extend the trade adjustment assistance program.

S. 1406

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1406, a bill to amend the Horse Protection Act to designate additional unlawful acts under the Act, strengthen penalties for violations of the Act, improve Department of Agriculture enforcement of the Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1456

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the names of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1456, a bill to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Shimon Peres.

S. 1510

At the request of Mr. COBURN, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1510, a bill to provide for auditable fi-

nancial statements for the Department of Defense, and for other purposes.

S. 1666

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1666, a bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to improve the patient navigator program.

S. 1719

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1719, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the poison center national toll-free number, national media campaign, and grant program, and for other purposes.

S. 1756

At the request of Mr. MORAN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1756, a bill to amend section 403 of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act to improve and clarify certain disclosure requirements for restaurants, similar retail food establishments, and vending machines.

S. 1779

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) were added as cosponsors of S. 1779, a bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to exempt fire hydrants from the prohibition on the use of lead pipes, fittings, fixtures, solder, and flux.

S. 1797

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1797, a bill to provide for the extension of certain unemployment benefits, and for other purposes.

S. 1798

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. UDALL), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1798, a bill to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not counted as full-time employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

S. 1802

At the request of Mr. DONNELLY, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1802, a bill to provide equal treatment for utility special entities using utility operations-related swaps, and for other purposes.

S. 1808

At the request of Mr. LEE, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) were added as cosponsors of S. 1808, a bill to prevent adverse treatment of any person on the basis of views held with respect to marriage.

S. 1810

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1810, a bill to provide paid family and medical leave benefits to certain individuals, and for other purposes.

S. 1811

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1811, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to prohibit voice communications through mobile communication devices on commercial passenger flights.

S. RES. 319

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 319, a resolution expressing support for the Ukrainian people in light of President Yanukovich's decision not to sign an Association Agreement with the European Union.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 322—TO AUTHORIZE THE PRINTING OF A COLLECTION OF THE RULES OF THE COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE

Mr. SCHUMER submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to.:

S. RES. 322

Resolved, That a collection of the rules of the committees of the Senate, together with related materials, be printed as a Senate document, and that there be printed 200 additional copies of such document for the use of the Committee on Rules and Administration.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2557. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3304, to authorize the President to award the Medal of Honor to Bennie G. Adkins and Donald P. Sloat of the United States Army for acts of valor during the Vietnam Conflict and to authorize the award of the Medal of Honor to certain other veterans who were previously recommended for award of the Medal of Honor; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2558. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3304, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2559. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3304, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2560. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3304, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2561. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3304, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2562. Mr. REED submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 59, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2563. Mr. REED submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 59, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2564. Mr. REED submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 59, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2565. Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. BEGICH, and Mr. SCHATZ) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 59, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2566. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3304, to authorize the President to award the Medal of Honor to Bennie G. Adkins and Donald P. Sloat of the United States Army for acts of valor during the Vietnam Conflict and to authorize the award of the Medal of Honor to certain other veterans who were previously recommended for award of the Medal of Honor; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2567. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3304, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2568. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3304, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2569. Mr. ENZI (for himself, Mr. BARASSO, and Mr. UDALL of New Mexico) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 59, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2570. Mr. ENZI (for himself and Mr. MURPHY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 59, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2571. Mr. SESSIONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 59, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2572. Mr. SESSIONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 59, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2573. Mr. SESSIONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 59, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2574. Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. INHOFE, and Mr. COCHRAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 59, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2575. Mr. CORKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3304, to authorize the President to award the Medal of Honor to Bennie G. Adkins and Donald P. Sloat of the United States Army for acts of valor during the Vietnam Conflict and to authorize the award of the Medal of Honor to certain other veterans who were previously recommended for award of the Medal of Honor; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2576. Ms. AYOTTE (for herself and Mr. WICKER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 59, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2577. Ms. AYOTTE (for herself and Mr. GRAHAM) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 59, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2578. Ms. AYOTTE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 59, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2579. Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. PAUL, Mr. CRUZ, and Mr. ROBERTS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3304, to authorize the President to award the Medal of Honor to Bennie G. Adkins and Donald P. Sloat of the United States Army for acts of valor during the Vietnam Conflict and to authorize the award of the Medal of Honor to certain other veterans who were previously recommended for award of the Medal of Honor; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2580. Mr. COCHRAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3304, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2581. Mr. TOOMEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3304, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2582. Mr. TOOMEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3304, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2583. Mr. LEE (for Mr. PAUL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. LEE to the bill H.R. 3304, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2584. Mr. LEE (for Mr. PAUL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. LEE to the bill H.R. 3304, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2585. Mr. LEE (for Mr. PAUL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. LEE to the bill H.R. 3304, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2586. Mr. LEE (for Mr. PAUL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. LEE to the bill H.R. 3304, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2587. Mr. LEE (for Mr. PAUL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. LEE to the bill H.R. 3304, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2588. Mr. LEE (for Mr. PAUL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. LEE to the bill H.R. 3304, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2589. Mr. LEE (for Mr. PAUL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. LEE to the bill H.R. 3304, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2590. Mr. LEE (for Mr. PAUL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. LEE to the bill H.R. 3304, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2591. Mr. LEE (for Mr. PAUL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. LEE to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 59, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2592. Mr. LEE (for Mr. PAUL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. LEE to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 59, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2593. Mr. LEE (for Mr. PAUL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. LEE to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 59, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2594. Mr. LEE (for Mr. PAUL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. LEE to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 59, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2595. Mr. LEE (for Mr. PAUL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. LEE to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 59, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2596. Mr. LEE (for Mr. PAUL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. LEE to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 59, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2597. Mr. LEE (for Mr. PAUL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. LEE to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 59, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2598. Mr. LEE (for Mr. PAUL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by

Mr. LEE to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 59, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2599. Mr. LEE (for Mr. PAUL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. LEE to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 59, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2557. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3304, to authorize the President to award the Medal of Honor to Bennie G. Adkins and Donald P. Sloat of the United States Army for acts of valor during the Vietnam Conflict and to authorize the award of the Medal of Honor to certain other veterans who were previously recommended for award of the Medal of Honor; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS OR EXCESS TANGIBLE PROPERTY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SOLELY BY PUBLIC SALE.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, surplus or excess tangible property of the Department of Defense shall be disposed of solely by public sale.

SA 2558. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3304, to authorize the President to award the Medal of Honor to Bennie G. Adkins and Donald P. Sloat of the United States Army for acts of valor during the Vietnam Conflict and to authorize the award of the Medal of Honor to certain other veterans who were previously recommended for award of the Medal of Honor; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . LIMITATION ON AMOUNTS AVAILABLE IN FISCAL YEAR 2014 FOR TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO ADDRESS CRITICAL-NEEDS SHORTAGES FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the total amount available in this Act for fiscal year 2014 for tuition assistance programs of the Department of Defense may not exceed \$100,000,000 in order that such assistance be limited to use as a retention tool to address critical-needs shortages for military personnel.

SA 2559. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3304, to authorize the President to award the Medal of Honor to Bennie G. Adkins and Donald P. Sloat of the United States Army for acts of valor during the Vietnam Conflict and to authorize the award of the Medal of Honor to certain other veterans who were previously recommended for award of the Medal of Honor; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

TITLE ____—AUDIT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

SEC. ____01. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ‘‘Audit the Pentagon Act of 2013’’.

SEC. 02. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Section 9 of Article I of the Constitution of the United States requires all agencies of the Federal Government, including the Department of Defense, to publish “a regular statement and account of the receipts and expenditures of all public money”.

(2) Section 3515 of title 31, United States Code, requires the agencies of the Federal Government, including the Department of Defense, to present auditable financial statements beginning not later than March 1, 1997. The Department has not complied with this law.

(3) The Federal Financial Management Improvement Act of 1996 (31 U.S.C. 3512 note) requires financial systems acquired by the Federal Government, including the Department of Defense, to be able to provide information to leaders to manage and control the cost of Government. The Department has not complied with this law.

(4) The financial management of the Department of Defense has been on the “High-Risk” list of the Government Accountability Office, which means that the Department is not consistently able to “control costs; ensure basic accountability; anticipate future costs and claims on the budget; measure performance; maintain funds control; [and] prevent and detect fraud, waste, and abuse”.

(5) The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002 (Public Law 107-107) requires the Secretary of Defense to report to Congress annually on the reliability of the financial statements of the Department of Defense, to minimize resources spent on producing unreliable financial statements, and to use resources saved to improve financial management policies, procedures, and internal controls.

(6) In 2005, the Department of Defense created a Financial Improvement and Audit Readiness (FIAR) Plan, overseen by a directorate within the office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), to improve Department business processes with the goal of producing timely, reliable, and accurate financial information that could generate an audit-ready annual financial statement. In December 2005, that directorate, known as the FIAR Directorate, issued the first of a series of semiannual reports on the status of the Financial Improvement and Audit Readiness Plan.

(7) The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84) requires regular status reports on the Financial Improvement and Audit Readiness Plan described in paragraph (6), and codified as a statutory requirement the goal of the Plan in ensuring that Department of Defense financial statements are validated as ready for audit not later than September 30, 2017. In addition, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112-239) requires that the statement of budgetary resources of the Department of Defense be validated as ready for audit by not later than September 30, 2014.

(8) At a September 2010 hearing of the Senate, the Government Accountability Office stated that past expenditures by the Department of Defense of \$5,800,000,000 to improve financial information, and billions of dollars more of anticipated expenditures on new information technology systems for that purpose, may not suffice to achieve full audit readiness of the financial statement of the Department. At that hearing, the Government Accountability Office could not predict when the Department would achieve full audit readiness of such statements.

(9) At a 2013 hearing of the Senate, Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel affirmed his commitment to audit-ready budget statements for the Department of Defense by the

end of 2014, and stated that he “will do everything he can to fulfill this commitment”. At that hearing, Secretary Hagel noted that auditable financial statements were essential to the Department not only for improving the quality of its financial information, but also for reassuring the public and Congress that it is a good steward of public funds.

SEC. 03. CESSATION OF APPLICABILITY OF REPORTING REQUIREMENTS REGARDING THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.**(a) CESSATION OF APPLICABILITY.—**

(1) **MILITARY DEPARTMENTS.**—The financial statements of a military department shall cease to be covered by the reporting requirements specified in subsection (b) upon the issuance of an unqualified audit opinion on such financial statements.

(2) **DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.**—The reporting requirements specified in subsection (b) shall cease to be effective when an unqualified audit opinion is issued on the financial statements of the Department of Defense, including each of the military departments and the other reporting entities defined by the Office of Management and Budget.

(b) **REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.**—The reporting requirements specified in this subsection are the following:

(1) The requirement for annual reports in section 892(b) of the Ike Skelton National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011 (Public Law 111-383; 124 Stat. 4311; 10 U.S.C. 2306a note).

(2) The requirement for semi-annual reports in section 1003(b) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84; 123 Stat. 2440; 10 U.S.C. 2222 note).

(3) The requirement for annual reports in section 817(d) of the Bob Stump National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003 (10 U.S.C. 2306a note).

(4) The requirement for annual reports in section 1008(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002 (Public Law 107-107; 115 Stat. 1204; 10 U.S.C. 113 note).

(5) The requirement for periodic reports in section 908(b) of the Defense Acquisition Improvement Act of 1986 (Public Law 99-500; 100 Stat. 1783-140; 10 U.S.C. 2326 note) and duplicate requirements as provided for in section 6 of the Defense Technical Corrections Act of 1987 (Public Law 100-26; 101 Stat. 274; 10 U.S.C. 2302 note).

SEC. 04. ENHANCED REPROGRAMMING AUTHORITY FOLLOWING ACHIEVEMENT BY DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND MILITARY DEPARTMENTS OF AUDIT WITH UNQUALIFIED OPINION OF STATEMENT OF BUDGETARY RESOURCES FOR FISCAL YEARS AFTER FISCAL YEAR 2014.

(a) **DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE GENERALLY.**—Subject to section 06(1), if the Department of Defense obtains an audit with an unqualified opinion on its statement of budgetary resources for any fiscal year after fiscal year 2014, the limitation on the total amount of authorizations that the Secretary of Defense may transfer pursuant to general transfer authority available to the Secretary in the national interest in the succeeding fiscal year shall be \$8,000,000,000.

(b) **MILITARY DEPARTMENTS, DEFENSE AGENCIES, AND DEFENSE FIELD ACTIVITIES.**—Subject to section 07(a), if a military department, Defense Agency, or defense field activity obtains an audit with an unqualified opinion on its statement of budgetary resources for any fiscal year after fiscal year 2014, the thresholds for reprogramming of funds of such military department, Defense Agency, or defense field activity, as the case may be, without prior notice to Congress for

the succeeding fiscal year shall be deemed to be the thresholds as follows:

(1) In the case of an increase or decrease to the program base amount for a procurement program, \$60,000,000.

(2) In the case of an increase or decrease to the program base amount for a research program, \$30,000,000.

(3) In the case of an increase or decrease to the amount for a budget activity for operation and maintenance, \$45,000,000.

(4) In the case of an increase or decrease to the amount for a budget activity for military personnel, \$30,000,000.

(c) **CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this section shall be construed to alter or revise any requirement (other than a threshold amount) for notice to Congress on transfers covered by subsection (a) or reprogrammings covered by subsection (b) under any other provision of law.

(d) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section, the terms “program base amount”, “procurement program”, “research program”, and “budget activity” have the meanings given such terms in chapter 6 of volume 3 of the Financial Management Regulation of the Department of Defense (DoD 7000.14R), dated March 2011, or any successor document.

SEC. 05. FAILURE TO OBTAIN AUDITS WITH UNQUALIFIED OPINION OF FISCAL YEAR 2015 GENERAL FUND STATEMENT OF BUDGETARY RESOURCES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—If the Department of Defense fails to obtain an audit with an unqualified opinion on its general fund statement of budgetary resources for fiscal year 2015 by December 31, 2015, the following shall take effect on January 1, 2016:

(1) **ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS AND DUTIES OF USD (COMPTROLLER).**—

(A) **QUALIFICATIONS.**—Any individual nominated for appointment to the position of Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) under section 135 of title 10, United States Code, shall be an individual who has served—

(i) as the chief financial officer or equivalent position of a Federal or State agency that has received an audit with an unqualified opinion on such agency’s financial statements during the time of such individual’s service; or

(ii) as the chief financial officer or equivalent position of a public company that has received an audit with an unqualified opinion on such company’s financial statements during the time of such individual’s service.

(B) **DUTIES AND POWERS.**—The duties and powers of the individual serving as Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) shall include, in addition to the duties and powers specified in section 135(c) of title 10, United States Code, such duties and powers with respect to the financial management of the Department of Defense as the Deputy Secretary of Defense (acting in the capacity of Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense) or a successor official in the Department of Defense (acting in such capacity) may prescribe.

(2) **ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF ASA FOR FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT.**—

(A) **QUALIFICATIONS.**—Any individual nominated for appointment to the position of Assistant Secretary of the Army for Financial Management under section 3016 of title 10, United States Code, shall be an individual who has served—

(i) as the chief financial officer or equivalent position of a Federal or State agency that has received an audit with an unqualified opinion on such agency’s financial statements during the time of such individual’s service; or

(ii) as the chief financial officer or equivalent position of a public company that has

received an audit with an unqualified opinion on such company's financial statements during the time of such individual's service.

(B) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The responsibilities of the individual serving as Assistant Secretary of the Army for Financial Management shall include, in addition to the responsibilities specified in section 3016(b)(4) of title 10, United States Code, such responsibilities as the Deputy Secretary of Defense (acting in the capacity of Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense) or a successor official in the Department of Defense (acting in such capacity) may prescribe.

(3) ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF ASN FOR FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT.—

(A) QUALIFICATIONS.—Any individual nominated for appointment to the position of Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Financial Management under section 5016 of title 10, United States Code, shall be an individual who has served—

(i) as the chief financial officer or equivalent position of a Federal or State agency that has received an audit with an unqualified opinion on such agency's financial statements during the time of such individual's service; or

(ii) as the chief financial officer or equivalent position of a public company that has received an audit with an unqualified opinion on such company's financial statements during the time of such individual's service.

(B) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The responsibilities of the individual serving as Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Financial Management shall include, in addition to the responsibilities specified in section 5016(b)(4) of title 10, United States Code, such responsibilities as the Deputy Secretary of Defense (acting in the capacity of Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense) or a successor official in the Department of Defense (acting in such capacity) may prescribe.

(4) ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF ASAF FOR FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT.—

(A) QUALIFICATIONS.—Any individual nominated for appointment to the position of Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Financial Management under section 8016 of title 10, United States Code, shall be an individual who has served—

(i) as the chief financial officer or equivalent position of a Federal or State agency that has received an audit with an unqualified opinion on such agency's financial statements during the time of such individual's service; or

(ii) as the chief financial officer or equivalent position of a public company that has received an audit with an unqualified opinion on such company's financial statements during the time of such individual's service.

(B) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The responsibilities of the individual serving as Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Financial Management shall include, in addition to the responsibilities specified in section 8016(b)(4) of title 10, United States Code, such responsibilities as the Deputy Secretary of Defense (acting in the capacity of Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense) or a successor official in the Department of Defense (acting in such capacity) may prescribe.

(b) PUBLIC COMPANY DEFINED.—In this section, the term "public company" has the meaning given the term "issuer" in section 2(a)(7) of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (15 U.S.C. 7201(a)(7)).

SEC. 406. FAILURE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO OBTAIN AUDITS WITH UNQUALIFIED OPINION OF FISCAL YEAR 2018 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.

If the Department of Defense fails to obtain an audit with an unqualified opinion on its general fund statement of budgetary resources for fiscal year 2018 by December 31, 2018:

(1) PERMANENT CESSATION OF ENHANCED GENERAL TRANSFER AUTHORITY.—Effective as of January 1, 2019, the authority in section 404(a) shall cease to be available to the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2018 and any fiscal year thereafter.

(2) REORGANIZATION OF RESPONSIBILITIES OF CHIEF MANAGEMENT OFFICER.—Effective as of April 1, 2019:

(A) POSITION OF CHIEF MANAGEMENT OFFICER.—Section 132a of title 10, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

"§ 132a. Chief Management Officer

"(a) IN GENERAL.—(1) There is a Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense, appointed from civilian life by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

"(2) Any individual nominated for appointment as Chief Management Officer shall be an individual who has—

"(A) extensive executive level leadership and management experience in the public or private sector;

"(B) strong leadership skills;

"(C) a demonstrated ability to manage large and complex organizations; and

"(D) a proven record in achieving positive operational results.

"(b) POWERS AND DUTIES.—The Chief Management Officer shall perform such duties and exercise such powers as the Secretary of Defense may prescribe.

"(c) SERVICE AS CHIEF MANAGEMENT OFFICER.—(1) The Chief Management Officer is the Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense.

"(2) In serving as the Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense, the Chief Management Officer shall be responsible for the management and administration of the Department of Defense with respect to the following:

"(A) The expenditure of funds, accounting, and finance.

"(B) Procurement, including procurement of any enterprise resource planning (ERP) system and any information technology (IT) system that is a financial feeder system, human resources system, or logistics system.

"(C) Facilities, property, nonmilitary equipment, and other resources.

"(D) Strategic planning, annual performance planning, and identification and tracking of performance measures.

"(E) Internal audits and management analyses of the programs and activities of the Department, including the Defense Contract Audit Agency.

"(F) Such other areas or matters as the Secretary of Defense may designate.

"(3) The head of the Defense Contract Audit Agency shall be under the supervision of, and shall report directly to, the Chief Management Officer.

"(d) PRECEDENCE.—The Chief Management Officer takes precedence in the Department of Defense after the Secretary of Defense and the Deputy Secretary of Defense."

(B) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(i) Section 131(b) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(I) by striking paragraph (3);

(II) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3); and

(III) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraph (2):

"(2) The Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense."

(ii) Section 132 of such title is amended—

(I) by striking subsection (c); and

(II) by redesignating subsections (d) and (e) as subsections (c) and (d), respectively.

(iii) Section 133(e)(1) of such title is amended by striking "and the Deputy Secretary of Defense" and inserting "the Deputy Secretary of Defense, and the Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense".

(iv) Such title is further amended by inserting "the Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense," after "the Deputy Secretary of Defense," each place it appears in the provisions as follows:

(I) Section 133(e)(2).

(II) Section 134(c).

(v) Section 137a(d) of such title is amended by striking "the Secretaries of the military departments," and all that follows and inserting "the Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense, the Secretaries of the military departments, and the Under Secretaries of Defense."

(vi) Section 138(d) of such title is amended by striking "the Secretaries of the military departments," and all that follows through the period and inserting "the Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense, the Secretaries of the military departments, the Under Secretaries of Defense, and the Director of Defense Research and Engineering."

(C) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 4 of such title is amended by striking the item relating to section 132a and inserting the following new item:

"132a. Chief Management Officer."

(D) EXECUTIVE SCHEDULE.—Section 5313 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense."

(E) REFERENCE IN LAW.—Any reference in any provision of law to the Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense shall be deemed to refer to the Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense under section 132a of title 10, United States Code (as amended by this paragraph).

(3) JURISDICTION OF DFAS.—Effective as of April 1, 2019:

(A) TRANSFER TO DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY.—Jurisdiction of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) is transferred from the Department of Defense to the Department of the Treasury.

(B) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall administer the Defense Finance and Accounting Service following transfer under this paragraph through the Financial Management Service of the Department of the Treasury.

(C) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of the Treasury shall jointly enter into a memorandum of understanding regarding the transfer of jurisdiction of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service under this paragraph. The memorandum of understanding shall provide for the transfer of the personnel and other resources of the Service to the Department of the Treasury and for the assumption of responsibility for such personnel and resources by the Department of the Treasury.

(D) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed as terminating, altering, or revising any responsibilities or authorities of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (other than responsibilities and authorities in connection with the exercise of jurisdiction of the Service following transfer under this paragraph).

SEC. 7. FAILURE OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS TO OBTAIN AUDITS WITH UNQUALIFIED OPINION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR FISCAL YEARS AFTER FISCAL YEAR 2017.

(a) **PERMANENT CESSATION OF AUTHORITIES ON REPROGRAMMING OF FUNDS.**—If a military department fails to obtain an audit with an unqualified opinion on its financial statements for fiscal year 2018 by December 31, 2018, effective as of January 1, 2019, the authorities in section 404(b) shall cease to be available to the military department for fiscal year 2018 and any fiscal year thereafter.

(b) **ANNUAL PROHIBITION ON EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR CERTAIN MDAPs PAST MILESTONE B IN CONNECTION WITH FAILURE.**—

(1) **PROHIBITION.**—Effective for fiscal years after fiscal year 2017, if a military department fails to obtain an audit with an unqualified opinion on its financial statements for any fiscal year, effective as of the date of the issuance of the opinion on such audit, amounts available to the military department for the following fiscal year may not be obligated by the military department for a weapon or weapon system or platform being acquired as a major defense acquisition program for any activity beyond Milestone B approval unless such program has already achieved Milestone B approval of the date of the issuance of the opinion on such audit.

(2) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this subsection:

(A) The term “major defense acquisition program” has the meaning given that term in section 2430 of title 10, United States Code.

(B) The term “Milestone B approval” has the meaning given that term in section 2366(e)(7) of title 10, United States Code.

SEC. 8. ENTERPRISE RESOURCE PLANNING.

The Secretary of Defense shall amend the acquisition guidance of the Department of Defense to provide for the following:

(1) The Defense Business System Management Committee may not approve procurement of any Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) business system that is independently estimated to take longer than three years to procure from initial obligation of funds to full deployment and sustainment.

(2) Any contract for the acquisition of an Enterprise Resource Planning business system shall include a provision authorizing termination of the contract at no cost to the Government if procurement of the system takes longer than three years from initial obligation of funds to full deployment and sustainment.

(3) Any implementation of an Enterprise Resource Planning system shall comply with each of the following:

(A) The current Business Enterprise Architecture established by the Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense.

(B) The provisions of section 2222 of title 10, United States Code.

(4) The Deputy Secretary of Defense (acting in the capacity of Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense) or a successor official in the Department of Defense (acting in such capacity) shall have the authority to replace any program manager (whether in a military department or a Defense Agency) for the procurement of an Enterprise Resource Planning business system if procurement of the system takes longer than three years from initial obligation of funds to full deployment and sustainment.

(5) Any integrator contract for the implementation of an Enterprise Resource Planning business system shall only be awarded to companies that have a history of successful implementation of other Enterprise Resource Planning business systems for the Federal Government (whether with the Department of Defense or another department or agency of the Federal Government), including meeting cost and schedule goals.

SA 2560. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3304, to authorize the President to award the Medal of Honor to Bennie G. Adkins and Donald P. Sloat of the United States Army for acts of valor during the Vietnam Conflict and to authorize the award of the Medal of Honor to certain other veterans who were previously recommended for award of the Medal of Honor; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. . USE OF FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ONLY FOR DEFENSE-RELATED PURPOSES.

(a) **ELIMINATION OF NON-DEFENSE SPENDING.**—Amounts authorized to be appropriated by this Act may not be used for a program, project, or activity if the Secretary of Defense determines that the such program, project, or activity does not serve a defense-related purpose.

(b) **TRANSFER OF DUPLICATIVE PROGRAMS.**—In the event the Secretary of Defense determines that a program, project, or activity of the Department of Defense duplicates, in whole or in part, a program, project, or activity of another department or agency of the Federal Government, the Secretary shall transfer to the head of such department or agency jurisdiction any part of such program, project, or activity that is so duplicative.

(c) **COORDINATION ON NON-DEFENSE-SPECIFIC RESEARCH.**—In the event the Secretary of Defense determines that a program, project, or activity of the Department of Defense involves research or development that will benefit another department or agency of the Federal Government, the Secretary shall coordinate with the head of such department or agency and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget on such research and development in order to ensure that such research and development is conducted in a manner which provides maximum benefit to both the Department and such department or agency.

SA 2561. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3304, to authorize the President to award the Medal of Honor to Bennie G. Adkins and Donald P. Sloat of the United States Army for acts of valor during the Vietnam Conflict and to authorize the award of the Medal of Honor to certain other veterans who were previously recommended for award of the Medal of Honor; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. . REPORT ON BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AT THE END OF EACH FISCAL YEAR.

Not later than March 1 each year, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to Congress, and publish on the Internet website of the Department of Defense available to the public, the following:

(1) The total dollar amount of all balances carried forward by the Department of Defense at the end of the previous fiscal year by account.

(2) The total dollar amount of all unobligated balances carried forward by the Department of Defense at the end of the previous fiscal year by account.

(3) The total dollar amount of any balances (both obligated and unobligated) that have been carried forward by the Department of Defense for five years or more as of the end of the previous fiscal year by account.

SA 2562. Mr. REED submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 59, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of division B, add the following:

TITLE III—UNEMPLOYMENT PROVISIONS

SEC. 1301. EXTENSION OF EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION PROGRAM.

(a) **EXTENSION.**—Section 4007(a)(2) of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110-252; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) is amended by striking “January 1, 2014” and inserting “January 1, 2015”.

(b) **FUNDING.**—Section 4004(e)(1) of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110-252; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (I), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (J), by inserting “and” at the end; and

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (J) the following:

“(K) the amendments made by section 1301(a) of the Pathway for SGR Reform Act of 2013;”.

(c) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall take effect as if included in the enactment of the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-240).

SEC. 1302. TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF EXTENDED BENEFIT PROVISIONS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 2005 of the Assistance for Unemployed Workers and Struggling Families Act, as contained in Public Law 111-5 (26 U.S.C. 3304 note), is amended—

(1) by striking “December 31, 2013” each place it appears and inserting “December 31, 2014”; and

(2) in subsection (c), by striking “June 30, 2014” and inserting “June 30, 2015”.

(b) **EXTENSION OF MATCHING FOR STATES WITH NO WAITING WEEK.**—Section 5 of the Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-449; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) is amended by striking “June 30, 2014” and inserting “June 30, 2015”.

(c) **EXTENSION OF MODIFICATION OF INDICATORS UNDER THE EXTENDED BENEFIT PROGRAM.**—Section 203 of the Federal-State Extended Unemployment Compensation Act of 1970 (26 U.S.C. 3304 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (d), by striking “December 31, 2013” and inserting “December 31, 2014”; and

(2) in subsection (f)(2), by striking “December 31, 2013” and inserting “December 31, 2014”.

(d) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall take effect as if included in the enactment of the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-240).

SEC. 1303. EXTENSION OF FUNDING FOR REEMPLOYMENT SERVICES AND REEMPLOYMENT AND ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 4004(c)(2)(A) of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110-252; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) is amended by striking “through fiscal year 2014” and inserting “through fiscal year 2015”.

(b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall take effect as if included in the enactment of the American

Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-240).

SEC. 1304. ADDITIONAL EXTENDED UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS UNDER THE RAILROAD UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT.

(a) EXTENSION.—Section 2(c)(2)(D)(iii) of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act (45 U.S.C. 352(c)(2)(D)(iii)) is amended—

(1) by striking “June 30, 2013” and inserting “June 30, 2014”; and

(2) by striking “December 31, 2013” and inserting “December 31, 2014”.

(b) CLARIFICATION ON AUTHORITY TO USE FUNDS.—Funds appropriated under either the first or second sentence of clause (iv) of section 2(c)(2)(D) of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act shall be available to cover the cost of additional extended unemployment benefits provided under such section 2(c)(2)(D) by reason of the amendments made by subsection (a) as well as to cover the cost of such benefits provided under such section 2(c)(2)(D), as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) FUNDING FOR ADMINISTRATION.—Out of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, there are appropriated to the Railroad Retirement Board \$250,000 for administrative expenses associated with the payment of additional extended unemployment benefits provided under section 2(c)(2)(D) of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act by reason of the amendments made by subsection (a), to remain available until expended.

SEC. 1305. FLEXIBILITY FOR UNEMPLOYMENT PROGRAM AGREEMENTS.

(a) FLEXIBILITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (g) of section 4001 of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110-252; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) shall not apply with respect to a State that has enacted a law before December 1, 2013, that, upon taking effect, would violate such subsection.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Paragraph (1) is effective with respect to weeks of unemployment beginning on or after December 29, 2013.

(b) PERMITTING A SUBSEQUENT AGREEMENT.—Nothing in such title IV shall preclude a State whose agreement under such title was terminated from entering into a subsequent agreement under such title on or after the date of the enactment of this Act if the State, taking into account the application of subsection (a), would otherwise meet the requirements for an agreement under such title.

SA 2563. Mr. REED submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 59, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of division B, add the following:

TITLE III—UNEMPLOYMENT PROVISIONS

SEC. 1301. EXTENSION OF EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION PROGRAM.

(a) EXTENSION.—Section 4007(a)(2) of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110-252; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) is amended by striking “January 1, 2014” and inserting “April 1, 2014”.

(b) FUNDING.—Section 4004(e)(1) of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110-252; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (I), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (J), by inserting “and” at the end; and

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (J) the following:

“(K) the amendments made by section 1301(a) of the Pathway for SGR Reform Act of 2013;”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect as if included in the enactment of the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-240).

SEC. 1302. TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF EXTENDED BENEFIT PROVISIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2005 of the Assistance for Unemployed Workers and Struggling Families Act, as contained in Public Law 111-5 (26 U.S.C. 3304 note), is amended—

(1) by striking “December 31, 2013” each place it appears and inserting “March 31, 2014”; and

(2) in subsection (c), by striking “June 30, 2014” and inserting “September 30, 2014”.

(b) EXTENSION OF MATCHING FOR STATES WITH NO WAITING WEEK.—Section 5 of the Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-449; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) is amended by striking “June 30, 2014” and inserting “September 30, 2014”.

(c) EXTENSION OF MODIFICATION OF INDICATORS UNDER THE EXTENDED BENEFIT PROGRAM.—Section 203 of the Federal-State Extended Unemployment Compensation Act of 1970 (26 U.S.C. 3304 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (d), by striking “December 31, 2013” and inserting “March 31, 2014”; and

(2) in subsection (f)(2), by striking “December 31, 2013” and inserting “March 31, 2014”.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect as if included in the enactment of the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-240).

SEC. 1303. EXTENSION OF FUNDING FOR REEMPLOYMENT SERVICES AND REEMPLOYMENT AND ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4004(c)(2)(A) of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110-252; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) is amended by striking “through fiscal year 2014” and inserting “through the first quarter of fiscal year 2015”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect as if included in the enactment of the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-240).

SEC. 1304. ADDITIONAL EXTENDED UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS UNDER THE RAILROAD UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT.

(a) EXTENSION.—Section 2(c)(2)(D)(iii) of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act (45 U.S.C. 352(c)(2)(D)(iii)) is amended—

(1) by striking “June 30, 2013” and inserting “September 30, 2013”; and

(2) by striking “December 31, 2013” and inserting “March 31, 2014”.

(b) CLARIFICATION ON AUTHORITY TO USE FUNDS.—Funds appropriated under either the first or second sentence of clause (iv) of section 2(c)(2)(D) of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act shall be available to cover the cost of additional extended unemployment benefits provided under such section 2(c)(2)(D) by reason of the amendments made by subsection (a) as well as to cover the cost of such benefits provided under such section 2(c)(2)(D), as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) FUNDING FOR ADMINISTRATION.—Out of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, there are appropriated to the Railroad Retirement Board \$62,500 for administrative expenses associated with the payment of additional extended unemployment benefits provided under section 2(c)(2)(D) of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act by reason of the amendments made by subsection (a), to remain available until expended.

SEC. 1305. FLEXIBILITY FOR UNEMPLOYMENT PROGRAM AGREEMENTS.

(a) FLEXIBILITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (g) of section 4001 of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110-252; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) shall not apply with respect to a State that has enacted a law before December 1, 2013, that, upon taking effect, would violate such subsection.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Paragraph (1) is effective with respect to weeks of unemployment beginning on or after December 29, 2013.

(b) PERMITTING A SUBSEQUENT AGREEMENT.—Nothing in such title IV shall preclude a State whose agreement under such title was terminated from entering into a subsequent agreement under such title on or after the date of the enactment of this Act if the State, taking into account the application of subsection (a), would otherwise meet the requirements for an agreement under such title.

SA 2564. Mr. REED submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 59, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of division B, add the following:

TITLE III—UNEMPLOYMENT PROVISIONS

SEC. 1301. EXTENSION OF EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION PROGRAM.

(a) EXTENSION.—Section 4007(a)(2) of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110-252; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) is amended by striking “January 1, 2014” and inserting “February 4, 2014”.

(b) FUNDING.—Section 4004(e)(1) of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110-252; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (I), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (J), by inserting “and” at the end; and

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (J) the following:

“(K) the amendments made by section 1301(a) of the Pathway for SGR Reform Act of 2013;”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect as if included in the enactment of the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-240).

SEC. 1302. TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF EXTENDED BENEFIT PROVISIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2005 of the Assistance for Unemployed Workers and Struggling Families Act, as contained in Public Law 111-5 (26 U.S.C. 3304 note), is amended—

(1) by striking “December 31, 2013” each place it appears and inserting “February 4, 2014”; and

(2) in subsection (c), by striking “June 30, 2014” and inserting “July 31, 2014”.

(b) EXTENSION OF MATCHING FOR STATES WITH NO WAITING WEEK.—Section 5 of the Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-449; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) is amended by striking “June 30, 2014” and inserting “July 31, 2014”.

(c) EXTENSION OF MODIFICATION OF INDICATORS UNDER THE EXTENDED BENEFIT PROGRAM.—Section 203 of the Federal-State Extended Unemployment Compensation Act of 1970 (26 U.S.C. 3304 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (d), by striking “December 31, 2013” and inserting “February 4, 2014”; and

(2) in subsection (f)(2), by striking “December 31, 2013” and inserting “February 4, 2014”.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect as if included in the enactment of the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-240).

SEC. 1303. EXTENSION OF FUNDING FOR REEMPLOYMENT SERVICES AND REEMPLOYMENT AND ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4004(c)(2)(A) of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110-252; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) is amended by striking “through fiscal year 2014” and inserting “through the first month of fiscal year 2015”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect as if included in the enactment of the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-240).

SEC. 1304. ADDITIONAL EXTENDED UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS UNDER THE RAILROAD UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT.

(a) EXTENSION.—Section 2(c)(2)(D)(iii) of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act (45 U.S.C. 352(c)(2)(D)(iii)) is amended—

(1) by striking “June 30, 2013” and inserting “July 31, 2013”; and

(2) by striking “December 31, 2013” and inserting “February 4, 2014”.

(b) CLARIFICATION ON AUTHORITY TO USE FUNDS.—Funds appropriated under either the first or second sentence of clause (iv) of section 2(c)(2)(D) of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act shall be available to cover the cost of additional extended unemployment benefits provided under such section 2(c)(2)(D) by reason of the amendments made by subsection (a) as well as to cover the cost of such benefits provided under such section 2(c)(2)(D), as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) FUNDING FOR ADMINISTRATION.—Out of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, there are appropriated to the Railroad Retirement Board \$21,000 for administrative expenses associated with the payment of additional extended unemployment benefits provided under section 2(c)(2)(D) of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act by reason of the amendments made by subsection (a), to remain available until expended.

SEC. 1305. FLEXIBILITY FOR UNEMPLOYMENT PROGRAM AGREEMENTS.

(a) FLEXIBILITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (g) of section 4001 of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110-252; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) shall not apply with respect to a State that has enacted a law before December 1, 2013, that, upon taking effect, would violate such subsection.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Paragraph (1) is effective with respect to weeks of unemployment beginning on or after December 29, 2013.

(b) PERMITTING A SUBSEQUENT AGREEMENT.—Nothing in such title IV shall preclude a State whose agreement under such title was terminated from entering into a subsequent agreement under such title on or after the date of the enactment of this Act if the State, taking into account the application of subsection (a), would otherwise meet the requirements for an agreement under such title.

SA 2565. Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. BEGICH, and Mr. SCHATZ) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 59, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 57, strike lines 16 through 19, and insert the following:

“(c) LIMITATION ON FEE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), fees imposed under subsection (a)(1) shall be \$5.60 per one-way trip in air transportation or intrastate air transportation that originates at an airport in the United States.

“(2) EXCEPTIONS.—Fees imposed under subsection (a)(1) may not exceed \$2.50 per enplanement, and the total amount of such fees may not exceed \$5.00 per one-way trip, for passengers—

“(A) boarding to an eligible place under subchapter II of chapter 417 for which essential air service compensation is paid under that subchapter;

“(B) on flights, including flight segments, between 2 or more points in Hawaii; or

“(C) in Alaska aboard an aircraft having seat capacity of less than 60 passengers.”.

SA 2566. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3304, to authorize the President to award the Medal of Honor to Bennie G. Adkins and Donald P. Sloat of the United States Army for acts of valor during the Vietnam Conflict and to authorize the award of the Medal of Honor to certain other veterans who were previously recommended for award of the Medal of Honor; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . PROHIBITION ON EMPLOYMENT BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE OF INDIVIDUALS AND CONTRACTORS WITH SERIOUSLY DELINQUENT TAX DEBTS.

(a) PROHIBITION.—An individual or contractor with a seriously delinquent tax debt may not be appointed to, or continue serving in, a position within or funded by the Department of Defense.

(b) SERIOUSLY DELINQUENT TAX DEBT DEFINED.—In this section, the term “seriously delinquent tax debt” means an outstanding debt under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 for which a notice of lien has been filed in public records pursuant to section 6323 of such Code, except that such term does not include—

(1) a debt that is being paid in a timely manner pursuant to an agreement under section 6159 or section 7122 of such Code; and

(2) a debt with respect to which a collection due process hearing under section 6330 of such Code, or relief under subsection (a), (b), or (f) of section 6015 of such Code, is requested or pending.

SA 2567. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3304, to authorize the President to award the Medal of Honor to Bennie G. Adkins and Donald P. Sloat of the United States Army for acts of valor during the Vietnam Conflict and to authorize the award of the Medal of Honor to certain other veterans who were previously recommended for award of the Medal of Honor; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . CONSOLIDATION OF DUPLICATIVE AND OVERLAPPING AGENCIES, PROGRAMS, AND ACTIVITIES OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall, in coordination with the heads

of other departments and agencies of the Federal Government—

(1) use available administrative authority to eliminate, consolidate, or streamline Government agencies, programs, and activities with duplicative and overlapping missions as identified in Government Accountability Office reports on duplication and overlap in Government programs;

(2) identify and submit to Congress a report setting the legislative action required to further eliminate, consolidate, or streamline Government agencies, programs, and activities with duplicative and overlapping missions as identified in the reports referred to in paragraph (1); and

(3) determine the total cost savings that—

(A) will accrue to each department, agency, and office effected by an action under paragraph (1) as a result of the actions taken under that paragraph; and

(B) could accrue to each department, agency, and office effected by an action under paragraph (2) as a result of the actions proposed to be taken under that paragraph using the legislative authority set forth under that paragraph.

SA 2568. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3304, to authorize the President to award the Medal of Honor to Bennie G. Adkins and Donald P. Sloat of the United States Army for acts of valor during the Vietnam Conflict and to authorize the award of the Medal of Honor to certain other veterans who were previously recommended for award of the Medal of Honor; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . SENSE OF CONGRESS ON SMALL ARMS AND AMMUNITION USED BY UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES.

It is the sense of Congress that the small arms and ammunition used by the United States Armed Forces should be superior to the small arms and ammunition used by potential threat nations, foreign allied militaries, and United States domestic law enforcement.

SA 2569. Mr. ENZI (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, and Mr. UDALL of New Mexico) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 59, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 302 of division A.

SA 2570. Mr. ENZI (for himself and Mr. MURPHY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 59, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. 1 ____ . CLARIFICATION.

Section 251A of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901a) does not apply with respect to the funding of—

(1) the standard setting body designated pursuant to section 19(b) of the Securities Act of 1933 (15 U.S.C. 77s(b));

(2) the Securities Investor Protection Corporation; or

(3) the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board.

SA 2571. Mr. SESSIONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 59, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 403 of division I and insert the following:

SEC. 403. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER REQUIRED TO CLAIM THE REFUNDABLE PORTION OF THE CHILD TAX CREDIT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (d) of section 24 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(5) IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENT WITH RESPECT TO TAXPAYER.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to any taxpayer for any taxable year unless the taxpayer includes the taxpayer’s Social Security number on the return of tax for such taxable year.

“(B) JOINT RETURNS.—In the case of a joint return, the requirement of subparagraph (A) shall be treated as met if the Social Security number of either spouse is included on such return.

“(C) LIMITATION.—Subparagraph (A) shall not apply to the extent the tentative minimum tax (as defined in section 55(b)(1)(A)) exceeds the credit allowed under section 32.”.

(b) OMISSION TREATED AS MATHEMATICAL OR CLERICAL ERROR.—Subparagraph (I) of section 6213(g)(2) of such Code is amended to read as follows:

“(I) an omission of a correct Social Security number required under section 24(d)(5) (relating to refundable portion of child tax credit), or a correct TIN under section 24(e) (relating to child tax credit), to be included on a return.”.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subsection (e) of section 24 of such Code is amended by inserting “WITH RESPECT TO QUALIFYING CHILDREN” after “IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENT” in the heading thereof.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 2572. Mr. SESSIONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 59, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 403.

SA 2573. Mr. SESSIONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 59, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 17, strike line 10 and all that follows through page 18, line 11 and insert the following:

(c) EXPIRATION.—Subsection (a)(2) shall

SA 2574. Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. INHOFE, and Mr. COCHRAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 59, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 403.

SA 2575. Mr. CORKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3304, to authorize the President to award the Medal of Honor to Bennie G. Adkins and Donald P. Sloat of the United States Army for acts of valor during the Vietnam Conflict and to authorize the award of the Medal of Honor to certain other veterans who were previously recommended for award of the Medal of Honor; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 559, beginning on line 7, strike “The Secretary of Defense shall notify the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives” and insert the following: “The Secretary of Defense shall notify the Committees on Armed Services and Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committees on Armed Services and Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives”.

On page 563, line 11, insert “, the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives” after “congressional defense committees”.

On page 564, line 9, insert “, the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives” after “congressional defense committees”.

On page 572, lines 17 and 18, strike “The Secretary of Defense shall, in coordination with the Secretary of State” and insert “The Secretary of State shall, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense”.

On page 629, strike lines 10 through 17 and insert the following:

(a) AUTHORITY.—Notwithstanding section 544(c)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2347c(c)(1)), for fiscal years 2014 through 2016, the President is authorized to enter into cooperative arrangements providing for the participation of foreign and United States military and civilian defense personnel for integrated air and missile defense programs in Southwest Asia without charge to participating countries and, notwithstanding section 632(d) of such Act (22 U.S.C. 2392(d)), without charge to the fund available to carry out chapter II of part II of the Foreign Assistance Act (22 U.S.C. 2311 et seq.).

(b) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter until a final summary report is submitted after the end of fiscal year 2016, the President shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services and Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committees on Armed Services and Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the implementation of the authority provided under subsection (a), including a description of the numbers of such participating foreign personnel, the cost of such non-reimbursable arrangements, and prospects for equitable contributions from such countries in the future.

On page 639, line 7, insert “the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives” before “of the Secretary’s”.

Strike section 1247.

On page 641, line 19, strike “of Defense” and insert “of State”.

Strike section 1249.

SA 2576. Ms. AYOTTE (for herself and Mr. WICKER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the

joint resolution H.J. Res. 59, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In division A, strike section 403 and insert the following:

SEC. 403. STANDARD UTILITY ALLOWANCES BASED ON THE RECEIPT OF ENERGY ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS.

(a) STANDARD UTILITY ALLOWANCE.—Section 5 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2014) is amended—

(1) in subsection (e)(6)(C), by striking clause (iv); and

(2) in subsection (k), by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the following:

“(4) THIRD PARTY ENERGY ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS.—For purposes of subsection (d)(1), a payment made under a State law (other than a law referred to in paragraph (2)(G)) to provide energy assistance to a household shall be considered money payable directly to the household.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 2605(f)(2) of the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981 (42 U.S.C. 8624(f)(2)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “and for purposes of determining any excess shelter expense deduction under section 5(e) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2014(e))”; and

(2) in subparagraph (A), by inserting before the semicolon at the end the following: “, except that such payments or allowances shall not be considered to be expended for purposes of determining any excess shelter expense deduction under section 5(e)(6) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2014(e)(6))”.

SA 2577. Ms. AYOTTE (for herself and Mr. GRAHAM) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 59, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 403 of division A and insert the following:

SEC. 403. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER REQUIRED TO CLAIM THE REFUNDABLE PORTION OF THE CHILD TAX CREDIT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (d) of section 24 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(5) IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENT WITH RESPECT TO TAXPAYER.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to any taxpayer for any taxable year unless the taxpayer includes the taxpayer’s Social Security number on the return of tax for such taxable year.

“(B) JOINT RETURNS.—In the case of a joint return, the requirement of subparagraph (A) shall be treated as met if the Social Security number of either spouse is included on such return.

“(C) LIMITATION.—Subparagraph (A) shall not apply to the extent the tentative minimum tax (as defined in section 55(b)(1)(A)) exceeds the credit allowed under section 32.”.

(b) OMISSION TREATED AS MATHEMATICAL OR CLERICAL ERROR.—Subparagraph (I) of section 6213(g)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

“(I) an omission of a correct Social Security number required under section 24(d)(5) (relating to refundable portion of child tax credit), or a correct TIN under section 24(e) (relating to child tax credit), to be included on a return.”.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subsection (e) of section 24 of the Internal Revenue Code

of 1986 is amended by inserting “WITH RESPECT TO QUALIFYING CHILDREN” after “IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENT” in the heading thereof.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 2578. Ms. AYOTTE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 59, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 18, line 7, strike “338.”

SA 2579. Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. PAUL, Mr. CRUZ, and Mr. ROBERTS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3304, to authorize the President to award the Medal of Honor to Bennie G. Adkins and Donald P. Sloat of the United States Army for acts of valor during the Vietnam Conflict and to authorize the award of the Medal of Honor to certain other veterans who were previously recommended for award of the Medal of Honor; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . PROHIBITION ON THE INDEFINITE DETENTION OF CITIZENS AND LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENTS.

Section 4001 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following new subsection (a):

“(a) No citizen shall be imprisoned or otherwise detained by the United States except consistent with the Constitution and pursuant to an act of Congress that expressly authorizes such detention.”;

(2) by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection (c); and

(3) by inserting after subsection (a) the following:

“(b)(1) A general authorization to use military force, a declaration of war, or any similar authority, on its own, shall not be construed to authorize the detention without charge or trial of a citizen or lawful permanent resident of the United States apprehended in the United States.

“(2) Paragraph (1) applies to an authorization to use military force, a declaration of war, or any similar authority enacted before, on, or after the date of the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014.

“(3) This section shall not be construed to authorize the detention of a citizen of the United States, a lawful permanent resident of the United States, or any other person who is apprehended in the United States.”.

SA 2580. Mr. COCHRAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3304, to authorize the President to award the Medal of Honor to Bennie G. Adkins and Donald P. Sloat of the United States Army for acts of valor during the Vietnam Conflict and to authorize the award of the Medal of Honor to certain other veterans who were previously recommended for award of the Medal of Honor; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . NATIONAL GUARD COUNTERDRUG PROGRAM.

(a) ADDITIONAL AMOUNT FOR DRUG INTERDICTION AND COUNTER-DRUG ACTIVITIES, DEFENSE-WIDE.—The amount authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2014 by section 1404 and available for Drug Interdiction and Counter-Drug Activities, Defense-wide for the National Guard Counterdrug Program as specified in the funding table in section 4501 is hereby increased by \$130,000,000, with not less than \$27,400,000 to be available for activities at the National Guard counter-drug training centers.

(b) USE OF AMOUNTS.—

(1) UNIFORM ALLOCATION.—The amount available under subsection (a) shall be allocated evenly among the National Guard counter-drug training centers.

(2) TRAINING OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS.—Not less than an amount equal to 50 percent of the amount available under subsection (a) shall be used for training of State and local law enforcement officers at the National Guard counter-drug training centers, including subsistence for officers undergoing such training.

(3) CIVILIAN EXPERTS.—The amount available under subsection (a) may be used for the costs of civilian experts in the provision of training by the National Guard counter-drug training centers.

(4) USE OF EXCHANGE STORES.—Any law enforcement officer undergoing training described in paragraph (2), and any civilian support staff and experts engaged in the provision of such training, may use the exchange store of the counter-drug training center concerned in the same manner as members of the National Guard may use such exchange store.

(c) OFFSET.—The amount authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2014 by section 301 and available for Operation and Maintenance, Defense-wide as specified in the funding table in section 4301 is hereby reduced by \$130,000,000, with the amount of the reduction to be applied to amounts otherwise available for civilian employees of the Department of Defense.

SA 2581. Mr. TOOMEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3304, to authorize the President to award the Medal of Honor to Bennie G. Adkins and Donald P. Sloat of the United States Army for acts of valor during the Vietnam Conflict and to authorize the award of the Medal of Honor to certain other veterans who were previously recommended for award of the Medal of Honor; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end add the following:

Strike section 4 and all that follows and insert the following:

SEC. 4. ONE-YEAR EXTENSION OF CERTAIN BONUS AND SPECIAL PAY AUTHORITIES FOR RESERVE FORCES.

The following sections of title 37, United States Code, are amended by striking “December 31, 2013” and inserting “December 31, 2014”:

(1) Section 308b(g), relating to Selected Reserve reenlistment bonus.

(2) Section 308c(i), relating to Selected Reserve affiliation or enlistment bonus.

(3) Section 308d(c), relating to special pay for enlisted members assigned to certain high-priority units.

(4) Section 308g(f)(2), relating to Ready Reserve enlistment bonus for persons without prior service.

(5) Section 308h(e), relating to Ready Reserve enlistment and reenlistment bonus for persons with prior service.

(6) Section 308i(f), relating to Selected Reserve enlistment and reenlistment bonus for persons with prior service.

(7) Section 478a(e), relating to reimbursement of travel expenses for inactive-duty training outside of normal commuting distance.

(8) Section 910(g), relating to income replacement payments for reserve component members experiencing extended and frequent mobilization for active duty service.

SEC. 5. ONE-YEAR EXTENSION OF CERTAIN BONUS AND SPECIAL PAY AUTHORITIES FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS.

(a) TITLE 10 AUTHORITIES.—The following sections of title 10, United States Code, are amended by striking “December 31, 2013” and inserting “December 31, 2014”:

(1) Section 2130a(a)(1), relating to nurse officer candidate accession program.

(2) Section 16302(d), relating to repayment of education loans for certain health professionals who serve in the Selected Reserve.

(b) TITLE 37 AUTHORITIES.—The following sections of title 37, United States Code, are amended by striking “December 31, 2013” and inserting “December 31, 2014”:

(1) Section 302c-1(f), relating to accession and retention bonuses for psychologists.

(2) Section 302d(a)(1), relating to accession bonus for registered nurses.

(3) Section 302e(a)(1), relating to incentive special pay for nurse anesthetists.

(4) Section 302g(e), relating to special pay for Selected Reserve health professionals in critically short wartime specialties.

(5) Section 302h(a)(1), relating to accession bonus for dental officers.

(6) Section 302j(a), relating to accession bonus for pharmacy officers.

(7) Section 302k(f), relating to accession bonus for medical officers in critically short wartime specialties.

(8) Section 302l(g), relating to accession bonus for dental specialist officers in critically short wartime specialties.

SEC. 6. ONE-YEAR EXTENSION OF SPECIAL PAY AND BONUS AUTHORITIES FOR NUCLEAR OFFICERS.

The following sections of title 37, United States Code, are amended by striking “December 31, 2013” and inserting “December 31, 2014”:

(1) Section 312(f), relating to special pay for nuclear-qualified officers extending period of active service.

(2) Section 312b(c), relating to nuclear career accession bonus.

(3) Section 312c(d), relating to nuclear career annual incentive bonus.

SEC. 7. ONE-YEAR EXTENSION OF AUTHORITIES RELATING TO TITLE 37, CONSOLIDATED SPECIAL PAY, INCENTIVE PAY, AND BONUS AUTHORITIES.

The following sections of title 37, United States Code, are amended by striking “December 31, 2013” and inserting “December 31, 2014”:

(1) Section 331(h), relating to general bonus authority for enlisted members.

(2) Section 332(g), relating to general bonus authority for officers.

(3) Section 333(i), relating to special bonus and incentive pay authorities for nuclear officers.

(4) Section 334(i), relating to special aviation incentive pay and bonus authorities for officers.

(5) Section 335(k), relating to special bonus and incentive pay authorities for officers in health professions.

(6) Section 351(h), relating to hazardous duty pay.

(7) Section 352(g), relating to assignment pay or special duty pay.

(8) Section 353(i), relating to skill incentive pay or proficiency bonus.

(9) Section 355(h), relating to retention incentives for members qualified in critical military skills or assigned to high priority units.

SEC. 8. ONE-YEAR EXTENSION OF AUTHORITIES RELATING TO PAYMENT OF OTHER TITLE 37 BONUSES AND SPECIAL PAYS.

The following sections of title 37, United States Code, are amended by striking “December 31, 2013” and inserting “December 31, 2014”:

(1) Section 301b(a), relating to aviation officer retention bonus.

(2) Section 307a(g), relating to assignment incentive pay.

(3) Section 308(g), relating to reenlistment bonus for active members.

(4) Section 309(e), relating to enlistment bonus.

(5) Section 324(g), relating to accession bonus for new officers in critical skills.

(6) Section 326(g), relating to incentive bonus for conversion to military occupational specialty to ease personnel shortage.

(7) Section 327(h), relating to incentive bonus for transfer between armed forces.

(8) Section 330(f), relating to accession bonus for officer candidates.

SEC. 9. ONE-YEAR EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE INCENTIVE PAY FOR MEMBERS OF PRECOMMISSIONING PROGRAMS PURSUING FOREIGN LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY.

Section 316a(g) of title 37, United States Code is amended by striking “December 31, 2013” and inserting “December 31, 2014”.

SA 2582. Mr. TOOMEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3304, to authorize the President to award the Medal of Honor to Bennie G. Adkins and Donald P. Sloat of the United States Army for acts of valor during the Vietnam Conflict and to authorize the award of the Medal of Honor to certain other veterans who were previously recommended for award of the Medal of Honor; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

Strike section 4 and all that follows and insert the following:

SEC. 4. ONE-YEAR EXTENSION OF CERTAIN BONUS AND SPECIAL PAY AUTHORITIES FOR RESERVE FORCES.

The following sections of title 37, United States Code, are amended by striking “December 31, 2013” and inserting “December 31, 2014”:

(1) Section 308b(g), relating to Selected Reserve reenlistment bonus.

(2) Section 308c(i), relating to Selected Reserve affiliation or enlistment bonus.

(3) Section 308d(c), relating to special pay for enlisted members assigned to certain high-priority units.

(4) Section 308g(f)(2), relating to Ready Reserve enlistment bonus for persons without prior service.

(5) Section 308h(e), relating to Ready Reserve enlistment and reenlistment bonus for persons with prior service.

(6) Section 308i(f), relating to Selected Reserve enlistment and reenlistment bonus for persons with prior service.

(7) Section 478a(e), relating to reimbursement of travel expenses for inactive-duty training outside of normal commuting distance.

(8) Section 910(g), relating to income replacement payments for reserve component members experiencing extended and frequent mobilization for active duty service.

SEC. 5. ONE-YEAR EXTENSION OF CERTAIN BONUS AND SPECIAL PAY AUTHORITIES FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS.

(a) TITLE 10 AUTHORITIES.—The following sections of title 10, United States Code, are amended by striking “December 31, 2013” and inserting “December 31, 2014”:

(1) Section 2130a(a)(1), relating to nurse officer candidate accession program.

(2) Section 16302(d), relating to repayment of education loans for certain health professionals who serve in the Selected Reserve.

(b) TITLE 37 AUTHORITIES.—The following sections of title 37, United States Code, are amended by striking “December 31, 2013” and inserting “December 31, 2014”:

(1) Section 302c–1(f), relating to accession and retention bonuses for psychologists.

(2) Section 302d(a)(1), relating to accession bonus for registered nurses.

(3) Section 302e(a)(1), relating to incentive special pay for nurse anesthetists.

(4) Section 302g(e), relating to special pay for Selected Reserve health professionals in critically short wartime specialties.

(5) Section 302h(a)(1), relating to accession bonus for dental officers.

(6) Section 302j(a), relating to accession bonus for pharmacy officers.

(7) Section 302k(f), relating to accession bonus for medical officers in critically short wartime specialties.

(8) Section 302l(g), relating to accession bonus for dental specialist officers in critically short wartime specialties.

SEC. 6. ONE-YEAR EXTENSION OF SPECIAL PAY AND BONUS AUTHORITIES FOR NUCLEAR OFFICERS.

The following sections of title 37, United States Code, are amended by striking “December 31, 2013” and inserting “December 31, 2014”:

(1) Section 312(f), relating to special pay for nuclear-qualified officers extending period of active service.

(2) Section 312b(c), relating to nuclear career accession bonus.

(3) Section 312c(d), relating to nuclear career annual incentive bonus.

SEC. 7. ONE-YEAR EXTENSION OF AUTHORITIES RELATING TO TITLE 37, CONSOLIDATED SPECIAL PAY, INCENTIVE PAY, AND BONUS AUTHORITIES.

The following sections of title 37, United States Code, are amended by striking “December 31, 2013” and inserting “December 31, 2014”:

(1) Section 331(h), relating to general bonus authority for enlisted members.

(2) Section 332(g), relating to general bonus authority for officers.

(3) Section 333(i), relating to special bonus and incentive pay authorities for nuclear officers.

(4) Section 334(i), relating to special aviation incentive pay and bonus authorities for officers.

(5) Section 335(k), relating to special bonus and incentive pay authorities for officers in health professions.

(6) Section 351(h), relating to hazardous duty pay.

(7) Section 352(g), relating to assignment pay or special duty pay.

(8) Section 353(i), relating to skill incentive pay or proficiency bonus.

(9) Section 355(h), relating to retention incentives for members qualified in critical military skills or assigned to high priority units.

SEC. 8. ONE-YEAR EXTENSION OF AUTHORITIES RELATING TO PAYMENT OF OTHER TITLE 37 BONUSES AND SPECIAL PAYS.

The following sections of title 37, United States Code, are amended by striking “December 31, 2013” and inserting “December 31, 2014”:

(1) Section 301b(a), relating to aviation officer retention bonus.

(2) Section 307a(g), relating to assignment incentive pay.

(3) Section 308(g), relating to reenlistment bonus for active members.

(4) Section 309(e), relating to enlistment bonus.

(5) Section 324(g), relating to accession bonus for new officers in critical skills.

(6) Section 326(g), relating to incentive bonus for conversion to military occupational specialty to ease personnel shortage.

(7) Section 327(h), relating to incentive bonus for transfer between armed forces.

(8) Section 330(f), relating to accession bonus for officer candidates.

SEC. 9. ONE-YEAR EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE INCENTIVE PAY FOR MEMBERS OF PRECOMMISSIONING PROGRAMS PURSUING FOREIGN LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY.

Section 316a(g) of title 37, United States Code is amended by striking “December 31, 2013” and inserting “December 31, 2014”.

SEC. 10. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION TO ISSUE NONPREMIUM AVIATION INSURANCE.

Section 44310 of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting “(a) IN GENERAL.—” before “The authority”;

(2) by striking “this chapter” and inserting “any provision of this chapter other than section 44305”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(b) INSURANCE OF UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT PROPERTY.—The authority of the Secretary of Transportation to provide insurance and reinsurance for a department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government under section 44305 is not effective after December 31, 2018.”

SEC. 11. ONE-YEAR EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO USE FUNDS FOR REINTEGRATION ACTIVITIES IN AFGHANISTAN.

Section 1216 of the Ike Skelton National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011 (Public Law 111–383; 124 Stat. 4392), as most recently amended by section 1218 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112–239; 126 Stat. 1990), is further amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking “\$35,000,000” and inserting “\$25,000,000”; and

(B) by striking “for fiscal year 2013” and inserting “for fiscal year 2014”; and

(2) in subsection (e), by striking “December 31, 2013” and inserting “December 31, 2014”.

SEC. 12. TECHNICAL AND STANDARDIZING AMENDMENTS TO DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITIES IN CONNECTION WITH REFORM OF SUCH AUTHORITIES.

(a) ESCORTS OF DEPENDENTS OF MEMBERS.—

(1) INCORPORATION OF ESCORTS OF DEPENDENTS UNDER GENERAL AUTHORITY.—Section 451(a)(2)(C) of title 37, United States Code, is amended by inserting before the period the following: “or as an escort or attendant for dependents of a member for necessary travel performed not later than one year after the member is unable to accompany the dependents who are incapable of traveling alone”.

(2) REPEAL OF SUPERSEDED AUTHORITY.—(A) Section 1036 of title 10, United States Code, is repealed.

(B) The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 53 of such title is amended by striking the item relating to section 1036.

(b) TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION OF DEPENDENT PATIENTS.—Section 1040 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “round-trip transportation” and all that follows through “may be paid at the expense of the United States” and inserting “travel and transportation allowances may be furnished to necessary attendants. The dependents and any attendants shall be furnished such travel and transportation allowances as specified in regulations prescribed under section 464 of title 37.”; and

(2) by striking subsection (d).

(c) TRAVEL IN CONNECTION WITH LEAVE CANCELLED DUE TO CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS.—

(1) INCORPORATION OF EXPENSES UNDER GENERAL AUTHORITY.—Section 453 of title 37, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(g) REIMBURSEMENT FOR TRAVEL IN CONNECTION WITH LEAVE CANCELLED DUE TO CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS.—A member may be reimbursed as specified in regulations prescribed under section 464 of this title for travel and related expenses incurred by the member as a result of the cancellation of previously approved leave when the leave is cancelled in conjunction with the member’s participation in a contingency operation and the cancellation occurs within 48 hours of the time the leave would have commenced. The settlement for reimbursement under this subsection is final and conclusive.”.

(2) REPEAL OF SUPERSEDED AUTHORITY.—(A) Section 1053a of title 10, United States Code, is repealed.

(B) The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 53 of such title is amended by striking the item relating to section 1053a.

(d) TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION FOR TRAVEL FOR SPECIALTY HEALTH CARE.—Section 1074i of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “reimbursement for reasonable travel expenses” and inserting “travel and transportation allowances as specified in regulations prescribed under section 464 of title 37”; and

(2) in subsection (b), by striking “REIMBURSEMENT FOR TRAVEL UNDER EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES.—The Secretary of Defense may provide reimbursement for reasonable travel expenses of” and inserting “ALLOWABLE TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION UNDER EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES.—The Secretary of Defense may provide travel and transportation allowances as specified in the regulations referred to in subsection (a) for”.

(e) TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION IN CONNECTION WITH THE DISPOSITION OF REMAINS OF MEMBERS.—Section 1482(a)(8) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking “and roundtrip transportation and prescribed allowances” and inserting “and travel and transportation allowances as specified in regulations prescribed under section 464 of title 37”.

(f) TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION IN CONNECTION WITH FUNERAL HONORS FUNCTIONS AT FUNERALS FOR VETERANS.—Section 1491(d)(1) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking “transportation (or reimbursement for transportation) and expenses” and inserting “travel and transportation allowances as specified in regulations prescribed under section 464 of title 37”.

(g) REPEAL OF REDUNDANT AUTHORITY ON MOTOR VEHICLE TRANSPORTATION OR STORAGE FOR MEMBERS UNDERGOING PCS OR EXTENDED DEPLOYMENT.—

(1) REPEAL.—Section 2634 of title 10, United States Code, is repealed.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 157 of such title is amended by striking the item relating to section 2634.

(h) CLARIFICATION OF LIMITATION ON TRANSPORTATION OF HOUSEHOLD GOODS.—Section 453(c)(3) of title 37, United States Code, is

amended by striking “(including packing, crating, and household goods in temporary storage)” and inserting “(including household goods in temporary storage, but excluding packing and crating)”.

SEC. 13. ONE-YEAR EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO WAIVE ANNUAL LIMITATION ON PREMIUM PAY AND AGGREGATE LIMITATION ON PAY FOR FEDERAL CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES WORKING OVERSEAS.

Effective January 1, 2014, section 1101(a) of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417; 122 Stat. 4615), as most recently amended by section 1101 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112-239; 126 Stat. 1973), is further amended by striking “through 2013” and inserting “through 2014”.

SEC. 14. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TEMPORARY INCREASE IN RATES OF BASIC ALLOWANCE FOR HOUSING UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.

Section 403(b)(7)(E) of title 37, United States Code, is amended by striking “December 31, 2013” and inserting “December 31, 2014”.

Amend the title so as to read: “An Act to reauthorize certain expiring provisions related to military activity, and for other purposes.”.

SA 2583. Mr. LEE (for Mr. PAUL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. LEE to the bill H.R. 3304, to authorize the President to award the Medal of Honor to Bennie G. Adkins and Donald P. Sloat of the United States Army for acts of valor during the Vietnam Conflict and to authorize the award of the Medal of Honor to certain other veterans who were previously recommended for award of the Medal of Honor; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

At the end of subtitle B of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1220. REPEAL OF AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF MILITARY FORCE AGAINST IRAQ.

The Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002 (Public Law 107-243; 116 Stat. 1498; 50 U.S.C. 1541 note) is repealed effective on the date of the enactment of this Act or January 1, 2014, whichever occurs later.

SA 2584. Mr. LEE (for Mr. PAUL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. LEE to the bill H.R. 3304, to authorize the President to award the Medal of Honor to Bennie G. Adkins and Donald P. Sloat of the United States Army for acts of valor during the Vietnam Conflict and to authorize the award of the Medal of Honor to certain other veterans who were previously recommended for award of the Medal of Honor; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

SEC. ____ CHALLENGES TO GOVERNMENT SURVEILLANCE.

(a) CHALLENGES TO ORDERS TO PRODUCE CERTAIN BUSINESS RECORDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Title V of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1861) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 503. CHALLENGES TO ORDERS TO PRODUCE CERTAIN BUSINESS RECORDS.

“(a) APPEAL.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A person who is required to produce any tangible thing pursuant to an order issued under section 501 may appeal the order to a United States court of appeals on the basis that the order violates the Constitution of the United States.

“(2) VENUE.—An appeal filed pursuant to paragraph (1) may be filed—

“(A) in the United States court of appeals for a circuit embracing a judicial district in which venue would be proper for a civil action under section 1391 of title 28, United States Code; or

“(B) United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia.

“(b) SUPREME COURT REVIEW.—A person may seek a writ of certiorari from the Supreme Court of the United States for review of a decision of an appeal filed under subsection (a)(1).”.

(2) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in the first section of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 is amended by adding after the item relating to section 502 the following:

“Sec. 503. Challenges to orders to produce certain business records.”.

(b) CHALLENGES TO GOVERNMENT SURVEILLANCE TARGETING OF CERTAIN PERSONS OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES.—Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1881a) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(m) CHALLENGES TO GOVERNMENT SURVEILLANCE.—

“(1) INJURY IN FACT.—In any claim in a civil action brought in a court of the United States relating to surveillance conducted under this section, the person asserting the claim has suffered an injury in fact if the person—

“(A) has a reasonable basis to believe that the person’s communications will be acquired under this section; and

“(B) has taken objectively reasonable steps to avoid surveillance under this section.

“(2) REASONABLE BASIS.—A person shall be presumed to have demonstrated a reasonable basis to believe that the communications of the person will be acquired under this section if the profession of the person requires the person regularly to communicate foreign intelligence information with persons who—

“(A) are not United States persons; and

“(B) are located outside the United States.

“(3) OBJECTIVE STEPS.—A person shall be presumed to have taken objectively reasonable steps to avoid surveillance under this section if the person demonstrates that the steps were taken in reasonable response to rules of professional conduct or analogous professional rules.

“(n) APPEALS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A person who is subject to an order issued under this section may appeal the order to a United States court of appeals on the basis that the order violates the Constitution of the United States.

“(2) VENUE.—An appeal filed pursuant to paragraph (1) may be filed—

“(A) in the United States court of appeals for a circuit embracing a judicial district in which venue would be proper for a civil action under section 1391 of title 28, United States Code; or

“(B) United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia.

“(3) SUPREME COURT REVIEW.—A person may seek a writ of certiorari from the Supreme Court of the United States for review of a decision of an appeal filed under paragraph (1).”.

SA 2585. Mr. LEE (for Mr. PAUL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. LEE to the bill H.R. 3304, to authorize the President to

award the Medal of Honor to Bennie G. Adkins and Donald P. Sloat of the United States Army for acts of valor during the Vietnam Conflict and to authorize the award of the Medal of Honor to certain other veterans who were previously recommended for award of the Medal of Honor; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

SEC. 1082. AUDIT REFORM AND TRANSPARENCY FOR THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 714 of title 31, United States Code, or any other provision of law, an audit of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Federal reserve banks under subsection (b) of such section 714 shall be completed within 12 months of the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A report on the audit required under subsection (a) shall be submitted by the Comptroller General to the Congress before the end of the 90-day period beginning on the date on which such audit is completed and made available to the Speaker of the House, the majority and minority leaders of the House of Representatives, the majority and minority leaders of the Senate, the Chairman and Ranking Member of the committee and each subcommittee of jurisdiction in the House of Representatives and the Senate, and any other Member of Congress who requests it.

(2) CONTENTS.—The report under paragraph (1) shall include a detailed description of the findings and conclusion of the Comptroller General with respect to the audit that is the subject of the report, together with such recommendations for legislative or administrative action as the Comptroller General may determine to be appropriate.

(c) REPEAL OF CERTAIN LIMITATIONS.—Subsection (b) of section 714 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking all after “in writing.”.

(d) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 714 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking subsection (f).

SEC. 1083. AUDIT OF LOAN FILE REVIEWS REQUIRED BY ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct an audit of the review of loan files of homeowners in foreclosure in 2009 or 2010, required as part of the enforcement actions taken by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System against supervised financial institutions.

(b) CONTENT OF AUDIT.—The audit carried out pursuant to subsection (a) shall consider, at a minimum—

(1) the guidance given by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System to independent consultants retained by the supervised financial institutions regarding the procedures to be followed in conducting the file reviews;

(2) the factors considered by independent consultants when evaluating loan files;

(3) the results obtained by the independent consultants pursuant to those reviews;

(4) the determinations made by the independent consultants regarding the nature and extent of financial injury sustained by each homeowner as well as the level and type of remediation offered to each homeowner; and

(5) the specific measures taken by the independent consultants to verify, confirm, or rebut the assertions and representations made by supervised financial institutions regarding the contents of loan files and the extent of financial injury to homeowners.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than the end of the 6-month period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall issue a report to the Congress containing all findings and determinations made in carrying out the audit required under subsection (a).

SA 2586. Mr. LEE (for Mr. PAUL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. LEE to the bill H.R. 3304, to authorize the President to award the Medal of Honor to Bennie G. Adkins and Donald P. Sloat of the United States Army for acts of valor during the Vietnam Conflict and to authorize the award of the Medal of Honor to certain other veterans who were previously recommended for award of the Medal of Honor; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

SEC. 1082. IMPROVED ENUMERATION OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES IN ANY TABULATION OF TOTAL POPULATION BY SECRETARY OF COMMERCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 141 of title 13, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (g) as subsection (h); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (f) the following:

“(g) Effective beginning with the 2020 decennial census of population, in taking any tabulation of total population by States, the Secretary shall take appropriate measures to ensure, to the maximum extent practicable, that all members of the Armed Forces deployed abroad on the date of taking such tabulation are—

“(1) fully and accurately counted; and

“(2) properly attributed to the State in which their residence at their permanent duty station or homeport is located on such date.”.

(b) CONSTRUCTION.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall not be construed to affect the residency status of any member of the Armed Forces under any provision of law other than title 13, United States Code.

SA 2587. Mr. LEE (for Mr. PAUL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. LEE to the bill H.R. 3304, to authorize the President to award the Medal of Honor to Bennie G. Adkins and Donald P. Sloat of the United States Army for acts of valor during the Vietnam Conflict and to authorize the award of the Medal of Honor to certain other veterans who were previously recommended for award of the Medal of Honor; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

SEC. 1208. LIMITATION ON FOREIGN ASSISTANCE TO PAKISTAN.

No amounts may be obligated or expended to provide any direct United States assistance to the Government of Pakistan unless the President certifies to Congress that—

(1) Dr. Shakil Afridi has been released from prison in Pakistan;

(2) any criminal charges brought against Dr. Afridi, including treason, have been dropped; and

(3) if necessary to ensure his freedom, Dr. Afridi has been allowed to leave Pakistan.

SA 2588. Mr. LEE (for Mr. PAUL) submitted an amendment intended to be

proposed by Mr. LEE to the bill H.R. 3304, to authorize the President to award the Medal of Honor to Bennie G. Adkins and Donald P. Sloat of the United States Army for acts of valor during the Vietnam Conflict and to authorize the award of the Medal of Honor to certain other veterans who were previously recommended for award of the Medal of Honor; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

SECTION 1082. FOURTH AMENDMENT PRESERVATION AND PROTECTION.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the “Fourth Amendment Preservation and Protection Act of 2013”.

(b) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that the right under the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures is violated when the Federal Government or a State or local government acquires information voluntarily relinquished by a person to another party for a limited business purpose without the express informed consent of the person to the specific request by the Federal Government or a State or local government or a warrant, upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

(c) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “system of records” means any group of records from which information is retrieved by the name of the individual or by some identifying number, symbol, or other identifying particular associated with the individual.

(d) PROHIBITION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Federal Government and a State or local government is prohibited from obtaining or seeking to obtain information relating to an individual or group of individuals held by a third-party in a system of records, and no such information shall be admissible in a criminal prosecution in a court of law.

(2) EXCEPTION.—The Federal Government or a State or local government may obtain, and a court may admit, information relating to an individual held by a third-party in a system of records if—

(A) the individual whose name or identification information the Federal Government or State or local government is using to access the information provides express and informed consent to the search; or

(B) the Federal Government or State or local government obtains a warrant, upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

SA 2589. Mr. LEE (for Mr. PAUL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. LEE to the bill H.R. 3304, to authorize the President to award the Medal of Honor to Bennie G. Adkins and Donald P. Sloat of the United States Army for acts of valor during the Vietnam Conflict and to authorize the award of the Medal of Honor to certain other veterans who were previously recommended for award of the Medal of Honor; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

SEC. 1082. EXTENSION OF PERIOD FOR USE OF ENTITLEMENT TO POST-9/11 EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER OR TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY.

(a) EXTENDED PERIOD.—Section 3312 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “in subsections (b) and (c)” and inserting “in subsections (b), (c), and (d)”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(d) EXTENDED PERIOD FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER OR TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY.—Subject to section 3695 of this title and except as provided in subsections (b) and (c), an individual entitled to educational assistance under this chapter who has a service-connected disability consisting of post-traumatic stress disorder or traumatic brain injury is entitled to a number of months of educational assistance under section 3313 of this title equal to 54 months.”

(b) REDUCED AMOUNT.—Section 3313 of such title is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(j) REDUCED AMOUNT FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH EXTENDED PERIOD OF ASSISTANCE.—The amount of educational assistance payable under this section to an individual described in section 3312(d) of this title shall be 67 percent of the amount otherwise payable to such individual under this section.”

SA 2590. Mr. LEE (for Mr. PAUL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. LEE to the bill H.R. 3304, to authorize the President to award the Medal of Honor to Bennie G. Adkins and Donald P. Sloat of the United States Army for acts of valor during the Vietnam Conflict and to authorize the award of the Medal of Honor to certain other veterans who were previously recommended for award of the Medal of Honor; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

SECTION 1082. PURCHASE OF PRISON-MADE PRODUCTS BY FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS.

(a) REPEAL OF PURCHASE REQUIREMENT.—Section 4124 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking “shall purchase” and inserting “may purchase”; and

(B) by inserting “and services” after “such products”; and

(2) in subsection (c), by striking “subject to the requirements of subsection (a)” and inserting “that purchases such products or services of the industries authorized by this chapter”.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 8504 of title 41, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “(a) IN GENERAL.—”; and

(2) by striking subsection (b).

SEC. 1083. PROHIBITION ON AWARD OF CERTAIN CONTRACTS TO FEDERAL PRISON INDUSTRIES, INC..

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a Federal agency may not award a contract to Federal Prison Industries after competition restricted to small business concerns under section 15 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 644) or the program established under section 8(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(a)).

SEC. 1084. SHARE OF INDEFINITE DELIVERY/INDEFINITE QUANTITY CONTRACTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act,

the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council shall amend the Federal Acquisition Regulation to require that if the head of an executive agency reduces the quantity of items or services to be delivered under an indefinite delivery/indefinite quantity contract to which Federal Prison Industries is a party, the head of the executive agency shall reduce Federal Prison Industries’s share of the items or services to be delivered under the contract by the same percentage by which the total number of items or services to be delivered under the contract from all sources is reduced.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term “executive agency” has the meaning given the term in section 133 of title 41, United States Code; and

(2) the term “Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council” means the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council established under section 1302(a) of title 41, United States Code.

SA 2591. Mr. LEE (for Mr. PAUL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. LEE to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 59, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Fourth Amendment Preservation and Protection Act of 2013”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that the right under the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures is violated when the Federal Government or a State or local government acquires information voluntarily relinquished by a person to another party for a limited business purpose without the express informed consent of the person to the specific request by the Federal Government or a State or local government or a warrant, upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

SEC. 3. DEFINITION.

In this Act, the term “system of records” means any group of records from which information is retrieved by the name of the individual or by some identifying number, symbol, or other identifying particular associated with the individual.

SEC. 4. PROHIBITION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), the Federal Government and a State or local government is prohibited from obtaining or seeking to obtain information relating to an individual or group of individuals held by a third-party in a system of records, and no such information shall be admissible in a criminal prosecution in a court of law.

(b) EXCEPTION.—The Federal Government or a State or local government may obtain, and a court may admit, information relating to an individual held by a third-party in a system of records if—

(1) the individual whose name or identification information the Federal Government or State or local government is using to access the information provides express and informed consent to the search; or

(2) the Federal Government or State or local government obtains a warrant, upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

SA 2592. Mr. LEE (for Mr. PAUL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. LEE to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 59, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “National Right-to-Work Act”.

SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS ACT.

(a) RIGHTS OF EMPLOYEES.—Section 7 of the National Labor Relations Act (29 U.S.C. 157) is amended by striking “except to” and all that follows through “authorized in section 8(a)(3)”.

(b) UNFAIR LABOR PRACTICES.—Section 8 of the National Labor Relations Act (29 U.S.C. 158) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(3), by striking “: Provided, That” and all that follows through “retaining membership”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking “or to discriminate” and all that follows through “retaining membership”; and

(B) in paragraph (5), by striking “covered by an agreement authorized under subsection (a)(3) of this section”; and

(3) in subsection (f), by striking clause (2) and redesignating clauses (3) and (4) as clauses (2) and (3), respectively.

SEC. 3. AMENDMENT TO THE RAILWAY LABOR ACT.

Section 2 of the Railway Labor Act (45 U.S.C. 152) is amended by striking paragraph Eleven.

SA 2593. Mr. LEE (for Mr. PAUL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. LEE to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 59, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

SEC. . . . DELAY IN APPLICATION OF PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT.

(a) ONE-YEAR DELAY IN PPACA PROVISIONS SCHEDULED TO TAKE EFFECT ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 2014.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any provision of (including any amendment made by) the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148) or of title I or subtitle B of title II of the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2011 (Public Law 111-152) that is otherwise scheduled to take effect on or after January 1, 2014, shall not take effect until the date that is one year after the date on which such provision would otherwise have been scheduled to take effect.

(b) ONE-YEAR SUSPENSION OF CERTAIN TAX INCREASES ALREADY IN EFFECT.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in the case of any tax which is imposed or increased by any provision of (including any amendment made by) the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148) or of title I or subtitle B of title II of the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2011 (Public Law 111-152), if such tax or increase takes effect before January 1, 2014, such tax or increase shall not apply during the 1-year period beginning on such date.

SA 2594. Mr. LEE (for Mr. PAUL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. LEE to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 59, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2014, and

for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

SEC. ____ PROHIBITION ON FOREIGN ASSISTANCE TO EGYPT.

Beginning 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, no amounts may be obligated or expended to provide any direct United States assistance to the Government of Egypt unless the President has, prior to such effective date, certified to Congress that—

(1) the Government of Egypt is not holding, detaining, prosecuting, harassing, or preventing the exit from Egypt of any person working for a nongovernmental organization supported by the United States Government on the basis of the person's association with or work for the nongovernmental organization; and

(2) the Government of Egypt is not holding any property of a nongovernmental organization described in paragraph (1) or of a person associated with such a nongovernmental organization.

SA 2595. Mr. LEE (for Mr. PAUL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. LEE to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 59, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

Resolved, That (a) it shall not be in order for the Senate to consider any bill, resolution, message, conference report, amendment, treaty, motion, or any other measure or matter which violates the 2nd Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

(b)(1) Any Senator may raise a point of order that any bill, resolution, message, conference report, amendment, treaty, or any other measure or matter is not in order under subsection (a). No motion to table the point of order shall be in order.

(2) Any Senator may move to waive a point of order raised under paragraph (1) on the grounds that the bill, resolution, message, conference report, amendment, treaty, or other measure or matter does not violate the 2nd Amendment to the Constitution of the United States by an affirmative yea and nay vote of two-thirds of the Senators duly chosen and sworn. All motions to waive under this paragraph shall be debatable collectively for not to exceed 3 hours equally divided between the Senator raising the point for order and the Senator moving to waive the point of order or their designees. A motion to waive the point of order shall not be amendable.

(c) This resolution is enacted pursuant to the power granted to each House of Congress to determine the Rules of its Proceedings in clause 2 of section 5 of Article I of the Constitution of the United States.

SA 2596. Mr. LEE (for Mr. PAUL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. LEE to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 59, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Fourth Amendment Restoration Act of 2013".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The Bill of Rights states in the 4th Amendment to the United States Constitution that "The right of the people to be se-

cure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized."

(2) Media reports indicate that the National Security Agency is currently collecting the phone records of American citizens.

(3) Media reports indicate that the National Security Agency has secured a top secret court order in April 2013 from a court established under section 103 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1803) for the telephone records of millions of American citizens.

(4) Media reports indicate that President Barack Obama's Administration has been collecting information about millions of citizens within the borders of the United States and between the United States and other countries.

(5) The collection of citizen's phone records is a violation of the natural rights of every man and woman in the United States, and a clear violation of the explicit language of the highest law of the land.

SEC. 3. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

The Fourth Amendment to the Constitution shall not be construed to allow any agency of the United States Government to search the phone records of Americans without a warrant based on probable cause.

SA 2597. Mr. LEE (for Mr. PAUL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. LEE to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 59, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Regulations From the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act of 2013" or the "REINS Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Section 1 of article I of the United States Constitution grants all legislative powers to Congress.

(2) Over time, Congress has excessively delegated its constitutional charge while failing to conduct appropriate oversight and retain accountability for the content of the laws it passes.

(3) By requiring a vote in Congress, the REINS Act will result in more carefully drafted and detailed legislation, an improved regulatory process, and a legislative branch that is truly accountable to the people of the United States for the laws imposed upon them.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to increase accountability for and transparency in the Federal regulatory process.

SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW OF AGENCY RULEMAKING.

Chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

"CHAPTER 8—CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW OF AGENCY RULEMAKING

"Sec.

"801. Congressional review.

"802. Congressional approval procedure for major rules.

"803. Congressional disapproval procedure for nonmajor rules.

"804. Definitions.

"805. Judicial review.

"806. Exemption for monetary policy.

"807. Effective date of certain rules.

"§ 801. Congressional review

"(a)(1)(A) Before a rule may take effect, the Federal agency promulgating such rule shall submit to each House of Congress and to the Comptroller General a report containing—

"(i) a copy of the rule;

"(ii) a concise general statement relating to the rule;

"(iii) a classification of the rule as a major or nonmajor rule, including an explanation of the classification specifically addressing each criteria for a major rule contained within sections 804(2)(A), 804(2)(B), and 804(2)(C);

"(iv) a list of any other related regulatory actions intended to implement the same statutory provision or regulatory objective as well as the individual and aggregate economic effects of those actions; and

"(v) the proposed effective date of the rule.

"(B) On the date of the submission of the report under subparagraph (A), the Federal agency promulgating the rule shall submit to the Comptroller General and make available to each House of Congress—

"(i) a complete copy of the cost-benefit analysis of the rule, if any;

"(ii) the actions of the agency pursuant to sections 603, 604, 605, 607, and 609 of title 5, United States Code;

"(iii) the actions of the agency pursuant to sections 1532, 1533, 1534, and 1535 of title 2, United States Code; and

"(iv) any other relevant information or requirements under any other Act and any relevant Executive orders.

"(C) Upon receipt of a report submitted under subparagraph (A), each House shall provide copies of the report to the chairman and ranking member of each standing committee with jurisdiction under the rules of the House of Representatives or the Senate to report a bill to amend the provision of law under which the rule is issued.

"(2)(A) The Comptroller General shall provide a report on each major rule to the committees of jurisdiction by the end of 15 calendar days after the submission or publication date as provided in section 802(b)(2). The report of the Comptroller General shall include an assessment of compliance by the agency with procedural steps required by paragraph (1)(B).

"(B) Federal agencies shall cooperate with the Comptroller General by providing information relevant to the Comptroller General's report under subparagraph (A).

"(3) A major rule relating to a report submitted under paragraph (1) shall take effect upon enactment of a joint resolution of approval described in section 802 or as provided for in the rule following enactment of a joint resolution of approval described in section 802, whichever is later.

"(4) A nonmajor rule shall take effect as provided by section 803 after submission to Congress under paragraph (1).

"(5) If a joint resolution of approval relating to a major rule is not enacted within the period provided in subsection (b)(2), then a joint resolution of approval relating to the same rule may not be considered under this chapter in the same Congress by either the House of Representatives or the Senate.

"(b)(1) A major rule shall not take effect unless the Congress enacts a joint resolution of approval described under section 802.

"(2) If a joint resolution described in subsection (a) is not enacted into law by the end of 70 session days or legislative days, as applicable, beginning on the date on which the report referred to in section 801(a)(1)(A) is received by Congress (excluding days either House of Congress is adjourned for more than 3 days during a session of Congress), then the rule described in that resolution shall be

deemed not to be approved and such rule shall not take effect.

“(c)(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section (except subject to paragraph (3)), a major rule may take effect for one 90-calendar-day period if the President makes a determination under paragraph (2) and submits written notice of such determination to the Congress.

“(2) Paragraph (1) applies to a determination made by the President by Executive order that the major rule should take effect because such rule is—

“(A) necessary because of an imminent threat to health or safety or other emergency;

“(B) necessary for the enforcement of criminal laws;

“(C) necessary for national security; or

“(D) issued pursuant to any statute implementing an international trade agreement.

“(3) An exercise by the President of the authority under this subsection shall have no effect on the procedures under section 802.

“(d)(1) In addition to the opportunity for review otherwise provided under this chapter, sections 802 and 803 shall apply, in the succeeding session of Congress, to any rule for which a report was submitted in accordance with subsection (a)(1)(A) during the period beginning on the date occurring—

“(A) in the case of the Senate, 60 session days before the date the Congress is scheduled to adjourn a session of Congress through the date on which the same or succeeding Congress first convenes its next session; or

“(B) in the case of the House of Representatives, 60 legislative days before the date the Congress is scheduled to adjourn a session of Congress through the date on which the same or succeeding Congress first convenes its next session.

“(2)(A) In applying sections 802 and 803 for purposes of such additional review, a rule described under paragraph (1) shall be treated as though—

“(i) such rule were published in the Federal Register on—

“(I) in the case of the Senate, the 15th session day after the succeeding session of Congress first convenes; or

“(II) in the case of the House of Representatives, the 15th legislative day after the succeeding session of Congress first convenes; and

“(ii) a report on such rule were submitted to Congress under subsection (a)(1) on such date.

“(B) Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to affect the requirement under subsection (a)(1) that a report shall be submitted to Congress before a rule can take effect.

“(3) A rule described under paragraph (1) shall take effect as otherwise provided by law (including other subsections of this section).

“§ 802. Congressional approval procedure for major rules

“(a)(1) For purposes of this section, the term ‘joint resolution’ means only a joint resolution addressing a report classifying a rule as major pursuant to section 801(a)(1)(A)(iii) that—

“(A) bears no preamble;

“(B) bears the following title: ‘Approving the rule submitted by _____ relating to _____.’ (The blank spaces being appropriately filled in);

“(C) includes after its resolving clause only the following: ‘That Congress approves the rule submitted by _____ relating to _____.’ (The blank spaces being appropriately filled in); and

“(D) is introduced pursuant to paragraph (2).

“(2) After a House of Congress receives a report classifying a rule as major pursuant to section 801(a)(1)(A)(iii), the majority leader of that House (or the designee of the majority leader) shall introduce (by request, if appropriate) a joint resolution described in paragraph (1)—

“(A) in the case of the House of Representatives, within 3 legislative days; and

“(B) in the case of the Senate, within 3 session days.

“(3) A joint resolution described in paragraph (1) shall not be subject to amendment at any stage of proceeding.

“(b) A joint resolution described in subsection (a) shall be referred in each House of Congress to the committees having jurisdiction over the provision of law under which the rule is issued.

“(c) In the Senate, if the committee or committees to which a joint resolution described in subsection (a) has been referred have not reported it at the end of 15 session days after its introduction, such committee or committees shall be automatically discharged from further consideration of the resolution and it shall be placed on the calendar. A vote on final passage of the resolution shall be taken on or before the close of the 15th session day after the resolution is reported by the committee or committees to which it was referred, or after such committee or committees have been discharged from further consideration of the resolution.

“(d)(1) In the Senate, when the committee or committees to which a joint resolution is referred have reported, or when a committee or committees are discharged (under subsection (c)) from further consideration of a joint resolution described in subsection (a), it is at any time thereafter in order (even though a previous motion to the same effect has been disagreed to) for a motion to proceed to the consideration of the joint resolution, and all points of order against the joint resolution (and against consideration of the joint resolution) are waived. The motion is not subject to amendment, or to a motion to postpone, or to a motion to proceed to the consideration of other business. A motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion is agreed to or disagreed to shall not be in order. If a motion to proceed to the consideration of the joint resolution is agreed to, the joint resolution shall remain the unfinished business of the Senate until disposed of.

“(2) In the Senate, debate on the joint resolution, and on all debatable motions and appeals in connection therewith, shall be limited to not more than 2 hours, which shall be divided equally between those favoring and those opposing the joint resolution. A motion to further limit debate is in order and not debatable. An amendment to, or a motion to postpone, or a motion to proceed to the consideration of other business, or a motion to recommit the joint resolution is not in order.

“(3) In the Senate, immediately following the conclusion of the debate on a joint resolution described in subsection (a), and a single quorum call at the conclusion of the debate if requested in accordance with the rules of the Senate, the vote on final passage of the joint resolution shall occur.

“(4) Appeals from the decisions of the Chair relating to the application of the rules of the Senate to the procedure relating to a joint resolution described in subsection (a) shall be decided without debate.

“(e) In the House of Representatives, if the committee or committees to which a joint resolution described in subsection (a) has been referred has not reported it to the House at the end of 15 legislative days after its introduction, such committee or committees shall be discharged from further consideration of the joint resolution, and it shall

be placed on the appropriate calendar. On the second and fourth Thursdays of each month it shall be in order at any time for the Speaker to recognize a Member who favors passage of a joint resolution that has appeared on the calendar for not fewer than 5 legislative days to call up the joint resolution for immediate consideration in the House without intervention of any point of order. When so called up, a joint resolution shall be considered as read and shall be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, and the previous question shall be considered as ordered to its passage without intervening motion. It shall not be in order to reconsider the vote on passage. If a vote on final passage of the joint resolution has not been taken by the third Thursday on which the Speaker may recognize a Member under this subsection, such vote shall be taken on that day.

“(f)(1) For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘identical joint resolution’ means a joint resolution of the first House that proposes to approve the same major rule as a joint resolution of the second House.

“(2) If the second House receives from the first House a joint resolution, the Chair shall determine whether the joint resolution is an identical joint resolution.

“(3) If the second House receives an identical joint resolution—

“(A) the identical joint resolution shall not be referred to a committee; and

“(B) the procedure in the second House shall be the same as if no joint resolution had been received from the first house, except that the vote on final passage shall be on the identical joint resolution.

“(4) This subsection shall not apply to the House of Representatives if the joint resolution received from the Senate is a revenue measure.

“(g) If either House has not taken a vote on final passage of the joint resolution by the last day of the period described in section 801(b)(2), then such vote shall be taken on that day.

“(h) This section and section 803 are enacted by Congress—

“(1) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of the Senate and House of Representatives, respectively, and as such is deemed to be part of the rules of each House, respectively, but applicable only with respect to the procedure to be followed in that House in the case of a joint resolution described in subsection (a) and superseding other rules only where explicitly so; and

“(2) with full recognition of the constitutional right of either House to change the rules (so far as they relate to the procedure of that House) at any time, in the same manner and to the same extent as in the case of any other rule of that House.

“§ 803. Congressional disapproval procedure for nonmajor rules

“(a) For purposes of this section, the term ‘joint resolution’ means only a joint resolution introduced in the period beginning on the date on which the report referred to in section 801(a)(1)(A) is received by Congress and ending 60 days thereafter (excluding days either House of Congress is adjourned for more than 3 days during a session of Congress), the matter after the resolving clause of which is as follows: ‘That Congress disapproves the nonmajor rule submitted by the _____ relating to _____, and such rule shall have no force or effect.’ (The blank spaces being appropriately filled in).

“(b)(1) A joint resolution described in subsection (a) shall be referred to the committees in each House of Congress with jurisdiction.

“(2) For purposes of this section, the term ‘submission or publication date’ means the later of the date on which—

“(A) the Congress receives the report submitted under section 801(a)(1); or

“(B) the nonmajor rule is published in the Federal Register, if so published.

“(c) In the Senate, if the committee to which is referred a joint resolution described in subsection (a) has not reported such joint resolution (or an identical joint resolution) at the end of 15 session days after the date of introduction of the joint resolution, such committee may be discharged from further consideration of such joint resolution upon a petition supported in writing by 30 Members of the Senate, and such joint resolution shall be placed on the calendar.

“(d)(1) In the Senate, when the committee to which a joint resolution is referred has reported, or when a committee is discharged (under subsection (c)) from further consideration of a joint resolution described in subsection (a), it is at any time thereafter in order (even though a previous motion to the same effect has been disagreed to) for a motion to proceed to the consideration of the joint resolution, and all points of order against the joint resolution (and against consideration of the joint resolution) are waived. The motion is not subject to amendment, or to a motion to postpone, or to a motion to proceed to the consideration of other business. A motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion is agreed to or disagreed to shall not be in order. If a motion to proceed to the consideration of the joint resolution is agreed to, the joint resolution shall remain the unfinished business of the Senate until disposed of.

“(2) In the Senate, debate on the joint resolution, and on all debatable motions and appeals in connection therewith, shall be limited to not more than 10 hours, which shall be divided equally between those favoring and those opposing the joint resolution. A motion to further limit debate is in order and not debatable. An amendment to, or a motion to postpone, or a motion to proceed to the consideration of other business, or a motion to recommit the joint resolution is not in order.

“(3) In the Senate, immediately following the conclusion of the debate on a joint resolution described in subsection (a), and a single quorum call at the conclusion of the debate if requested in accordance with the rules of the Senate, the vote on final passage of the joint resolution shall occur.

“(4) Appeals from the decisions of the Chair relating to the application of the rules of the Senate to the procedure relating to a joint resolution described in subsection (a) shall be decided without debate.

“(e) In the Senate the procedure specified in subsection (c) or (d) shall not apply to the consideration of a joint resolution respecting a nonmajor rule—

“(1) after the expiration of the 60 session days beginning with the applicable submission or publication date, or

“(2) if the report under section 801(a)(1)(A) was submitted during the period referred to in section 801(d)(1), after the expiration of the 60 session days beginning on the 15th session day after the succeeding session of Congress first convenes.

“(f) If, before the passage by one House of a joint resolution of that House described in subsection (a), that House receives from the other House a joint resolution described in subsection (a), then the following procedures shall apply:

“(1) The joint resolution of the other House shall not be referred to a committee.

“(2) With respect to a joint resolution described in subsection (a) of the House receiving the joint resolution—

“(A) the procedure in that House shall be the same as if no joint resolution had been received from the other House; but

“(B) the vote on final passage shall be on the joint resolution of the other House.

“§ 804. Definitions

“For purposes of this chapter—

“(1) the term ‘Federal agency’ means any agency as that term is defined in section 551(1);

“(2) the term ‘major rule’ means any rule, including an interim final rule, that the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of the Office of Management and Budget finds has resulted in or is likely to result in—

“(A) an annual effect on the economy of \$100,000,000 or more;

“(B) a major increase in costs or prices for consumers, individual industries, Federal, State, or local government agencies, or geographic regions; or

“(C) significant adverse effects on competition, employment, investment, productivity, innovation, or on the ability of United States-based enterprises to compete with foreign-based enterprises in domestic and export markets;

“(3) the term ‘nonmajor rule’ means any rule that is not a major rule; and

“(4) the term ‘rule’ has the meaning given such term in section 551, except that such term does not include—

“(A) any rule of particular applicability, including a rule that approves or prescribes for the future rates, wages, prices, services, or allowances therefore, corporate or financial structures, reorganizations, mergers, or acquisitions thereof, or accounting practices or disclosures bearing on any of the foregoing;

“(B) any rule relating to agency management or personnel; or

“(C) any rule of agency organization, procedure, or practice that does not substantially affect the rights or obligations of non-agency parties.

“§ 805. Judicial review

“(a) No determination, finding, action, or omission under this chapter shall be subject to judicial review.

“(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a), a court may determine whether a Federal agency has completed the necessary requirements under this chapter for a rule to take effect.

“(c) The enactment of a joint resolution of approval under section 802 shall not—

“(1) be interpreted to serve as a grant or modification of statutory authority by Congress for the promulgation of a rule;

“(2) extinguish or affect any claim, whether substantive or procedural, against any alleged defect in a rule; and

“(3) form part of the record before the court in any judicial proceeding concerning a rule except for purposes of determining whether or not the rule is in effect.

“§ 806. Exemption for monetary policy

“Nothing in this chapter shall apply to rules that concern monetary policy proposed or implemented by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System or the Federal Open Market Committee.

“§ 807. Effective date of certain rules

“Notwithstanding section 801—

“(1) any rule that establishes, modifies, opens, closes, or conducts a regulatory program for a commercial, recreational, or subsistence activity related to hunting, fishing, or camping; or

“(2) any rule other than a major rule which an agency for good cause finds (and incorporates the finding and a brief statement of reasons therefore in the rule issued) that notice and public procedure thereon are impracticable, unnecessary, or contrary to the public interest, shall take effect at such time as the Federal agency promulgating the rule determines.”.

SEC. 4. BUDGETARY EFFECTS OF RULES SUBJECT TO SECTION 802 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE.

Section 257(b)(2) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 907(b)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(E) Any rules subject to the congressional approval procedure set forth in section 802 of chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, affecting budget authority, outlays, or receipts shall be assumed to be effective unless it is not approved in accordance with such section.”.

SA 2598. Mr. LEE (for Mr. PAUL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. Lee to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 59, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

SECTION 1. PERMANENT SUSPENSION OF PRICE SUPPORT AUTHORITY.

(a) AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 1938.—The following provisions of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 shall not be applicable to covered commodities (as defined in section 1001 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8702)), peanuts, and sugar and shall not be applicable to milk:

(1) Parts II through V of subtitle B of title III (7 U.S.C. 1326 et seq.).

(2) In the case of upland cotton, section 377 (7 U.S.C. 1377).

(3) Subtitle D of title III (7 U.S.C. 1379a et seq.).

(4) Title IV (7 U.S.C. 1401 et seq.).

(b) AGRICULTURAL ACT OF 1949.—The following provisions of the Agricultural Act of 1949 shall not be applicable to covered commodities (as defined in section 1001 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8702)), peanuts, and sugar and shall not be applicable to milk:

(1) Section 101 (7 U.S.C. 1441).

(2) Section 103(a) (7 U.S.C. 1444(a)).

(3) Section 105 (7 U.S.C. 1444b).

(4) Section 107 (7 U.S.C. 1445a).

(5) Section 110 (7 U.S.C. 1445e).

(6) Section 112 (7 U.S.C. 1445g).

(7) Section 115 (7 U.S.C. 1445k).

(8) Section 201 (7 U.S.C. 1446).

(9) Title III (7 U.S.C. 1447 et seq.).

(10) Title IV (7 U.S.C. 1421 et seq.), other than sections 404, 412, and 416 (7 U.S.C. 1424, 1429, and 1431).

(11) Title V (7 U.S.C. 1461 et seq.).

(12) Title VI (7 U.S.C. 1471 et seq.).

(c) SUSPENSION OF CERTAIN QUOTA PROVISIONS.—The joint resolution entitled “A joint resolution relating to corn and wheat marketing quotas under the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, as amended”, approved May 26, 1941 (7 U.S.C. 1330 and 1340), shall not be applicable to crops of wheat.

SA 2599. Mr. LEE (for Mr. PAUL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. Lee to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 59, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Preserving Freedom from Unwarranted Surveillance Act of 2013”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act—

(1) the term “drone” has the meaning given the term “unmanned aircraft” in section 331 of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 (49 U.S.C. 40101 note); and

(2) the term "law enforcement party" means a person or entity authorized by law, or funded by the Government of the United States, to investigate or prosecute offenses against the United States.

SEC. 3. PROHIBITED USE OF DRONES.

Except as provided in section 4, a person or entity acting under the authority, or funded in whole or in part by, the Government of the United States shall not use a drone to gather evidence or other information pertaining to criminal conduct or conduct in violation of a statute or regulation except to the extent authorized in a warrant that satisfies the requirements of the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

SEC. 4. EXCEPTIONS.

This Act does not prohibit any of the following:

(1) **PATROL OF BORDERS.**—The use of a drone to patrol national borders to prevent or deter illegal entry of any persons or illegal substances.

(2) **EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES.**—The use of a drone by a law enforcement party when exigent circumstances exist. For the purposes of this paragraph, exigent circumstances exist when the law enforcement party possesses reasonable suspicion that under particular circumstances, swift action to prevent imminent danger to the life of an individual is necessary.

(3) **HIGH RISK.**—The use of a drone to counter a high risk of a terrorist attack by a specific individual or organization, when the Secretary of Homeland Security determines credible intelligence indicates there is such a risk.

SEC. 5. REMEDIES FOR VIOLATION.

Any aggrieved party may in a civil action obtain all appropriate relief to prevent or remedy a violation of this Act.

SEC. 6. PROHIBITION ON USE OF EVIDENCE.

No evidence obtained or collected in violation of this Act may be admissible as evidence in a criminal prosecution in any court of law in the United States.

NOTICE OF HEARING

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a business meeting has been scheduled before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on Thursday, December 19, 2013, at 9:30 a.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC.

The purpose of the business meeting is to consider pending calendar business.

For further information, please contact Sam Fowler at (202) 224-7571 or Abigail Campbell at (202) 224-4905.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on December 16, 2013, at 5:30 p.m.

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

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Colin Goldfinch, a fellow on the Finance Committee, and Stephen Jenkins and Kevin McNellis, interns on the Finance Committee, be granted floor privileges for Tuesday, December 17, 2013.

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

AUTHORIZING THE PRINTING OF A COLLECTION OF THE RULES OF THE COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 322.

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

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 322) to authorize printing of a collection of the rules of the committees of the Senate.

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

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, and that there be no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 322) was agreed to.

(The resolution is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, pursuant to Public Law 106-398, as amended by Public Law 108-7, and upon the recommendation of the majority leader, in consultation with the Chairmen of the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the Senate Committee on Finance, reappoints the following individuals to the United States-China Economic Security Review Commission: William A. Reinsch of Maryland for a term beginning January 1, 2014 and expiring December 31, 2015, and The Honorable Carte P. Goodwin of West Virginia for a term beginning January 1, 2014 and expiring December 31, 2015.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2013

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until tomorrow morning at 9 a.m.; that is, December 17, 2013; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the first vote will be at 10 a.m. on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to concur with respect to the budget agreement.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. REID. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate adjourn following the remarks of the Senator from Alabama, Mr. SESSIONS.

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

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

NOMINATION OF JEH JOHNSON

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I spoke a bit earlier in relation to the nomination of Jeh Johnson to be Secretary of Homeland Security.

It is an important department with 240,000 employees, and includes the Coast Guard, the Secret Service, TSA airport personnel, and ICE officers who enforce immigration laws, our Border Patrol officers who patrol the border, the Citizenship and Immigration Service which evaluates and approves or disapproves people who apply for admission to the United States, and agency after agency.

I have watched many of these complex departments and do not believe they have been brought together to the degree they ought to be, and it hasn't had the kind of strong leadership it needs to have to be effective for the American people.

In addition to that, we have the difficulty that this administration has basically told the immigration component of Homeland Security—one of its largest components—that they shouldn't do their job. They have been blocked and instructed not to enforce the law to a degree that Professor Turley said represents an unacceptable alteration of the Madisonian understanding of the separation of powers.

In other words, the President is charged with the duty to enforce law, to see that the laws of the United States are faithfully enforced. He is not given the power to flatly direct his officers not to enforce laws of the Congress.

I am sure Mr. Johnson has many abilities. He is apparently a Wall Street lawyer, a big political campaigner, has raised a bunch of money

and gave money to President Obama. He is a close confidant of President Obama, was made the legal counsel for the Department of Defense—about which he said he was President Obama's man at the Department of Defense.

But he has not had any real leadership and management experience. He shows no interest in or desire to seize control of this Department, to make it better, and to honor the officers who are a part of it and who serve their country often at risk every day, only to find that high political appointees in that Department undermine their ability to enforce the law and place their lives at risk.

You say: JEFF, that is an exaggeration. I am going to talk tonight in some detail about some of the things this administration has done to undermine, block, and frustrate the ability of the fine law enforcement officers—ICE officers, customs enforcement officers, Border Patrol officers—who serve our country on a daily basis at risk to themselves, and it is not good.

A lot of people might not know that I was a Federal prosecutor and Attorney General of Alabama. Back in the mid-1990s when I was traveling the State, I would meet the law enforcement officers and I would ask them: What happens when you apprehend somebody in Alabama whom you identify as illegally in the country?

Their answer was: Nothing. We let them go. We are told by the Federal officials—who are the only ones that can deport anybody: If you don't apprehend at least 15, don't bother to call us. So we just don't do it.

People are shocked at that. I would have town meetings and I would ask people: What happens if your local police officer or local sheriff apprehends somebody? They think they turn them over to the Federal Government for deportation, and that did not happen. It hasn't happened in a long time. But it has gotten worse than that.

The argument was: What we would do is enforce the workplace and we would keep people from getting a job. If they don't have a job, they won't come to America. We are going to enforce that. That has never been effectively enforced. That is just talk. It is not happening. At a time of extraordinarily high unemployment, at a time when wages for working Americans are sliding downward and not going up, and when every month that goes by we see large numbers of people hired part time rather than full time, all of this is happening while we are totally unwilling to take any action which would stop illegal workers from getting jobs that Americans need.

We have American people that are hurting. We have American people unemployed. We have children and grandchildren and grandparents and mothers and fathers unemployed or only in part-time jobs. Over the last 5 or 6 years, the number of people who have gotten jobs in America is about 1.9 mil-

lion over that period. That is how many immigrant workers entered the country. So the net improvement in employment in a mathematic sense has all gone to foreign workers who come to America—legally or illegally.

So we need to be serious about this. We need to ask ourselves: Don't we have an obligation to the American people to faithfully enforce the laws, and to end the lawlessness and create a good immigration system which serves the interests of America and of American workers? I think we do. I think that is what the American people want. I think they are entitled to that, and I want to show tonight how far away from that we are today.

The reason I am talking about this is we just confirmed Jeh Johnson as the Secretary of Homeland Security. He is the political confidant of the President, and the President has no intention of enforcing the laws and has created a circumstance which is not good for this country.

Mr. Johnson, in my brief conversation with him, seemed like a nice enough gentleman. But I asked him: Why do you want this job, Mr. Johnson? You say you believe in law and you believe the laws ought to be enforced. If you take this job, you are not going to be allowed to enforce the laws. You just need to know that.

I asked him, was he going to be willing to confront the President and tell him: You can't do this. I am a sworn officer here. I have thousands of law enforcement officers working for me out there on the streets, out there dealing directly with people in violation of American law, and I can't keep telling them not to do what they are required to do. I don't have the ability to deny them the right to enforce the laws of the United States.

This issue was defined early in the Obama administration.

President Bush was slow. But President Bush, after comprehensive reform in 2006 and 2007 failed, seemed to get it. So he called out the National Guard, which made a positive difference. He stepped up enforcement. We finally began to build fencing, and he began to have a pretty good bit of workplace enforcement. They raided some chicken plants in Georgia, and they found hundreds of people working here illegally.

What happened in Georgia was they had to raise pay to get legal immigrants to come to work. What is wrong with that? Pay is too low in America. We need higher wages.

So the people during the campaign who had been interfacing with the Obama administration obviously had a deal. They were told they were going to stop these kinds of enforcement and they weren't going to do them anymore. The Immigration and Customs Enforcement raid in Washington State was a completely justified enforcement action. But pro-amnesty groups complained. As a result, the Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano—who Mr. JOHNSON will replace—vowed

that she would get to the bottom of this problem.

An article in the Washington Times quoted a Homeland Security official as saying: The Secretary is "not happy about it." Instead of enforcing the law, the Secretary investigated the law officers who were simply doing their duty—apparently in response to some demands of advocacy groups who had been pushing them during the campaign.

Then Esther Olavarria, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security, said on a phone call with employers and pro-amnesty groups: We are not doing raids or audits under this administration.

This statement symbolized the end of workplace enforcement in America, and it is in violation of law. Workers are not entitled to work illegally in American factories or plants. Where did this come from? How did it ever get to be the idea that Americans can have their jobs taken by people illegally in the country, and you can't ever do an investigation or enforcement action and remove people who are illegally here and not authorized to work?

Then, in 2010, the administration began implementing its plan to dismantle the immigration law enforcement system as we know it.

On May 19, 2010, in an interview with the Chicago tribune, then-Director of ICE John Morton announced that ICE may not even process or accept the transfer of illegal aliens to the agency's custody by Arizona officials. Arizona, of course, was facing a very serious problem.

Mr. President, on May 27, 2010, an internal ICE email revealed that top officials declared that the low-risk immigration detainees would be able to have far greater visitation rights, with visitors staying an unlimited amount of time during a 12-hour window—which can really make maintaining order at a detention facility difficult—and also that they, the detainees, would be given access to unmonitored phone lines. The mayor of your town, who is in jail over tax evasion, doesn't get unmonitored phone line use, but apparently illegal aliens do. They get email, free Internet calling, movie nights, bingo, arts and crafts, dance and cooking classes, tutoring and computer training. All of these are for people who have been apprehended while illegally in the country. It really should be on a fast turnaround to be returned to the country from which they came.

On June 25, 2010, the National ICE Council, which is the union that represents more than 7,000 fine ICE officers, cast a unanimous vote. They voted "no confidence" in their Director, John Morton. According to the union, the vote reflected "the growing dissatisfaction among ICE employees and union leaders that Director Morton

had abandoned the agency's core mission of enforcing United States immigration laws and enforcing public safety and has instead directed their attention to campaigning for programs and policies relating to amnesty."

I have been here in the Senate now for going on 17 years and I am not aware of a major governmental employee union voting "no confidence" in its boss, particularly when it deals with the simple policies of law and enforcement, not even relating to some workplace rule or complaint.

In August 2010 top ICE officials began circulating a draft policy that would significantly limit the circumstances under which ICE could detain illegal aliens. In effect, ICE agents were no longer authorized to pick up an illegal alien for illegally entering the country or for possessing false identification documents. False documents? You go to the bank or you go to get on an airplane and you use a false document, somebody is going to prosecute you. But if you are, apparently, a noncitizen who entered the country illegally, you are given immunity by the administration. Why? Because they do not want to see the law enforced. That is the reason. They basically have made that decision. Under the new policy, illegal aliens could only be detained if other law enforcement agencies made an arrest for a specific criminal violation. This was the beginning of what would become known as administrative amnesty.

Then in December 2010 a Washington Post article on internal ICE emails and communications reported that ICE had padded its deportation statistics. Many of you have heard that the administration claims they deported far more people than before; therefore, they should be applauded for being effective law enforcement officers. But it is a fact that those numbers were padded and exaggerated. According to the Washington Post article, ICE included 19,422 removals in fiscal year 2010 that were actually removals from fiscal year 2009.

We have had a problem in this country. There is a growing concern about this administration not telling the truth. Their philosophy seems to be, we say whatever is convenient at the time, and when we get caught we do not worry about it, we just keep right on going and our friendly press will ignore it. But it is beginning to bite now. People are getting tired of this.

This is a deliberate—by 19,000—misrepresentation of the number of removals.

The article also described how ICE extended a Mexican repatriation program beyond its normal operation date, adding 6,500 to the final removal numbers—again, making them look better than they were.

In a March 2, 2011 memo, ICE Director Morton outlined new enforcement priorities and encouraged agents not to enforce the law against most illegal aliens and to only take action against those who meet certain priorities.

On July 17, 2011, ICE Director Morton issued a second memorandum further directing ICE agents to refrain from enforcing the law against certain segments of the illegal alien population—criteria similar to that under the DREAM Act—despite having no legal or congressional authority to do so and despite the fact that Congress had explicitly rejected the DREAM Act three times. This is a matter of serious constitutional import.

On June 17, 2011, ICE Director Morton issued a third memo instructing ICE personnel to consider refraining from enforcing the law against individuals engaged in a protected activity related to civil or other rights. So if you are in the country illegally and, for example, union organizing or complaining to authorities about employment discrimination or housing conditions, you can be protected from being deported. Anybody who is in a nonfrivolous dispute with an employer, landlord, or contractor seems to be eligible to avoid the consequences of being in the country illegally.

On June 23, 2011, the ICE Agents and Officers' Union again expressed outrage over Director Morton's actions, noting that since the administration was "unable to pass its immigration agenda through legislation, it is now implementing it through agency policy." That is exactly what they did. Everybody who knows enough about what is going on knows that is what they did. But somehow, like the frog in the ever-warming water, we are oblivious to the consequences when an executive branch declares and directs a law to be enforced and carried out that was never passed and in fact was rejected in recent years three separate times.

The ICE officers association accused the appointees of working hand in hand with the open borders lobby—they see this on a daily basis—while excluding its officers, the ICE officers, from the policy development process.

In effect, ICE officers allege that the political appointees at ICE were advancing the agenda of those here illegally and maneuvering against their own law enforcement officers trying to do their duty—to enforce the law and end the illegality in America. That is exactly what they said was happening, and that is exactly what is happening, colleagues.

On June 27, 2011, an internal memorandum revealed that ICE officers attempted to publicly distance themselves from the administrative amnesty policies and deny that they ever existed after the Houston Chronicle exposed the Department of Homeland Security directive to review and dismiss valid deportation cases then in process.

On August 1, 2011, the Justice Department filed a lawsuit in Federal court to stop Alabama's law that was designed to assist the Federal Government in identifying and bringing forth to the Federal officials people in the country illegally.

On August 18, 2011, Secretary Napolitano announced that DHS was review-

ing all pending and incoming deportation cases to stop proceedings against those illegal aliens who were not DHS priorities.

On September 28, of 2011, at a roundtable with amnesty advocates, President Obama admitted that his deportation statistics were misleading. He said:

The statistics are actually a little deceptive because what we've been doing is . . . apprehending folks at the borders and sending them back. That is counted as a deportation even though they may have only been held for a day or 48 hours.

That is pretty interesting. So the President is meeting with amnesty advocates, and he is admitting this to them but not to the American people. He told the American people they had an enhanced number of deportations. But when he met with the amnesty people to assuage their complaints that too many people were being deported, he said the numbers were not correct.

We need the President of the United States to look the group in the eye and say: If you come to America illegally, expect to be deported if we apprehend you. What else should he say? He is the chief law enforcement of America. He is charged with ensuring that the laws of the United States are faithfully executed.

On October 12, in testimony before the House Judiciary Committee, Director Morton admits that Cecilia Munoz, a former senior vice president of the National Council of La Raza and now assistant to the President and Director of the White House Domestic Policy Council, assisted in the preparation of the administrative amnesty memorandum.

La Raza has been awfully aggressive on these issues. They have every right to be aggressive, but I have to tell you their positions are nowhere near anything that comes close to being an advocate for a lawful system of immigration in America. They want the lawlessness to continue.

On October 18, 2011, ICE refused to take any action after the Santa Clara County, CA, Board of Supervisors voted to stop using county funds to honor ICE detainees except in limited circumstances.

Let me tell you about this. I have been an attorney general and a U.S. attorney. A detainer is a very useful law enforcement tool that is critical for harmonious relationships between various agencies. If somebody arrests somebody and they are serving time for drug dealing or burglary and another jurisdiction has a charge against him, they place a detainer against him at that jail. As soon as they finish their term, they are not released; they are turned over to the agency that has another charge pending against them.

So the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors voted not to allow the Federal Government to place detainees on people in their jail who were here in the country illegally and voted, in effect, not to turn them over, as all law

enforcement officers do and have done for decades.

So ICE didn't do anything about it. They still send them Federal money for law enforcement. They have things that they could do. They just went along with it because I guess they don't care.

On October 19, ICE refused to act after the mayor of District of Columbia, Vincent Gray, issued an order to prevent the DC police from enforcing U.S. immigration law. Among other things, the order prohibits all public safety agencies from inquiring about an individual's immigration status—they can't even inquire about it—or from contacting ICE if there is no nexus to a direct criminal investigation other than immigration.

The District of Columbia knows better than that. ICE says their officers can't even inquire to see if somebody is illegally in the country? That is a stretch. That is unacceptable. We ought to cut off funds for cities that refuse to at least conduct minimal cooperation with Federal law enforcement.

October 31, 2011, the Justice Department filed a suit against South Carolina to block their immigration law designed to help the Federal Government enforce immigration laws. They had plenty of time to sue States and other entities who want to help them enforce the laws. They had plenty of time also to meet with amnesty groups but no time whatsoever to meet with these law officers and find out what their concerns are or to draft policies that would help us to be more effective.

On November 7, 2011, USCIS issued a memo stating that USCIS will no longer issue "notices to appear" in immigration court to illegal aliens who do not meet administration priorities. That is a major step backward.

On November 22, the Justice Department filed suit against Utah's immigration enforcement system. They have plenty of time to sue Utah, which would like them to help enforce the law.

On November 22, ICE refused to act after Mayor Michael Bloomberg signed a measure ordering all New York City jails to ignore certain ICE detainers issued to deport illegal aliens from those jails. So the mayor of New York issues an order not to honor the detainers placed there by the Federal Government—the U.S. government.

Mr. Bloomberg is spending millions of dollars of his billion-dollar wealth to lobby the House to pass an amnesty bill. It is his money; I guess he can spend it where he wants to. But just because he has made \$1 billion, I don't think it suggests to me that he has any better idea about how to run the immigration system of the United States than I do, since I spent 14 years dealing with Federal law enforcement.

On December 15, 2011, DHS rescinded Maricopa County, Arizona's 287(g) agreement, a cooperative agreement whereby local law enforcement re-

ceived training in identifying and apprehending illegal aliens and handling them in a way preferably consistent with law—being very careful in how we treat people who are detained in a decent and very fine way. The 287(g) Program is a very fine program. It really is good. And it is a great disappointment to me that this administration has basically killed it.

I remember Alabama was the first State in the Nation that participated in the 287(g) Program. A certain number of officers—not a huge number—came to a training center for several weeks and were trained on how to be of valuable assistance to the Federal officers to maximize their ability to be effective. This has been canceled. It basically ended under this administration.

Director Morton told a Maricopa County attorney that ICE will no longer respond to calls from Maricopa County sheriff's officers involving traffic stops, civil infractions, or other minor offenses. DHS's legal reasoning is unclear given that Federal law requires the Federal Government to respond to inquiries by law enforcement agencies to verify immigration status. In other words, local officers apprehend somebody and they make an inquiry as to whether this person is lawfully in the country and they have a right to be responded to. Apparently, they have chosen not to respond to that basic law enforcement request.

On December 29, 2011, ICE announced the creation of a 24-hour hotline for illegal alien detainees to be staffed by the Law Enforcement Support Center—the same organization that ICE had already stated was understaffed as far as keeping up with the immigration status check requests for State and local law enforcement. They were getting lots of requests for statuses on people, about whether they were legally or illegally here, from local law enforcement. They don't have enough time to do that, but now these officers have been given the extra duty of having a 24-hour hotline for illegal alien detainees. Who are we serving here?

ICE then revised its detainer form to include a new provision which states ICE should consider this request for a detainer operative "only upon the subject's conviction" of an offense. It completely ignores the fact that presence in the United States of America illegally is a violation of federal law.

On January 3, 2012, there was a report by the inspector general that revealed that USCIS officials or top political officials pressured the employees to approve applications that should have been denied and that employees believed they did not have enough time to complete the interviews of applicants, "leaving ample opportunity for critical information to be overlooked." The 911 Commission said people should be interviewed face-to-face, but that idea has completely collapsed today.

On January 10, 2012, the President promoted Cecelia Munoz to be the new Director of his Domestic Policy Coun-

cil. She previously served as senior vice president of La Raza. We need an objective person in that position, not an advocate for undermining the law. I am not saying she is a bad person. She is perfectly legitimate to be an advocate for amnesty or open borders. It is a free country. But she ought not to be put in a top position where the duty is to enforce the law.

On January 17, 2012, DHS stopped the rollout of the Secure Communities Act in Alabama, according to a DHS email, because the administration disagrees with Alabama's immigration law. They just quit cooperating.

In January 2012, ICE attorneys in Denver and in Baltimore recommended that the agency voluntarily close 1,667 removal cases, resulting in the release of illegal aliens already in proceedings without consequence of their violation of immigration law.

On January 19, 2012, the President issued an Executive order waiving certain screening safeguards, allowing those applying for nonimmigrant visas—people who come here to work only—to obtain them more easily from China and Brazil. On the same day, the State Department announced it will waive the longstanding statutory requirement of in-person interviews by a consular officer.

On February 7, 2012, ICE announced the creation of a public advocate who is to serve as a point of contact for aliens in removal proceedings, community advocacy groups, and others who have concerns, questions, and recommendations they would like to raise about the enforcement of laws and amnesty efforts.

In February 2012, the President revealed in his budget a proposal to cut funding for ICE and the 287(g) Program, effectively gutting the program.

On April 17, 2012, the administration announced it would reduce National Guard troops stationed at the border from 1,200 to 300. Is this an action of an administration that seems to be interested in seeing that we have a lawful system of immigration we can be proud of, a legal system that promotes the interests of the United States of America? Are we at a point in time where we are undermining law?

I have about half of these done so far, and I could continue. It goes on and on and on. It is a consistent trend and agenda. It is basically, if you don't grant amnesty, Congress, I am not going to enforce the law. Just forget it. I am going to direct my officers to do what I want them to do, not what the law of the United States requires them to do. It is a deep and fundamental challenge to the very integrity of American constitutional order.

People say: JEFF, you are exaggerating.

Let me tell my colleagues about a recent House Judiciary hearing that was held on the President's constitutional duty to faithfully execute the laws. Chairman GOODLATTE summarized the reason for the hearing as follows:

The Obama administration has ignored the Constitution's carefully balanced separation of powers and unilaterally granted itself the extra constitutional authority to amend the laws and to waive or suspend their enforcement. This raw assertion of authority goes well beyond the executive power granted to the President and specifically violates the Constitution's command that the President is to take care that the laws be faithfully executed. The President's encroachment into Congress's sphere of power is not a transgression that should be taken lightly. As English historian Edward Gibbon famously observed regarding the fall of the Roman Empire, the principles of a free constitution are irrevocably lost when the legislative power is dominated by the executive.

From ObamaCare to immigration, the current administration is picking and choosing which laws to enforce. So this is correct. I believe Chairman GOODLATTE is discussing an important issue.

What about the testimony of the witnesses at that hearing? It was stunning. One witness, Professor Jonathan Turley, well known throughout the country, writes a lot in publications and legal journals. He is the Shapiro Professor of Public Interest Law at George Washington University Law School and is a nationally recognized constitutional scholar. He said he is a supporter of President Obama's policies and voted for him. But I want you to hear this, colleagues. Professor Turley, at the hearing, said this:

I believe the president has exceeded his brief. The president is required to faithfully execute the laws. He's not required to enforce all laws equally or commit the same resources to them. But I believe the president has crossed the constitutional line in some of these areas.

(Ms. WARREN assumed the Chair.)

Mr. SESSIONS. He goes on—this is a direct quote—

This goes to the very heart of what is the Madisonian system. If a president can unilaterally change the meaning of laws in substantial ways or refuse to enforce them, it takes offline that very thing that stabilizes our system.

He goes on:

I believe the members will loathe the day that they allow that to happen.

He is talking about Members of Congress. "I believe the members [of Congress] will loathe the day that they allow that to happen."

He goes on:

This will not be our last president. There will be more presidents who will claim the same authority.

When I teach constitutional law, I often ask my students, what is the limiting principle of your argument? When that question is presented to this White House, too often it's answered in the first person, that the president is the limiting principle or at least the limiting person. We can't rely on that type of assurance in our system.

That is what Professor Turley said, who voted for President Obama and is a well-known legal scholar. That is dramatic testimony and we need to listen to it. I am hearing it from my constituents daily. They think this administration is not telling the truth on a regular basis. They cannot imagine

how we can pass a health care law, and the President is just going and picking and choosing what parts of it he wants to go forward, what parts he wants to delay. How can this happen? Is this a legal system or not?

Mr. Turley goes on:

The problem of what the president is doing is that he is not simply posing a danger to the constitutional system; he is becoming the very danger the Constitution was designed to avoid: that is, the concentration of power in any single branch. This Newtonian orbit that the three branches exist in is a delicate one, but it is designed to prevent this type of concentration.

Wow. This is very strong. Then, when Professor Turley was asked whether the President has acted contrary to the Constitution, Professor Turley answered in the affirmative. He said further:

I really have great trepidation over where we are heading because we are creating a new system here, something that is not what was designed. We have this rising fourth branch in a system that's tripartite. The center of gravity is shifting, and that makes it unstable. And within that system you have the rise of an uber presidency. There could be no greater danger for individual liberty, and I really think that the framers would be horrified by that shift because everything they've dedicated themselves to was creating this orbital balance, and we've lost it. . . .

That makes the hair stand on the back of my neck. This goes to the core of our government. Are we a legal system or not? If we start eroding these classical principles of law, duty, and responsibility—the appropriate balance between the three branches of government—we have done something that is important. As Professor Turley said, we are undermining the orbital balance. Indeed, he said we have lost it—Professor Turley, not me.

Professor Turley goes on to say:

It's not prosecutorial discretion to go into a law and say an entire category of people will no longer be subject to the law. That's a legislative decision.

It is a legislative decision, not the President's decision. The legislature represents the people. Over a period of years, people are elected to this body and the House.

It goes on. Professor Turley said:

Prosecutorial discretion is a case-by-case decision that is made by the Department of Justice. When the Department of Justice starts to say, we're going to extend that to whole sections of law, then they are engaging in a legislative act, not an act of prosecutorial discretion. Wherever the line is drawn, it's got to be drawn somewhere from here. It can't include categorical rejections of the application of the law to millions of people. . . .

Great Scott. He is so correct. Prosecutors have discretion. They do not have to prosecute every case that comes before them. But the President does not have power just to eviscerate whole sections of law that affect millions of people. Professor Turley hit that exactly correct. He goes on to say:

Many of these questions are not close, in my view. The president is outside the line.

. . . And that's where we have the most serious constitutional crisis, I view, in my lifetime, and that is, this body is becoming less and less relevant.

He is talking to the House, the House of Representatives. You are becoming less and less relevant. He considers this to be "the most serious constitutional crisis . . . in my lifetime." We sit here oblivious to what has been happening. I have talked about it an awful lot, but I guess I have not been very effective. Professor Turley's arguments and remarks just hammer home how serious it is, this question we are dealing with.

So he goes on to say this:

I believe that [Congress] is facing a critical crossroads in terms of its continued relevance in this process. What this body cannot become is a debating society where it can issue rules and laws that are either complied with or not complied with by the president. I think that's where we are . . . [A] president cannot ignore an express statement on policy grounds. . . .

He says the President cannot ignore an express act, statement of law because he has a different policy view.

Now, does anybody contend that he can? I would like to see them send me a note on it. Any Member of this body who thinks the President of the United States can ignore an express statement of law because he just disagrees with it on policy grounds—I would like to hear them defend that issue or explain their position on it.

He goes on to say:

[I]n terms of the institutional issue . . . look around you. Is this truly the body that existed when it was formed?

He is talking to the House now.

Does it have the same gravitational pull and authority that was given to it by its framers? You're keepers of this authority. You took an oath to uphold it. And the framers assumed that you would have the institutional wherewithal and, frankly, ambition to defend the turf that is the legislative branch.

Isn't that true?

. . . the framers assumed that you would have the institutional wherewithal and, frankly, ambition to defend the turf that is the legislative branch.

We are sitting here, we had the majority leader stand before the Presiding Officer and break the rules of the Senate to amend the Senate rules just a few weeks ago. It was a stunning development. This is Third World stuff. This is not the United States of America, a constitutional Republic that I served as a prosecutor year after year.

We took so much pride, my staff and I, in trying to make sure nobody was given an advantage or disadvantage based on status or wealth or race, intelligence or background or whatever advantage they had: equal justice under the law. We enforced the law whether anybody would have voted for it or not had we been in Congress. It was passed by Congress, we enforced the law. At that same hearing, Nicholas Rosenkranz, a professor of law at Georgetown University Law Center and the author of the single most downloaded article about constitutional interpretation in the history of

the social science research network, also testified before the House Judiciary Committee.

He stated that the President's Constitutional duty to take care that the laws be faithfully executed "is not optional; it is mandatory," and that President Obama's "wholesale suspension of law . . . is the paradigm case of a 'take care' clause violation."

He further testified:

What's striking about this is the president's decision to enforce the immigration laws as though the DREAM Act had been enacted, when in fact it has not. . . . Rather than declining to comply with a duly enacted statute, the president is complying meticulously, but with a bill that never became law.

So they offered a bill. It was rejected by the Congress. The President is almost to the letter enforcing a bill rejected by the people's representatives. Professor Rosenkranz goes on to say:

Congress has repeatedly considered . . . the DREAM Act. The President favors this act. Congress has repeatedly declined to pass it. So the President simply announced that he would enforce the Immigration and Nationality Act as though it had been—as though the DREAM Act had been enacted. To put the point another way, the president's duty is to take care that the laws be faithfully executed, laws capital L, not those bills that fail to become law, like the DREAM Act.

I think this is a serious matter and I think Professor Rosenkranz hits it directly. Professor Rosenkranz was in agreement with Professor Turley that "prosecutorial discretion is one thing."

It is real.

But wholesale suspension of law is quite something else, and that is what has happened under ObamaCare. Likewise, in the immigration context, kind of case-by-case prosecutorial discretion is one thing, but a blanket policy that the immigration act will not apply to 1.8 million people, that's quite something different. This is a scale of decision-making that is not within the traditional conception of prosecutorial discretion.

That is certainly true. It is hard to believe we are here. I think we are here because in the great law schools of America and the top levels of our academic world in our new media and so forth, we have moved in sort of a postmodern world in which words do not have meaning. They are subject to being altered whenever they choose to fit the mood of a moment.

The President said, when he nominated people for the Supreme Court, he wanted nominees who would show empathy. What is empathy? It is not law. Is it politics? Is it bias? Is it personal opinion? Our system is based on law, not empathy, not bias, not politics, not ideology. This is a serious matter. Chairman GOODLATTE then interjected:

In fact the president has taken it a step further and has actually given legal documents to the people in that circumstance, well beyond simply deciding not to leave them there and not prosecute them, but to actually enable their violation of the law by giving them documents to help them evade the problems that ensue from living in the country that they're not lawfully present in.

Professor Rosenkranz replied, "Quite right." This matter is not going away. We

are going to deal with it. I truly believe the American people expect this government of theirs that works for them to produce an immigration system, a legal system that involves ObamaCare and other policies that is committed to law and not to the feelings of the chief executive and not to his policy preferences.

We avoid that or we have a serious matter in this country that goes to the heart of the strength of this Republic. You could sap that strength, erode the power of our legal system. The legal system, in my opinion, is the greatest strength this Nation has.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 9 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 8:16 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, December 17, 2013, at 9 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate December 16, 2013:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ANNE W. PATTERSON, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF CAREER AMBASSADOR, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS).

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

JEH CHARLES JOHNSON, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO YOUNG STAFF MEMBERS AND INTERNS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF THE 18TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF TEXAS

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2013

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, one of the major reasons why I believe the future of our country is bright and its best days lie ahead is the extraordinary quality, talent, commitment, and energy of the young people who will in time assume the responsibility of leadership.

Members of Congress know well, perhaps better than most, how blessed our nation is to have in reserve such exceptional young men and women who will go on to become leaders in their local communities, states, and the nation in the areas of business, education, government, philanthropy, the arts and culture, and the military.

We know this because we see them and benefit from their contributions every day. Many of them work for us in our offices as junior staff members, congressional fellows, or interns and they do amazing work for and on behalf of the constituents we are privileged to represent.

I rise today to pay tribute to the wonderful young men and women who have done this work in my office for my constituents.

Mr. Speaker, I believe there is no higher calling than the call to serve a cause larger than ourselves. That is why I ran for public office. I was inspired to serve by President Kennedy who said, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country," and by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who said:

Everybody can be great because anybody can serve. . . . You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.

By this measure, there are several other great young men and women who served as volunteers this year in my offices. They may toil in obscurity but their contributions to the constituents we serve are deeply appreciated and I wish to acknowledge them. They are: Carlos Fierros, Toulia Nwabunnia, Ziad Saqr, Michal Shinnar, Chike Achebe, Morgan Cassell, Deontae Wherry, Kern Kumar, Myron Latney, Mohammad Cifci, Hiromi Oka, Marcus Smith, Zahit Akinci, Alezeh Rauf, Elif Duran, Omorose Eguakun, Amy Akabue, Ariadna Mujica, Olivia Igbokwe, and Ayanna Costley.

Mr. Speaker, the energy, intelligence, and idealism young people bring to their internships in my office and those of my colleagues helps keep our democracy vibrant. The insights, skills, and knowledge of the governmental process they gain from their experiences will last a lifetime and prove invaluable to them as they go about making their mark in this world.

I am grateful that such thoughtful committed young men and women can be found working in my office, those of my colleagues, and in every community in America. Their good works will keep America great and good.

ANNOUNCING RECIPIENTS OF THE 2013 CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR THE THIRD DISTRICT OF TEXAS

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2013

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to honor fourteen distinguished military veterans, community servants, and American patriots who call the Third District of Texas home. All faithfully answered the call of duty and to place service above self for the sake of our great nation. Each one leaves a legacy to be remembered, for future generations to follow, a legacy of bravery, loyalty, dedication, and sacrifice. For their selfless service, bold leadership, and undying commitment for their neighbor and nation, the following individual has been selected as a recipient of the third annual Congressional Veteran Commendation:

Colonel Dan Prather served in the United States Army from 1963 to 1993. After participating in ROTC at West Texas State University, Mr. Prather was commissioned in the U.S. Army, beginning his military career at Fort Hood. As a company commander and aide de camp to Major General George Ruhlen, he earned his Ranger tab to improve on his infantry skills. During his two tours of Vietnam, he earned the Silver Star, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star with Combat Valor, and Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, along with numerous other medals.

As seen from his decorations, Mr. Prather demonstrated countless moments of valor, loyalty, and leadership. One exemplary moment was his decision to change daytime patrols of the Viet Cong to nighttime patrols. The "Rat Patrol," as he called it, was instantly successful, capturing weapons, mines, and grenades while neutralizing 34 enemy soldiers, all within the first month of operation. In fact, Mr. Prather's tactical strategy proved so effective that other U.S. Infantries adopted his nighttime model to high levels of success. Perhaps even more impressive than his tactical instincts is under his command, he lost not one soldier's life through both of his tours in Vietnam. That's remarkable leadership.

To quote a man who served in Prather's battalion at Fort Polk, who later became a General, "What a great soldier, leader, and commander Dan Prather was. In my view, he was the best of all . . . whenever I faced tough situations as a commander, I often thought of how he would have handled it."

After his military career, his dedication to service never waned. He served as a City Al-

derman for two terms in Madison, Mississippi, where he created local community improvement and infrastructure projects. When a horrific flood hit the town, he hopped right in his truck with his chain saw to help homeowners clear away rubble and start rebuilding. That's the active, selfless and relentless leadership for which he will be remembered.

Colonel Dan Prather, let me both thank and congratulate you on your exceptional service to our country and our community both past and present. It is my pleasure to award you the 2013 Congressional Veteran Commendation for the Third District of Texas.

CELEBRATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF BOBBY AND LETA AYERS

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2013

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Bobby and Leta Ayers who celebrated their 60th anniversary this year. Their commitment to each other and their family is an inspiration and a wonderful reminder of the importance of family, particularly during the holiday season.

Bobby and Leta were wed on July 3, 1953, at First Christian Church, Caddo Mills, by Dr. James S. Riley. Over the past six decades, Mr. and Mrs. Ayers have been blessed with one son, Dean, and his wife Gerry Ayers and one daughter, Diane, and her husband David Lindsey, as well as four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

The Ayers have lived their lives in Caddo Mills, Texas. Bobby worked for TXU Energy for 40 years and is now retired. Leta gave private piano lessons and was a church secretary for 10 years at their church, First Baptist, Caddo Mills.

Bobby and Leta Ayers are blessed to have had so many happy years together, and I wish them many more. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebration of the Ayer's 60th wedding anniversary.

HONORING LUISA DeLAURO AS SHE CELEBRATES HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2013

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is always an honor for me to have the opportunity to rise and recognize the accomplishments of those I so proudly represent. Today, however, is particularly special as I stand to pay tribute to my mother, Luisa DeLauro, who will celebrate her 100th birthday this December 24. She is—by any definition—an extraordinary woman,

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

whose passion for family and civic service made all the difference in our lives and in our community.

Born December 24, 1913, at 111 Wooster Street, my mother was one of six children. She grew up in the heart of New Haven's Italian American community and spent most of her childhood in my grandmother's pastry shop, Canestri's. It was in the Wooster Square neighborhood that my mother learned the importance of family, respect, and community. She married my father, Ted, in 1938 and they successfully balanced a life of family and community service. I have vivid memories of my parents sitting with neighbors at our kitchen table—particularly newly immigrated families—and my mother and father doing all they could to help them overcome whatever obstacle they were facing. My mother was no stranger to hard work. When I was growing up, she worked in a sweatshop, sewing shirt collars for pennies. Every day she would make me come by after school to see the horrible, cramped conditions. It is something I will never forget. The lesson was clear: work hard. Make something of yourself. Get a good education.

My mother was elected to the Board of Alderman in 1965—a position she held for 35 years and which stands today as the record for the longest serving member of that Board. In her time on the Board, she focused much of her attention on her childhood community—seeing Wooster Square designated as the City's first Historic District, initiating the annual Cherry Blossom Festival, and recognizing distinguished residents and organizations with the honorary naming of streets and corners—but she was also a fierce advocate, particularly for senior citizens and children.

My mother knew the importance of helping people—she understood that politics was an avenue for change. She also understood that women had an obligation to participate in the political process. When I first ran for Congress in 1990, I found an article my mother wrote in the 10th ward Democratic newsletter in 1933, now 80 years ago. Serving as Secretary of the organization at the time, amazingly, she wrote:

It is not my intention to be critical, rather my motive in writing this article is to encourage the female members of this organization to take a more active part in its affairs. We are not living in the middle ages when a woman's part in life was merely to serve her master in her home, but we have gradually taken our place in every phase of human endeavor, and even in the here-to-for stronghold of the male sex: politics. I have noticed that the girls, unlike the men, are timid in asserting themselves, and many a good idea is lost, having been suppressed by its creator. Come on girls, let's make ourselves heard.

And so, mom, I want to take this opportunity to say, "You made yourself heard." You continue to make us all proud. Thank you and congratulations on your centennial anniversary. You are your daughter's greatest inspiration.

ANNOUNCING RECIPIENTS OF THE
2013 CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN
COMMENDATION FOR THE THIRD
DISTRICT OF TEXAS

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2013

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to honor fourteen distinguished military veterans, community servants, and American patriots who call the Third District of Texas home. All faithfully answered the call of duty and placed service above self for the sake of our great nation. Each one leaves a legacy to be remembered, for future generations to follow, a legacy of bravery, loyalty, dedication, and sacrifice. For their selfless service, bold leadership, and undying commitment for their neighbor and nation, the following individual has been selected as a recipient of the third annual Congressional Veteran Commendation:

Kevin Haines served in the United States Army from 1989 to 1996. During his ten year military career, he served in the 89th Military Police Brigade, which supported in wartime and humanitarian services to numerous U.S. Army missions across the globe. For instance, he deployed to Iraq when the United States first invaded Kuwait in 1990 and approximately one year later, deployed to Cuba to help Haitian refugees. He also deployed to Somalia, and served at Fort Hood for several years. For his dedication and years of service, Mr. Haines was awarded the Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, and Humanitarian Awards: Southwest Asia Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Kuwait Liberation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, and a Good Conduct Medal.

After Mr. Haines' military career honorably ended in 1996, he began his fire service career with the City of Temple Fire Rescue. He joined the Plano Fire Department in 1999 where he serves as a Paramedic Trainer and chairs the EMS Vision Committee. He received a Life-Saving Award in 2002 and was also awarded the Paramedic of the Year in 2007. Both in his military and civilian career, Mr. Haines has consistently demonstrated the highest level of service, putting his life on the line to protect our community, our businesses, and our homes.

Kevin Haines, let me both thank and congratulate you on your exceptional service to our country and community both past and present. It is my pleasure to award you the 2013 Congressional Veteran Commendation for the Third District of Texas.

THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF
HEALTH

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2013

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, the mission of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) is to seek and improve the quality of knowledge in the medical sciences, and to apply that knowledge in a meaningful way. The NIH fulfills this mission by maintaining high standards of sci-

entific integrity, public accountability, and social responsibility. The NIH also enriches many colleges and universities across the country, because, though many Americans are not aware, a large portion of the budget is sent out to all fifty states in the form of extramural research grants. Through these grants, better education yields higher return on public investment in medical research.

Thanks in part to research performed by the NIH, the life expectancy of a baby born in the United States is now 79—which is three decades longer than one born in 1900. Not only are we living longer, but our quality of life is improving. According to the NIH, the proportion of elderly with chronic disabilities has dropped by almost one third over the last 25 years.

Research and development in the medical field is the key to curing not only cancer, but also a host of other diseases that impact millions of Americans. For citizens who suffer from pancreatic cancer, one of the deadliest major cancers, such funding is not just necessary, it's urgent. It is critical that Congress do whatever is possible to support pancreatic cancer research at the NIH and the National Cancer Institute (NCI). In meetings with my constituents who have shared their stories about pancreatic cancer, it has been clear that we could do more to find a cure for this disease.

It is crucial that we, Members of the United States Congress, continue to support the NIH and its subsidiary, the NCI, by providing sustained and predictable funding. In these times of record debts and deficits and reduced budgets, it remains important that Congress continue to prioritize what is most important. The NIH is truly a national treasure. It is a light that we must not let fade.

FIVE CHINESE DAUGHTERS TO
BEIJING: PLEASE LET OUR FA-
THERS GO FREE

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2013

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, When China bullies, incarcerates, tortures—and even executes—a prisoner of conscience, their entire family and friends suffer an excruciating sense of loss, bewilderment, emotional pain and agony.

Often members of the family are themselves subjected to interrogation, mistreatment and house arrest in order to amplify the hurt.

In a very real sense, everyone close to a prisoner of conscience goes to jail and lives a seemingly unending nightmare. Every day, family and friends are left to wonder what terrible abuse awaits dad or mom or a brother or sister or child. Every day, the tears flow.

The people who rule China today with an iron fist resort to these ugly methods of control in the mistaken assumption that the people—the masses—can't be trusted to govern themselves, practice their faith as they see fit or create a family. China's barbaric one child per couple population control policy in effect since 1979 continues unabated to make brothers and sisters illegal and relies on ruinous fines and penalties, forced abortion, and coercive sterilization—crimes against humanity—to

achieve its ends. And all “news” content and commentary in cyberspace, TV, radio or in print media continues to be strictly controlled and manipulated by the communist party.

The Chinese government today is in the business of breaking minds, bodies and hearts. The repression is systematic, pervasive, unrelenting and unnecessary—the people of China love their nation and deserve better treatment. Even heroic persons like Chen Guangcheng, Wei Jingsheng, Rebiya Kadeer, Bishop Su, Harry Wu, and countless others who have demonstrated by their extraordinary perseverance an indomitable will to advance bedrock human rights principles regardless of cost carry the indelible scars of unspeakable mistreatment.

The people who rule China today employ these ugly methods of control to prop up their own political power and increase their personal wealth. China, a great nation, deserves better.

Far too many of us who live in freedom often fail to exert ourselves in a meaningful way to assist prisoners of conscience and their loved ones—in China and elsewhere.

Far too many of us fail to empathize with their plight. Or to see what’s just below the façade of the purported harmonious society.

How can it be that the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize winner Liu Xiaobo remains in prison while his wife Liu Xia is forced to endure the extreme isolation of house arrest and is now reportedly experiencing severe depression?

Perhaps we are uninformed or too busy or prefer to look askance. However, with so much preventable suffering being endured by so many prisoners of conscience and their families in China today, the time has surely come for a more serious and sustained defense of these heroic individuals and their noble causes.

All of us—including the Chinese government—have a duty to protect.

At a hearing that I held several weeks ago, we heard the cries for release and freedom from five remarkable daughters on behalf of their wrongly imprisoned fathers and from a dad on behalf of his unjustly jailed son. We also received expert testimony from a previously incarcerated Christian pastor who cares deeply for the vulnerable and at risk and another human rights activist who was detained in China after an attempt to visit a dissident.

**ANNOUNCING RECIPIENTS OF THE
2013 CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN
COMMENDATION FOR THE THIRD
DISTRICT OF TEXAS**

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2013

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to honor fourteen distinguished military veterans, community servants, and American patriots who call the Third District of Texas home. All faithfully answered the call of duty and placed service above self for the sake of our great nation. Each one leaves a legacy to be remembered, for future generations to follow, a legacy of bravery, loyalty, dedication, and sacrifice. For their selfless service, bold leadership, and undying commit-

ment for their neighbor and nation, the following individual has been selected as a recipient of the third annual Congressional Veteran Commendation:

LeRoy Myrben served in the United States Navy from 1955 to 1977. During his 22 years of service, he completed six tours aboard aircraft carriers, three of those tours during the Vietnam War, and in total, served in ten different naval commands. After his many years of active duty, he worked for 27 years as a civilian employee, developing government and corporate programs, such as the design stage of the Blackhawk Helicopter, F-18 Hornet. In 2003, he retired as the Director of National Security Solutions and as the Director of the Coast Guard Program before moving to Frisco, Texas.

Since moving to Texas, he’s been an extremely active leader and servant to the city of Frisco, advocating relentlessly on behalf of veterans and their families. Quickly after moving, he joined the Frisco Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) 8273 post and in one short year became the Post Senior Commander and then later the Post Commander. During his time as Commander, he chaired the Frisco Veterans’ Walk of Honor project to develop a memorial walkway that displays names of veterans on the Memorial in Frisco’s Commons Park. All the while, he continues to be an active Frisco Committee Parade member and has served as Frisco’s Memorial Day Master of Ceremonies for the past three years. As an advisor to Frisco’s Mayor, Maher Maso, he developed and now chairs the Mayor’s Frisco Veterans Advisory Committee, which consists of individuals from all military branches selected to advise the Mayor and City Council Members on issues pertaining to the veterans. Mr. Myrben not only put his life on the line overseas, he continues to sacrifice his time, energy, and efforts every single day at home to ensure that his fellow veterans receive the care, attention, and honor they rightfully deserve.

LeRoy Myrben, let me both thank and congratulate you on your exceptional service to our country and community both past and present. It is my pleasure to award you the 2013 Congressional Veteran Commendation for the Third District of Texas.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2013

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted “yes” on rollcall No. 641 on H. Res. 441.

**HONORING RICHARD “DICK”
FREELAND**

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2013

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and salute a distinguished Hoosier, Richard “Dick” Freeland, who passed away on October 20, 2013. I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for his leadership and service to the people of Indiana.

Mr. Freeland was a Nevada native and Iowa transplant who later moved his family to Indiana to pursue the American Dream. He started his career as an ironworker in Iowa who worked on Atlas rocket sites throughout the Midwest. In 1967, Mr. Freeland started a part-time job working for Pizza Hut for \$1.25 an hour. He eventually worked his way up to store manager, area manager, and part-owner in an Iowa Pizza Hut franchise.

Mr. Freeland moved his wife and young family to Fort Wayne, Indiana, in 1972 and opened their first Pizza Hut franchise. Over the next 40-plus years, the business grew to include 48 Pizza Hut locations in Indiana and Ohio as well as four Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurants. His knowledge and business acumen was so well respected by the corporate office that he was asked to travel to Poland to advise the Pizza Hut team on improving their operations. Soon after, he became a partner in those Pizza Hut and Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurants in Poland and the Czech Republic.

Mr. Freeland sought to hire high-quality employees, train them well and empower them to make decisions for the benefit of themselves, the customer and the business. In his free time, he was involved in local, state and national politics and enjoyed hunting, fishing, traveling, and breeding Arabian horses at Freeland Farms. Mr. Freeland was a member of numerous corporate and charitable organization boards and served as the regional finance chairman of Bush/Quayle campaign in 1992.

Mr. Freeland left his loving wife, Deanna, two children, six grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Mr. Freeland’s legacy demonstrates the promise of hard work and the extraordinary opportunities afforded to the individual by liberty and American free enterprise. Dick’s story should serve as an example to millions of young Americans. Through hard work and perseverance, the American Dream can be realized. There are very few places in the world today where a part time hourly worker, through his own toil and dedication, can not only be promoted to management, but build an empire. And then use his success for the betterment of our nation and his fellow man. Mr. Freeland’s life and story are a testament to the unlimited potential of every individual, our great nation, and America’s bright future. America is quite exceptional indeed.

Rest in peace my friend, and thank you for your example and leadership.

**IRAN’S PERSECUTION OF PASTOR
ABEDINI WORSENS**

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2013

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, at our full committee hearing on Tuesday, December 10, I asked Secretary of State Kerry whether he had raised Pastor Saeed Abedini’s release during the Iranian nuclear talks. I read him the following advance excerpt of the testimony that Naghme Abedini—wife of Pastor Saeed Abedini who remains imprisoned and subject to torture in Iran—would offer on Thursday, December 12. “While I am thankful

for President Obama's willingness to express concern about my husband and the other imprisoned Americans in Iran during his recent phone conversation with Iran's new president, Hassan Rouhani, I was devastated to learn that the Administration didn't even ask for my husband's release when directly seated across the table from the leaders of the government that holds him captive. My husband is suffering because he is a Christian. He is suffering because he is an American. Yet, his own government at least the Executive and diplomatic representatives has abandoned him. Don't we owe it to him as a nation to stand up for his human rights, for his freedom?"

Secretary Kerry acknowledged that he had not done so—confirming the awful report that Naghmeh had already heard.

Pastor Abedini remains imprisoned in Iran, sharing a cell with violent criminals who have more than once surrounded Pastor Abedini as he tried to sleep, wielding knives and threatening his life.

Saeed Abedini is an American citizen. He went to Iran last year to build an orphanage for Iranian children. He had been arrested in Iran before, but released and told he could enter and exit the country for humanitarian aid work if he agreed to cease pastoring house churches.

As Pastor Abedini's wife, Naghmeh, testified last week, he accepted that proposal—but Iran did not uphold its end of the agreement.

Abedini was arrested in July 2012, imprisoned, and tried for sharing his religious beliefs and thereby supposedly undermining the security of Iran.

He was denied contact with his attorney until just before the trial. The trial was not public, and he and his attorney were barred from participating in key portions of the trial—following which a judge sentenced him to 8 years in prison. His appeals have been denied.

In prison, he has been repeatedly beaten, denied medical care, and held in solitary confinement. While nuclear talks played out on the world stage—Iran moved Pastor Abedini to a prison notorious for housing the worst criminals in Iran, Rajai Shahr.

The very fact that Pastor Abedini was moved to a dangerous prison in the middle of negotiations confirms that the Iranians recognized him as a potential factor in the negotiations. Since August of 2012, the United States has reportedly released four Iranians, including most recently a high-ranking scientist, who were imprisoned in the U.S. for sanctions violations.

Speaking for myself, I question whether these releases are unrelated to the nuclear talks.

Yet American citizen Saeed Abedini remains in a hell-hole prison in Iran.

The U.S. government must not waste another opportunity to secure the release of Pastor Abedini—his case needs to be front and center in the next round of U.S.-Iranian negotiations. Time is running out. Naghmeh, Rebecca, and Jacob need their husband and father home.

ANNOUNCING RECIPIENTS OF THE
2013 CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN
COMMENDATION FOR THE THIRD
DISTRICT OF TEXAS

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2013

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to honor fourteen distinguished military veterans, community servants, and American patriots who call the Third District of Texas home. All faithfully answered the call of duty and placed service above self for the sake of our great nation. Each one leaves a legacy to be remembered, for future generations to follow, a legacy of bravery, loyalty, dedication, and sacrifice. For their selfless service, bold leadership, and undying commitment for their neighbor and nation, the following individual has been selected as a recipient of the third annual Congressional Veteran Commendation:

Colonel Richard H. Graham served in the United States Air Force from 1964 to 1989. He entered pilot training at Craig Air Force Base in Alabama. Once he graduated he remained at Craig AFB as a T-37 instructor pilot and flight examiner. In 1970, Mr. Graham was assigned to the 555th Tactical Fighter Squadron at Udom Air Force Base in Thailand. During this time he flew 145 combat missions over North Vietnam and Laos in F-4C/D/E aircraft. He ended his military career honorably with more than 4,600 flying hours.

For his years of distinguished service, Mr. Graham received numerous decorations including a Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross with three Oak Leaf Clusters, Meritorious Service Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster, Air Medal with 18 Oak Leaf Clusters, and an Air Force Outstanding Unity Award with Valor.

Mr. Graham has continued to serve since his retirement from the military. He is actively involved in many charities and contributes his time and life experiences giving motivational speeches around the country. His main charitable work is through the four books he wrote on the SR-71. He donates the royalties from these books to aviation museums including the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum in D.C. and the Frontiers of Flight Museum in Dallas.

Colonel Richard Graham, let me both thank and congratulate you on your exceptional service to our country and community both past and present. It is my pleasure to award you the 2013 Congressional Veteran Commendation for the Third District of Texas.

HONORING LINDA CRAYTON

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2013

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary career of Linda Crayton as we celebrate over 40 years of her dedicated service to the community and her wide reaching accomplishments. Ms. Crayton is an outstanding individual, who throughout her distinguished career has cham-

ioned public private partnerships, led efforts for gender equality, advocated for justice in her community, and supported our youth.

Ms. Crayton's esteemed career has spanned over four decades as an employee of Comcast, where she is currently the San Francisco Regional Senior Director of Government Relations. Along the way, she has been a staunch advocate for the advancement of women by leading efforts with Black Women Organized for Political Action, California Women Lead, EMERGE, Women In Cable and Telecommunications, and 100 Black Women of the Bay Area, Inc. Ms. Crayton has been recognized numerous times for her commitment to gender equality. The San Francisco League of Women Voters accorded Ms. Crayton "The Woman Who Could Be President" award in 2001. In 2006, she was named "Woman of the Year" for the 9th senatorial district by California State Senator and President Pro-Tempore Don Perata, as well as "Corporate Woman of the Year" by 100 Black Women, Inc. In 2011, Ms. Crayton was recognized by the National Women's History Month with a History Makers Award.

Among her many contributions, Ms. Crayton has tirelessly served her community and church as a civil rights leader. She has worked with the NAACP, Urban League, and countless other community justice organizations. She also supports the East Oakland Youth Development Center, Oakland Boys and Girls Club, and the Spanish Speaking Citizens Foundation. For her tremendous commitment to the community, she has been recognized by the San Francisco African American Chamber with a "Lifetime Achievement" award and by the National Association for Multi-ethnicity in Communications (NAMIC) as a Black History Month—Living Legend. In 2007, the Martin Luther King Jr. Civic Committee and the Bayview Hunters Point Family Resource Center further honored Ms. Crayton with a "Distinguished Community Service Award," and a "Humanitarian Award," respectively.

Moreover, Ms. Crayton boasts an impressive commitment to local government. In 1996, San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown first appointed her to the San Francisco Airports Commission, a role that she has been appointed to by successive San Francisco mayors continuously till this day. She has worked hard to ensure that San Francisco International Airport is the best run, cleanest, and most welcoming airport in the world.

Additionally, Ms. Crayton provided much needed support and leadership to the restructuring of the San Francisco Department of Health in her capacity as President of the San Francisco District V Mental Health Board. For these efforts she was recognized by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors with the prestigious Leadership Award.

Throughout her prolific career, Ms. Crayton has not only been a hardworking professional, but also a compassionate and generous individual. She has been a mentor for countless men and women throughout the years, taking them under her wing to help them grow professionally and pursue job opportunities.

Therefore, on behalf of California's 13th Congressional District, Ms. Linda Crayton, I salute you. Your many years of service have made an indelible mark in our community. Best wishes to you and your loved ones in the years to come.

HONORING THE MOTOR TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION OF CONNECTICUT FOR THEIR EFFORTS TO COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2013

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to extend my deepest thanks and appreciation to the Motor Transport Association of Connecticut for their many efforts to combat human trafficking, including their most recent action in honoring Kendis Paris and "Truckers Against Trafficking" with their highest honor, the "Good Buddy Award."

As you know, each year hundreds of thousands of women and children are abducted and forced into prostitution and enslaved under some of the most abusive of circumstances. The Federal Bureau of Investigation has identified truck stops and rest areas as places where these abductions can occur. The Motor Transportation Association of Connecticut (MTAC), an organization dedicated to promoting the interests of Connecticut's trucking industry, has taken a leadership role in the national effort to combat this terrible epidemic. Truckers are the eyes and ears of our nation's highways—indeed just this past July, in one weekend, with the help of truckers and others, more than 100 teenagers were rescued. The leadership and members of MTAC have taken a special interest in this cause, making it a top priority.

At their most recent annual meeting, MTAC demonstrated their commitment to this effort by recognizing "Truckers Against Trafficking," a national non-profit organization that exists to educate, equip, empower and mobilize members of the trucking and travel plaza industry to combat domestic sex trafficking, and its co-founder, Kendis Paris, with their 2013 Good Buddy Award—a demonstration of the high level of esteem that MTAC holds for both the program and Kendis. I am proud to say that, in addition to these actions, MTAC has been working with me to develop a legislative agenda focused on combatting human trafficking.

Human trafficking is a rampant issue that is impacting the lives of millions across the world, hundreds of thousands in our nation alone. I applaud the Motor Transport Association of Connecticut, Truckers Against Trafficking, and Kendis Paris for their remarkable work in combating this appalling practice. I look forward to continuing to work with them and to someday realize the goal we all share—to ensure that every woman and child is protected from such a dreadful fate.

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Sergeant Major Daniel Huff served in the United States Marine Corps from 1981 to 2010. After graduating high school, he enlisted in the Marine Corps, starting his career at Boot Camp and Administrative Clerk School. In 1983, then-Corporal Huff was transferred to the United Nations Command in Seoul, South Korea, where he earned his first Navy Achievement Medal. He was then assigned to the Inspector-Instructor Staff, 25th Marines, in Massachusetts and earned his promotion to Sergeant.

Later on in his career, Mr. Huff served as Senior Drill Instructor to mold young men into exemplary character with traits of honorable service to God and country and then as Administrative Chief to several Marine bases, the last being in Quantico, Virginia. He served in Operation Iraqi Freedom I and II, earning the Meritorious Service Medal and Bronze Star with Combat V Medal for heroic actions in intense combat situations. For instance, on April 14, 2004 in Karabilah, Iraq, a roadside bomb exploded and enemy fire unleashed on all sides of the Battalion Commander's convoy. During this attack, Mr. Huff provided first-aid to a critically wounded Marine while simultaneously returning fire. He then ensured the medical evacuation of 22 other wounded comrades and led the Marines to secure the medical evacuation route. During the following five days, the Battalion destroyed over 80 enemy insurgents, safeguarding the city from an attempted takeover by anti-Iraqi Forces. Mr. Huff's extensive career and numerous decorations only scratch the surface of his exemplary leadership, dedication, and sacrifice.

Currently, Mr. Huff works for Dyncorp International in Fort Worth, Texas, where he oversees approximately 10,000 to 11,000 personnel at the Afghanistan base. He also volunteers in the community with the Toys for Tots Program, as a USMC JROTC mini-boot camp program supervisor, and represents the Marine Corps in various community events around the DFW metroplex.

Sergeant Major Daniel Huff, let me both thank and congratulate you on your exceptional service to our country and community both past and present. It is my pleasure to award you the 2013 Congressional Veteran Commendation for the Third District of Texas.

OCEAN ENERGY SAFETY AND TECHNOLOGY IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2013

HON. RUSH HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2013

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce the Ocean Energy Safety and Technology Improvement Act of 2013, a bill to fa-

cilitate the development and use of technology to make offshore drilling safer for workers and the environment.

A little more than three and a half years ago, the Deepwater Horizon exploded and sank off the coast of Louisiana, killing eleven workers, and allowing its unfinished well to pour millions of barrels of crude oil into the Gulf of Mexico until it was finally capped several months later. This event—the greatest single environmental disaster in American history—exposed as a myth the idea that such tragic offshore events, such as the Montara explosion in Australia, the Piper Alpha disaster in the North Sea, or the Ixtoc blowout in Mexico, could not happen in the United States.

There was no question that the industry had gotten complacent. And the regulators had gotten complacent. And even Congress had gotten complacent. The only debate before the Deepwater Horizon tragedy was where drilling should occur, not how safe it would be. Those of us whose states depend on clean beaches and clear water to fuel a multi-billion dollar tourism industry were assured that technology had reached the point that there was no risk whatsoever: that offshore drilling could coexist with clean beaches, that vacationers and merchants would never have to fear oil-soaked seabirds dying on their shores, or tarballs staining the coasts for years to come.

Those assurances, we learned in April 2010, were completely false. The technology the industry boasted of was about drilling deeper and faster, not about being cleaner or safer. And while there is a requirement in the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act for companies to use the "best available and safest technology," in reality companies were allowed to simply meet regulatory minimums. The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, or BSEE, recently proposed to close that loophole and ensure that companies really are using the best and safest technology; naturally that proposal was met with the predictable wails from industry.

But despite those complaints, this is clearly an idea whose time has come. In October, the National Academy of Sciences released a report with recommendations on how to implement a true requirement for using the best available and safest technology available in the offshore industry. The Academy endorsed BSEE's formation of an Ocean Energy Safety Institute, but said that the institute needed more funding, more stability, and more authority.

That is what my legislation does. It adopts the National Academy's recommendations by giving BSEE the authority to stand up a robust, permanent Ocean Energy Safety Institute with a steady source of funding. The Institute will facilitate collaboration between academia, regulators, and industry, serve as a center of excellence for offshore safety research and education, and most importantly, help BSEE identify the best available and safest technologies currently in use, and facilitate the development of better and safer technologies.

This legislation also implements other recommendations from the Academy, including providing the authority for the review of drilling plans and permits to be prioritized if they would use particularly innovative safety technologies, and promoting safety research by small businesses, where many of the best innovations arise.

Let me be clear: I do not believe that offshore drilling can ever be made safe enough to put the beaches and tourist economy of New Jersey at risk. There will always be the chance of equipment failure or human error that produces a catastrophic result, regardless of the level of technology employed. No amount of oil or gas is worth the potential destruction of the state's lifeblood. I also believe that a continued dependence on offshore oil and gas, from any part of the country, keeps us from addressing the real issue that we should be focusing on: how to move to a renewable energy economy and ensure long-lasting energy and climate security.

However, I acknowledge that we cannot get there overnight, and offshore drilling will continue in places like the Gulf of Mexico, at least for the time being. But while it is happening, we should ensure that it is being done with the absolute best safety and environmentally responsible technology available, and I urge my colleagues to join me in getting to that point by supporting the Offshore Drilling Safety Technology Improvement Act of 2013.

HONORING THOMAS E.
SCHWEDHELM

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the Chief of Police for the City of Santa Rosa, California, Tom Schwedhelm, who is retiring after a 26-year career in law enforcement.

Chief Schwedhelm worked as a cadet and then a correctional officer in the Sonoma County Jail prior to graduating from the Santa Rosa Training Center's Police Academy in 1983.

In 1996, Tom Schwedhelm was promoted to Sergeant working with Sex Crimes & Family Violence investigations. He also had several collateral assignments: Special Response Unit Team Member and Team Leader; an Instructor in Use of Force, Chemical Agents, and Crowd Control; and an Ethics Facilitator.

In 2002 he was promoted to Lieutenant and was promoted to Captain in 2004 as the Captain in charge of both the Field Services Division and the Special Services Division. In March 2009, he was appointed as the Acting Chief of Police; he was subsequently appointed as the official Chief of Police for the City of Santa Rosa on May 3, 2009.

Chief Schwedhelm was instrumental in developing one of the first Victim Services Programs, and assisted in the implementation of CHOICES Grant Program, a community-wide effort to address gang violence in the community, as well as the Family Justice Center, the Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force and the Police Department Succession Planning.

Chief Schwedhelm is a second generation law enforcement officer. He and his wife, Jackie, have lived in Santa Rosa for 22 years, where they have raised their two children.

Mr. Speaker, Chief Schwedhelm has served the City of Santa Rosa well during his distinguished career. It is therefore appropriate that we commend him for his many years of public service and wish him well on his retirement.

HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN EGYPT

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2013

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, a hearing that I convened last week examined the escalating human rights abuses in Egypt. It was fitting that we held the hearing on December 10, International Human Rights Day, because we are witnessing grievous violence and other abuses directed against religious and political minorities, particularly the Copts and other Christians, about which our government and the media has said far too little—which seems to be a pattern worldwide.

The persecution of Christians is escalating. Witness the slaughter of Christians in the Central African Republic (CAR). Bishop Nongo of the CAR told my committee that Christians were being targeted because of their faith while the U.N., the United States, and the rest of the world looked on. Last Thursday, I chaired a hearing on American pastor Saeed Abedini who is jailed and suffering torture in Iran. Pastor Abedini's wife, Naghmeh, told my committee: "While I am thankful for President Obama's willingness to express concern about my husband and the other imprisoned Americans in Iran during his recent phone conversation with Iran's new president, Hassan Rouhani, I was devastated to learn that the administration didn't even ask for my husband's release when directly seated across the table from the leaders of the government that holds him captive. My husband is suffering because he is a Christian. He is suffering because he is an American. Yet, his own government, at least the Executive and diplomatic representatives, has abandoned him. Don't we owe it to him as a nation to stand up for his human rights, for his freedom?"

After President Mubarak resigned in February of 2011, the world hoped for a new Egypt, a just government for all Egyptians, which would not make President Mubarak's mistakes—but reality has been just the opposite.

Horrible anti-Christian pogroms have taken place under each of the post-Mubarak governments. For some of these abuses, the governments bear the responsibility of inaction. For others they bear direct responsibility. In recent months, undercurrents of abuse and contempt for human dignity long existing in Egypt have turned into flash floods of violence.

For example, the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces presided over the Maspero protest massacre in October 2011. At least 25 people were killed and more than 300 injured—almost all of them Copts—when the military drove trucks through the crowd and used live ammunition against the unarmed protestors.

Under the now-displaced Morsi government three low-level soldiers involved were charged with minor crimes and received two- to three-year sentences. No commanding officers were held responsible for ordering or failing to prevent the deadly assaults.

While Mr. Morsi of the Muslim Brotherhood's Freedom and Justice Party, at times voiced support for an Egypt that was home to Muslims and Christians, his inaction belied his rhetoric. In April of 2012, St. Mark's Cathedral,

seat of the Coptic Pope, was attacked by 30–40 Muslim youths. While dozens of Copts were sheltering inside, security forces joined the mob. Rather than dispersing the crowd, they participated in the all-night attack or stood idly by as rocks, gasoline bombs, and gas canisters were lobbed into the iconic cathedral. Despite this, President Morsi denied that the clash was sectarian in nature.

After Mr. Morsi was removed in July of this year, the military ended the Muslim Brotherhood's sit-in with violence, killing hundreds of protestors. Tragically, some in the Muslim Brotherhood scapegoated the Copts although the Copts had nothing to do with the military's violent response.

On August 14, a day that will be remembered as the worst day for Copts in 700 years, thirty-seven churches, five schools, three Bible societies, four other Christian institutions, and many homes and businesses were burned or damaged by mobs. More than 100 deaths were documented in the initial spate of violence and its aftermath.

Some Copts have charged the current military government in Egypt with allowing the attacks on Coptic persons, businesses, churches, and homes to continue—often in sight of police stations and in spite of repeated and direct calls for help—in order to solidify government power as the only alternative to the Muslim Brotherhood, as well as to justify their own heavy-handed crackdown on the Muslim Brotherhood.

The Muslim Brotherhood denies any involvement in the attacks occurring across the country, and has at times condemned them.

Yet the Brotherhood's Freedom and Justice Party Branch in Helwan reportedly posted a statement holding the Coptic Pope responsible for Morsi's removal and otherwise linked Copts to attacks on the Muslim Brotherhood. The Brotherhood also called for Friday prayers to be held in an evangelical church in Minya after it was occupied and converted into a mosque on August 15.

Whoever the attackers are—and that is one thing we hope to learn more about today—the bottom line is that Coptic citizens are having their most basic human rights—freedom of religion, freedom of association, and equal protection of the laws—denied.

We can never rest while human dignity is so grossly trampled on—nor can we ever accept the suffering that has marked Coptic life for decades, very much including the abductions, forced conversions, and forced marriage of Coptic girls and women. These abuses have continued unabated, and, by some reports, have escalated sharply following the Arab Spring, as has the abuse of the Egyptian courts to prosecute blasphemy cases against Christians, moderate Muslims and secularists.

Moreover, despite the nearly 1.5 billion dollars in foreign aid American taxpayers give Egypt each year, neither the Mubarak government nor the Morsi government, or now the military government, has seen fit to return kidnapped American citizen children Noor and Ramsey Bower, who were abducted by their mother to Egypt in 2009 in violation of valid U.S. court orders, to the United States. They, along with about 30 other American children in Egypt, are forced to live without the love and guidance of an American parent who daily fights for their return, while being stripped of half of their culture and half of their identity.

In addition, freedom of expression continues to be under fire. The current interim government has been arresting and jailing journalists critical of the military government, jamming the broadcast signals, deporting foreign reporters, and otherwise closing the offices of news outlets that are "broadcasting lies."

In his September 23rd speech to the United Nations General Assembly, the President stated that his ". . . approach to Egypt reflects a larger point: the United States will at times work with governments that do not meet the highest international expectations, but who work with us on our core interests." These core interests were earlier defined in the speech to include the "Camp David Accords and counter-terrorism" efforts but not, I believe mistakenly, to include human rights.

Human rights, and the intrinsic dignity of every human being from womb to the tomb, are important in and of themselves. But for those who fail to grasp this, there is another important point to be made: It is in the strategic interest of the United States to encourage governments to respect the rights of their people, because governments that fail to do so are in the final analysis unstable: This should be the abiding lesson of the Arab Spring.

The president also stated that future U.S. support to Egypt "will depend upon Egypt's progress in pursuing a democratic path." Again, it is unclear what criteria this entails. What if the democratic path does not include protection of human rights, such as what we saw under the Morsi government and now the interim government?

It is not democracy per se that is to be the goal, but rather a duly-elected constitutional government that respects minorities, the separation of power, and human rights. Tyranny of the majority is not an acceptable option.

What is clear is that the U.S. needs a new approach. This administration's short-sighted approach of not clearly linking aid to the protection of human rights in Egypt has been unequivocally ineffective. It is my hope that our hearing today will shed light on what went wrong and how the United States can be more effective in protecting human rights going forward.

HONORING BISHOP PRINCE E.W. BRYANT, SR., OF HOUSTON, TEXAS, "SOLDIER OF THE CROSS" WHO HAS MINISTERED THE GOSPEL FOR 50 YEARS

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2013

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Bishop Prince E.W. Bryant, Sr., the legendary pastor of the legendary Island of Hope Church of God in Christ Church in Houston, Texas. This year marks the 50th anniversary of Bishop Bryant's service in the ministry of the Gospel.

To mark this great occasion, Bishop Bryant is being honored as a "Soldier of the Cross" by the Texas South Central Jurisdiction of The Church of God in Christ, Inc.

Born in East Texas, Bishop Bryant was the fifteenth child of Deacon Bishop and Mamie Bryant. He was saved and filled with the Holy

Ghost on March 18, 1963, and began preaching on March 25, 1963 at the age of 15 under the late Elder Eddie Davis. He was licensed under the late Bishop C. H. Nelson and ordained by the late Bishop S. M. Crouch of Los Angeles, California.

Bishop Bryant was attended public school at Concord High School in Mt. Enterprise, Texas. He later attended LIFE Bible College, Los Angeles, California, from which he received his Bachelors of Theology; and the Family Bible Institute in Denver, Colorado, from which he was awarded a Doctorate of Divinity in 1993.

Bishop Bryant began his pastoral ministry on August 6, 1969. Over the next 50 years, pastored six churches: Bethlehem COGIC in Mt. Enterprise, Texas; Evangelist Temple COGIC in Bay City, Texas; Eastside COGIC in Lufkin, Texas; and The City of Refuge COGIC, Livingston Memorial COGIC, and The Island of Hope COGIC (formerly Anderson Memorial), all in Houston, Texas. He remodeled or built three of these churches.

Bishop Bryant has served the church from his youth to present in many capacities: as Sunday School Superintendent, Jurisdictional Chaplain, Jurisdictional Young People's Willing Worker President, District Superintendent, Jurisdictional Executive Secretary, President of Jurisdictional Minister's and Worker's Institute, Chairman of Jurisdictional Annual Leadership Conference, and as Administrative Assistant to the late Jurisdictional Bishop, Bishop N. H. Henderson.

Nationally, Bishop Bryant has served the Church of God in Christ as a member of the General Assembly Executive Committee, Commissions for Constitutional Convention Committee, General Council of Pastors and Elders Judiciary Review Committee, and Executive Board Member of the Church of God in Christ Urban Initiative.

Bishop Bryant has also actively involved himself in the civic life of the community. He served two terms as President of the Advisory Board to the Mayor of Houston under Mayors Kathryn J. Whitmire and Mayor Bob Lanier.

Bishop Bryant also served on the Civilian Review Committee for the Houston Police Department, as Chairman of Religious Committee, as founder of the Project David Ex-Felon Re-Acclimation Job Program, as Vice President of the Houston Northeast Quadrant Citizens Chamber of Commerce, as Chairman of Houston-Harris County Regional Substance Abuse Faith-Based Task Force Committee, and member of the Executive Board of the Minister's Conference at Prairie View A & M University.

In times of disaster, Bishop Bryant can be counted on to provide comfort and assistance. In 1983, he organized and chaired the Emergency Disaster Relief Texas Inter-Jurisdictional Council, which coordinated government entities and non-profit charity organizations such as FEMA, Red Cross and United Way.

When Tropical Storm Allison hit in 2001, Bishop Bryant facilitated a benefit service. In 2005, during Hurricane Katrina he organized the Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund and was the Coordinator of the Church of God in Christ Distribution Center, a 20,000 square foot warehouse which distributed food, clothing, and non-perishable goods to thousands of displaced Katrina victims.

In 2008, in response to Hurricane Ike, Bishop Bryant again chaired the Emergency Disaster Relief Texas Inter-Jurisdictional Council.

During his fifty years of ministry, Bishop Bryant has been the recipient of many awards and honors, including the following: Meritorious Services To The Community by Mayor Fred Hofheinz; Meritorious Service To the Community by Mayor Kathryn Whitmire; Houston Police Department Public Service Award; Service Recognition Citation by Councilman Shelia Jackson Lee; Distinguished Service Award and Outstanding Leadership Award from COGIC Texas South Central Jurisdiction; Excellence In Service Award by United Minister's Institute of Texas Southern University; Special Achievement Award from The Religious Workers Guild; Outstanding Leadership AIM 2000 Church of God in Christ National Auxiliaries In Ministry Convention; by Bishop J. W. Macklin-AIM Chairman, Charles Harrison Mason Award The Religious Workers Guild, Visionary Pastors Award from the Houston Forward Times.

On October 17, 2013 in Abuja, Nigeria, the African Children's Hostel was named The Bishop Prince Bryant, Sr. African Children's Hostel in his honor.

Mr. Speaker, Bishop Bryant is married to Mrs. Yolanda Howard Bryant and they are the proud parents of five children: Superintendent Prince E. Bryant, II (Candies); Dommonique Jeannie Bryant; Phillip Paul Bryant; Elder Desmon Ryan Bryant (Franchell); and Tymorra Mishon Bryant.

They also have been blessed with five wonderful grandchildren: Prince E. Bryant, III, Paiton Anise Bryant, Pierce Edward O'neal Bryant, Madison Danielle Bryant, and John Patrick Bryant.

Mr. Speaker, for 50 years Bishop Bryant has provided remarkable service to our nation as a community, state, and national leader.

I am proud to call this remarkable American hero my friend and I offer him my heartfelt congratulations on the 50th Anniversary of his service in the ministry of the Gospel.

Bishop Bryant truly is a "Soldier of the Cross." I offer my best wishes for his continued success in ministering the Gospel for many years to come.

ANNOUNCING RECIPIENTS OF THE 2013 CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR THE THIRD DISTRICT OF TEXAS

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2013

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Lance Corporal John Wangler served in the United States Marine Corps from 2007 to 2011. His commitment to the military began at

a young age, learning from his grandfather, a Korean War Veteran, the value of placing duty to country above self. Immediately after graduating from high school, he enlisted in the Marine Corps in February 2007, because eighteen years was long enough for him to wait to serve. In 2008, Mr. Wangler deployed to Iraq where he completed more than 200 combat patrols throughout the Al-Anbar province. The following year he deployed to Afghanistan where he led mortar missions as the adjusting gun squad leader and commanded a six-man vehicle checkpoint that implemented security measures and registered local population. Because of his service and leadership, he was awarded the Combat Action Ribbon, Presidential Unit Citation, Afghanistan and Iraq Campaign Medals, as well as numerous other medals.

After returning to civilian life, he redirected his commitment to the college classroom at Collin College. Recognizing the difficulty of transitioning from military to civilian life, Mr. Wangler became an officer of the Student Veterans of America (SVA) organization where he currently helps other student veterans navigate through the GI Bill. He also volunteers as a mentor in the new Veterans Welcome and Resource Center on campus. Additionally, he is one of only three student veteran advisors, which plans and hosts events to honor the sacrifice of our service members. Mr. Wangler truly represents the best of our young generation. We need more young people like him who will give their time, energy, and efforts to make this community a better place.

Lance Corporal John Wangler, let me both thank and congratulate you on your exceptional service to our country and community both past and present. It is my pleasure to award you the 2013 Congressional Veteran Commendation for the Third District of Texas.

GABRIELLA MILLER KIDS FIRST
RESEARCH ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this bill, the so called Kids First Research Act.

The bill that we are considering here today has been brought up under the pretense of providing funding for pediatric research at the National Institutes of Health by redirecting the funds from the Presidential Election Campaign Fund to the amount of \$12.6 million per year.

As I am sure my colleagues know, I have always been a strong supporter of research at the NIH.

But the legislation before us is nothing more than a duplicitous attempt by Republicans to act as if they are providing support to the NIH. Yet in reality, NIH has seen its budget attacked and slashed in recent years. In 2011, the Republican budget proposed a \$1.6 billion cut to the NIH in a single year. I wonder where the compassion for children was then.

This very day the Republicans are bringing forward a budget agreement they want us to support that cuts \$172 billion in discretionary spending from levels President Obama and Democrats proposed in 2011. This so called

compromise will maintain a majority of cuts imposed by sequestration.

When sequestration went into effect, the NIH saw a \$1.55 billion cut to its budget. Of that, sequestration cut \$255 million from the NIH's cancer institute and \$66 million from the child health institute. Where was the outrage when those cuts went into effect?

If we truly cared about research at the NIH, we would not be proposing a \$12.6 million dollar increase in funding, we would be talking about restoring the \$1.55 billion cut by sequestration and then some.

The Kids First Research Act has a nice name and a noble intent, but no substance, and thus I cannot support this sad pretense.

JONATHAN SEROTA YALE MODEL
CONGRESS SPEECH

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2013

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, for 408 hours, the government of the United States of America shut down its facilities and closed its doors. Over the course of that tumultuous time, national parks, museums, and public grounds were barred to visitors. 800,000 Federal workers were sent home from their jobs, and many more were forced to work with delayed pay. Veterans, and active duty military personnel and their families were kept in a constant state of fear, worried about making ends meet. This period of panic was not caused by some foreign aggressor, some archenemy of state, or some ruthless tyrant. No, the crisis that shook the very faith that the American people had in their government, was caused by that very body itself. So who is to blame for the government shutdown? Shall we point fingers at Republicans? How about the Democrats? It must be someone's fault right? That is what our political system has taught us isn't it? Well, it appears that recently, that is just what it has done. As the ominous clouds descended upon the capital in the early hours of October the 1st, the government shutdown that took place in the District of Columbia, and all across the country, had effects that will continue to be impactful for years to come.

Model Congress. The word 'model' implies a want or desire to replicate, to recreate and imitate. For years now, thousands of students have come to Yale and other conferences alike, and taken pride in acting as Senators, Representatives, Cabinet Members, and Presidents. We have touted our accomplishments on our resumes, shined our gavels and framed our certificates. My question to you tonight is: Do we really, want to model Congress? The body which we have all gathered here tonight to replicate has, over the past several years, produced a stalemate and inefficiency that has rarely been seen in the long and arduous history of both man and this nation. Complete ideological division, refusal to compromise, and the inability to put national interest above self interest has weakened our country, as well as its image both at home and abroad. Why is it as teenagers, we are able to sit down, talk, work out our problems, and come to productive agreements, but as adults, we put our fingers in our ears and stomp our feet on the ground until we get

what we want? The roles seem to be backwards if you ask me.

People would like to have you believe that we are naive, we are inexperienced, and we know too little about the world to make decisions on our own. Well I argue the contrary. I think that they are too rigid, they are too closed minded, and they are too pleased with pushing the blame onto others, that they fail to see that the problem is caused by no one else but themselves.

Is this what America is about? Surely the land of the free and the home of the brave is not just some idealistic nonsense that we were told about in second grade, and then by the cruel hand of fate, forced to rule out as anything but true. The American ideal that we all hold dear to our hearts, the feeling of honor that sweeps over our senses and rushes down our spine when we publicly declare, "I am proud to be an American!" is only true because our government is about us, the people. We, the people, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity. We are that posterity.

We have come to this conference to argue for things which we are passionate about, and argue against those which we are passionately not about. We have come to this conference to test each other, and our ability to work together to shape both foreign and domestic policy. We have come to this conference to gain experience, to gain knowledge, and to make progress not only for ourselves, but also for those who feel that their opinion doesn't matter. While most of us came here tonight with distinct political agendas, we have always been able to open our minds, challenge our beliefs, and move together in the hope that we may one day truly create what Ronald Reagan famously described as, "that shining city on a hill".

I love what we do here at Model Congress. If you ask me, I don't think we imitate Congress, we act better than it. We don't aspire to be like them, we aspire to be better than them. Here, at this conference, we have come together to act like the body of government that the founders intended. There are no special interest groups, no superpacs, no shady campaign deals, and no political parties. There is only the work we have set out to do, and the goals which we wish to achieve.

As I sat to write this speech, I decided that I wanted to talk about something that really mattered to us, the youth of America. Now, I could have simply gotten up here, shouted a couple of phrases like "legalize marijuana", "Make the playing field fairer", "lower taxes", "feed the hungry" and "help the poor." And while I'm sure that I would have gotten a couple of apathetic rounds of applause, I thought that it would be more prudent to get up here, and as I have, talk about something that we, both as citizens and as young adults, are frustrated with in the hopes of bringing about change.

If elected I vow to each and every one of you, that I will help us take those first frightening steps into the obscure and unsure future. I will do my best to lead this conference in a way so that Congressmen, Senators, Governors, and Presidents alike know that we won't accept anything less than that second grade idealistic dream, so that our peers both

here and at home know that we mean business, and so that we may all realize that we must join hands and look into the unknown abyss that is our future, and conquer it with the fearless determination that is so quintessentially American.

With hope and faith, we move forward together. With knowledge and determination, we strive, to make a better tomorrow. May God Bless each and every one of you, and may God Bless the United States of America.

CONGRATULATING JACOB CURTIN JOHNSON ON ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2013

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize, honor and congratulate an outstanding constituent of my district, Jacob Curtis Johnson of Scout Troop 100 in Oviedo, Florida, for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

The rank of Eagle Scout is the highest achievement in scouting. To attain this rank, he has demonstrated the qualities of leadership, self-discipline and perseverance while serving his family, friends and community. Only about five percent of Boy Scouts earn the rank of Eagle Scout. The awarding of the Rank of Eagle Scout is a performance-based achievement with high standards that have been well maintained over the past century.

Jacob Johnson has met every test and challenge to pass through the ranks of the Boy Scouts. Those aspiring to be Eagle Scouts must fulfill requirements in the areas of leadership, service and outdoor skills. To demonstrate proficiency as a scout, each Boy Scout must achieve merit badges in the areas of First Aid, Citizenship, Environment, Fitness, Family Life and much more.

The work ethic Jacob has shown in his Eagle Scout projects, and every other project leading up to his Eagle Scout rank, speaks volumes about his commitment to assisting his community and serving a cause greater than himself. It is my honor to commend Daniel Moon for his achievement of the rank of Eagle Scout. Jacob will join the ranks of fellow Eagle Scouts like President Gerald R. Ford, Neil Armstrong and Florida Governor Rick Scott.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his supportive family demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and perseverance. Jacob's devotion to the Boy Scouts over the past decade is laudable, and I congratulate him on his achievement. I thank him for his dedication to service and know we can expect great things from him in the future. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Jacob Curtis Johnson on obtaining the rank of Eagle Scout, and I wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

ANNOUNCING RECIPIENTS OF THE 2013 CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR THE THIRD DISTRICT OF TEXAS

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2013

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to honor fourteen distinguished military veterans, community servants, and American patriots who call the Third District of Texas home. All faithfully answered the call of duty and placed service above self for the sake of our great nation. Each one leaves a legacy to be remembered, for future generations to follow, a legacy of bravery, loyalty, dedication, and sacrifice. For their selfless service, bold leadership, and undying commitment for their neighbor and nation, the following individual has been selected as a recipient of the third annual Congressional Veteran Commendation:

Captain Richard "BJ" Bjorklund served in the United States Air Force from 1966 to 1975. After graduating from the U.S. Air Force Academy, Mr. Bjorklund headed to pilot training at Reese Air Force Base in Lubbock, Texas. Later, he was assigned to the 668th Bomb Squadron, at Griffiss Air Force Base in New York and was shortly deployed to Anderson Air Force Base in Guam. He served two tours of duty at Anderson, and flew 75 Arc Light combat missions over Southeast Asia as a B-52 pilot. For his distinguished service, he received the Vietnam Service Medal and the Air Medal with Oak Leaf Clusters.

Since his honorable discharge in 1975, Mr. Bjorklund has worked as an investment advisor in Dallas, Texas, and has tirelessly devoted his time and efforts in service to our community. Back in 1985, he helped Congressman Dick Arme establish his Service Academy Selection Board. Mr. Bjorklund served as chairman of that board for the next 18 years until Congressman Arme retired as the House Majority Leader. Also involved in local politics, Mr. Bjorklund has been a delegate to the Texas GOP State Convention in both 2010 and 2012 and currently serves in an appointed position on the Collin County Health Care Advisory Board. He is also an active member in his church, Christ Church in Plano, Texas, and has served as chairman of the Building Fund Campaign as well as chairman of the Stewardship Campaign. On Memorial Day 2012, he hiked 35 miles with the Carry the Load Campaign in memory of veterans that have lost their lives for our great Nation. What a fitting reminder that all gave some, but some gave all.

Captain Richard "BJ" Bjorklund, let me both thank and congratulate you on your exceptional service to our country and community both past and present. It is my pleasure to award you the 2013 Congressional Veteran Commendation for the Third District of Texas.

WHAT GIFT CAN I BRING? IN HONOR OF OUR ARMED FORCES AND THEIR FAMILIES THIS CHRISTMAS

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2013

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of America's Armed Forces, and their Families during this Christmas and Holiday Season. The ones who are separated by death, war, and plagued with life altering health conditions throughout America, are paying the price of freedom for us all. The ones who give us the greatest gifts, "That Last Full Measure". Say a prayer for them, and keep them in your hearts this Christmas and Holiday Season. Say a prayer for peace, I ask that this poem penned in their honor by Albert Carey Caswell be placed in the RECORD.

WHAT GIFT CAN I BRING?

(By Albert Carey Caswell)

"What gift can I bring?" . . .
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 "That's fit for a King" . . .
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 What gift can I give?
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 All in this life I live . . .
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 While,
 into the valley of death I walked!
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 Out into that darkness standing tall!
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 My arms and legs I gave . . .
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 For you I limp this day!
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 And in my arms my love ones I shall never
 hold this way . . .
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 All so we may live in peace this day!
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 And . . . my eyes I gave . . .
 so all in darkness I must stay . . .
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 As another beautiful sunset I shall never so
 see portrayed . . .
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 And my ears I gave,
 so I can never hear the words "I love you"
 say . . .
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 And all those scars upon my face . . .
 In the mirror I must look at each day . . .
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 All for the beauty of peace on earth this day
 . . .
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 As all in such nightmares I awake . . .
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 All in the name of Freedom I paid . . .
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 What greater gift can I give?
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 That's fit for a King . . .
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 As I did . . .
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 As all in such pain and worry my family now
 lives . . .
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 And all of those Doctors and Nurses,
 Corpsmen and Medics who witness such
 death and carnage each day!
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 Who so many lives so save!
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 Creating such demons inside they must now
 so face!

Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 And my life I gave!
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 As approached the face of death . . .
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 As out to me so called . . .
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 As its hand upon me I felt and saw . . .
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 As my Brothers In Arms gathered around
 cried,
 praying with tears in eyes . . .
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 I gave my best for them!
 I gave my life for them!
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 And I'd do it all over again my son!
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 All so one day more they could live!
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 As they so lowered me into my quiet grave
 . . .
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 As my family so wept upon that day . . .
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 As ever the tears they made!
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 As they now live with the kind of pain which
 won't go away!
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 All so,
 we may have peace on earth this day . . .
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 Was but the price of Freedom I paid . . .
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 Pum . . .
 Pum . . .
 What gift can I bring?
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 That's fit for a King!
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 And then,
 he smiled at me . . .
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 As my Lord said,
 "come to heaven son" . . .
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 Smiled at me!
 Pa rumpa pum pum . . .
 Pum!
 Pum!
 Pum!

HONORING THE EDDIE VALLUS
 POLKA BAND

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2013

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the harmonious and melodious career of Eddie Vallus and the Eddie Vallus Band. The sweet sounds of the Eddie Vallus Polka Band included talented musicians John Ross, Ed Wasacz, Al Martini, Lou Tofil, and of course Eddie Vallus. They spent their lives on the bandstand sharing their music with their fans who love to dance, dance, dance. Since the release of their debut album in 1963, the Eddie Vallus Band has been recognized as a musical force. They were honored by former mayor of Youngstown Pat Ungaro and the Mahoning County Commission in 1985. The band's success garnered them a Grammy nomination in 1989, the Cleveland Polka Hall of Fame Trustee Award in 2003, and a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2012.

I am convinced that the world needs more polka but after a lifetime of extended bookings, it saddens me that the Eddie Vallus Band has decided to put their instruments down. Many of my friends and neighbors continue to cherish their music. On October 26th, the band played its final concert at St. Paul Church in New Middletown, Ohio. As a 77 year resident of Boardman, Ohio, incomparable Eddie Vallus is an inspiration to our community. Although the Eddie Vallus Band will be no more, Eddie will continue to perform with the Rex Taneri Band. Eddie has led a long and happy life marked by success and a love of the arts. For Eddie there is never a sour note and he is always on key and in rhythm. I wish Mr. Vallus all the best and know he will spend time with his wife Pat of 51 years, his three daughters, and his five grandchildren. And a one and a two and a three for Eddie Vallus.

HONORING KARYN SINUNU-
 TOWERY

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2013

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the service of Ms. Karyn Sinunu-Towery to the County of Santa Clara.

For over 30 years, Ms. Sinunu-Towery has served the people of Santa Clara County in the District Attorney's Office. She has made enormous contributions to the office, and after her final day of service on December 20, 2013, she will undoubtedly be missed.

Ms. Sinunu-Towery began her career in 1983 as a law clerk for the Santa Clara District Attorney. Two years later, on December 12, 1985, she became a member of the California Bar and joined the office as a staff attorney.

After serving eleven years as a Deputy District Attorney and the Supervisor of the Sexual Assault Unit, prosecuting over 50 jury trials, Ms. Sinunu-Towery was promoted to the executive position of Assistant District Attorney. In this role, she has lead-by-example, and provided valuable counsel to the District Attorney.

Throughout her career Ms. Sinunu-Towery has been known for her fairness, resilience, professionalism, and commitment to justice.

Ms. Sinunu-Towery has a reputation as a reformer who truly cared for the victims she was charged with protecting. She wrote Victim's Rights manuals that were distributed throughout California and developed a model procedure for the investigation of child-abuse investigations with the goal of reducing the trauma to the children involved.

Ms. Sinunu-Towery was just as vigilant when it came to ensuring that the accused received fair treatment. She worked with local police chiefs and the Sheriff to create fairer line-up procedures to accurately identify suspects, and guidelines for the interrogation of mentally ill suspects. She personally worked to free defendants wrongly convicted and is a model for prosecutors everywhere in this regard.

Ms. Sinunu-Towery was a trailblazer when it came to the use of technology to better administer justice. She was instrumental in the office's transition from paper to electronic data

storage, and continued to push for greater technology use.

I wish to congratulate Ms. Karyn Sinunu-Towery on her impressive career and commend her for 30 years of service to the Santa Clara County community. She leaves the District Attorney's Office a better place and will be dearly missed.

ANNOUNCING RECIPIENTS OF THE
 2013 CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN
 COMMENDATION FOR THE THIRD
 DISTRICT OF TEXAS

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2013

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to honor fourteen distinguished military veterans, community servants, and American patriots who call the Third District of Texas home. All faithfully answered the call of duty and placed service above self for the sake of our great nation. Each one leaves a legacy to be remembered, for future generations to follow, a legacy of bravery, loyalty, dedication, and sacrifice. For their selfless service, bold leadership, and undying commitment for their neighbor and nation, the following individual has been selected as a recipient of the third annual Congressional Veteran Commendation:

Sergeant Paul Gade served in the United States Navy from 1979 to 1991 and currently serves in the Naval Reserves. During his time in service, Mr. Gade served isolated duty at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. During his 3rd Duty Station, Mr. Gade became interested in the SEAL program and in 1986 he qualified for the program. Having started the SEAL class with 120 participants, Mr. Gade was one of only 12 original classmates to complete the training. During graduation, he was selected as the Lead Petty Officer to ring out his class. To date, Mr. Gade is the only enlisted man to have that honor while officers present.

Mr. Gade continued his relentless service by joining the McKinney Police Department. He has served in the Patrol Division, as a Detective, in the Special Operations Division, and was a SWAT member for several years. When the McKinney Police Department was attacked in August 2010, Mr. Gade was among the officers to respond to the shooting by running into the fray to protect his fellow officers and citizens nearby.

Additionally, on July 4, 2009, Mr. Gade was sworn into the Naval Reserves, it's clear his desire to serve his community and country after all of these years continues. His contributions leave a legacy for us to recognize and honor as he goes out of his way to help fellow officers and citizens and has received numerous commendations for his actions.

Sergeant Paul Gade, let me both thank and congratulate you on your exceptional service to our country and community both past and present. It is my pleasure to award you the 2013 Congressional Veteran Commendation for the Third District of Texas.

TRIBUTE TO RAY GAESSER

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Ray Gaesser of Corning, Iowa for being named the next President of the American Soybean Association.

Founded in 1920, the American Soybean Association represents America's soybean farmers on issues vital to the soybean industry across the country and across the globe. The national, grassroots membership that comprise this great organization creates, promotes, and implements policies to improve the thriving soybean industry.

Ray Gaesser has farmed since his father's passing when he was just 15 years old. In 1979, two years after marrying his wife Elaine, the couple moved to the Corning area to begin a modest farming partnership. Today, the Gaessers farm nearly 6,000 acres of corn and soybeans and are an essential component of the Iowa farming community. As a member of the Iowa Soybean Association for nearly 30 years, Ray has won numerous awards while serving in several leadership roles. Mr. Gaesser served as President of the Iowa Soybean Association in 2007, was a member of Iowa's Products Advisory Committee from 2006 to 2011, and was awarded the Iowa Master Farmer Award in 2012.

Mr. Speaker, Ray's selection as the next American Soybean Association President is the culmination of a lifelong commitment to farming and a testament to the world-class agriculture industry of our great state. It is an honor to represent Mr. Gaesser, his family, and all of the hardworking farmers of Iowa in the United States Congress and I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in thanking our nation's farmers, congratulating Ray on his outstanding efforts, and wishing him continued success on the job ahead. Thank you.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS
OF DR. SANDRA E. MADRID**HON. ADAM SMITH**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2013

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and congratulate Dr. Sandra E. Madrid, who was recently awarded the 2013 Latino Heritage Award by the City of Seattle's Latino City Employees organization and Seattle Mayor Mike McGinn.

The Latino Heritage Award recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to Seattle through initiative, innovation, leadership, and commitment to the Latino community. Dr. Madrid has been an active member of her community for many years and has made it her priority to empower minority groups and promote Latino involvement.

Dr. Madrid recently retired from the University of Washington School of Law and has worked diligently on issues important to diverse communities in our region. Sandra has long advocated on behalf of women and children and the underrepresented. She is also an inspirational mentor and educator to young individuals and professionals.

Dr. Madrid currently serves as a board member for the United Way of King County, Seattle Children's Hospital, Seattle Art Museum, and YMCA. In addition to serving on more than 30 boards in the past 20 years, she was also the first Latina to serve on the Board of Trustees of the Seattle Children's Hospital.

Dr. Madrid's dedication to the Latino community has made her a widely respected advocate and leader. Her work is commendable and we are fortunate to have her expertise representing our region.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate Dr. Sandra E. Madrid on her contributions to the City of Seattle.

ANNOUNCING RECIPIENTS OF THE
2013 CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN
COMMENDATION FOR THE THIRD
DISTRICT OF TEXAS**HON. SAM JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2013

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to honor fourteen distinguished military veterans, community servants and American patriots who call the Third District of Texas home. All faithfully answered the call of duty and placed service above self for the sake of our great nation. Each one leaves a legacy to be remembered, for future generations to follow, a legacy of bravery, loyalty, dedication, and sacrifice. For their selfless service, bold leadership, and undying commitment for their neighbor and nation, the following individual has been selected as a recipient of the third annual Congressional Veteran Commendation:

Dr. Stephanie Abramoske-James served in the United States Army from 1986 to 2007. She joined the Military Police Corp in 1986 where her first assignment was in Fort Hood, Texas, and was later deployed to Honduras. In 1990, she joined the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command, where she protected three Secretaries of Defense and investigated, processed, and supervised thousands of criminal investigations. In 2003, she deployed to Iraq as a part of Operation Iraqi Freedom as a Forensic Science Officer to gather evidence against Saddam Hussein for the offense of genocide. In her 21 years of distinguished service to the U.S. Army, Dr. Abramoske-James has received the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, four Meritorious Service Medals, two National Defense Service Medals, and numerous other decorations.

As a resident of Plano, Texas, Dr. Abramoske-James continues to be an active servant to her local community. She created an ongoing CSI summer camp to mentor high school students interested in forensic science. She has been a volunteer consultant with the Dallas Area Rape Crisis Center, and is currently working on mentoring programs for at-risk youth in Plano ISD. She is also one of three faculty advisors to the Student Veterans of America at Collin College. Her vast knowledge, remarkable experiences, dedication to justice, as well as her commitment to her students makes her a superb educator and a role-model for all.

Dr. Stephanie Abramoske-James, let me both thank and congratulate you on your ex-

ceptional service to our country and community both past and present. It is my pleasure to award you the 2013 Congressional Veteran Commendation for the Third District of Texas.

CHARLIE AND MARILYN WALLACE
CELEBRATE THEIR 50TH WED-
DING ANNIVERSARY**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2013

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize two of my constituents, Charlie and Marilyn Wallace, who will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary with a vow renewal ceremony in my Texas district office this week. These two native Texans have spent half of a century together, and I am proud to honor them.

Charlie and Marilyn first met on April 6, 1963, at the University of Texas at Austin during its famous, festive tradition of Round-Up weekend. In a series of random events, some acquaintances conspired to set Charlie and Marilyn up on a blind date. Marilyn, a senior English major, reluctantly accepted Charlie's invitation to the Round-Up talent show and dance with great reservation because Charlie was an Aggie! Yes, prior to his graduate studies at UT, Charlie earned his bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering from Texas A&M.

That evening, Charlie called Marilyn from her dorm lobby where male students were required to wait for their dates. He told her he was wearing a blue suit with a red tie and to "look for the ugliest one in the room." [Marilyn mistakenly first approached the wrong guy, also wearing a blue suit and red tie, who gave her a strange look when she said, "Charles?"] Fortunately, she found the right man soon thereafter.]

Midway through the evening, Marilyn had the uncharacteristic, passing thought: "It might be fun to be married to a man like this." It wasn't a typical date for Charlie either: In addition to the talent show and dance, he gave Marilyn a tour of his chemical engineering research lab and even played his guitar for her.

Marilyn graduated in August of 1963 and went on to teach English at Houston ISD's Austin High School, her alma mater, but Charlie made sure she didn't get away before she finally accepted his proposal on August 1, 1963. Charlie presented Marilyn with an engagement ring on September 21, 1963, and they were married December 21, 1963, in Houston at the Epworth Methodist Church.

Upon Charlie's completion of his master's degree in August 1964, he accepted a job with Shell Oil Co. that started with an intensive training program and work assignments at Shell's locations throughout Louisiana. During the Louisiana years, Marilyn was a substitute teacher, and she also held various administrative assistant positions that included one at LSU's agronomy department where she was well-regarded for her outstanding work and professionalism. Of particular note is that Marilyn served as a volunteer teacher during the Integration of the Louisiana Public School System and taught typing to Special Education students. Charlie and Marilyn also were involved in a Prison Ministry that they started at

Angola Prison. The couple bought their first home and settled in Slidell, Louisiana, in the summer of 1967, and their daughter Sheryl was born in New Orleans later that fall. Their son David was born in Slidell in the summer of 1970, just a few weeks before Charlie was transferred from New Orleans to Shell's Head Office in New York City.

In 1971, when Shell's Head Office Engineering was moved to Houston, the Wallaces were thrilled to return home to Texas. After 35 years of service to Shell, Charlie "retired" in 1999. However, Charlie immediately started his own full-time chemical engineering consulting business. His career has presented him with opportunities for international travel to Canada, The Netherlands, France, Hungary [when it was still behind the Iron Curtain,] China, England, Scotland, and Italy.

Marilyn has always been a supportive wife and mother and a committed homemaker. She is an "independent agent of good" who dedicates her time, resources, creativity, and advocacy to improve the quality of life for a diverse array of people including the seriously ill, the disadvantaged, the disabled, and the elderly.

Their children describe Charlie and Marilyn as fiercely committed to each other and extremely compatible. They enjoy travel, the outdoors, fitness and nutrition, and music. It is an honor to represent such decent, hardworking, civic-minded Texans. I want to congratulate Charlie and Marilyn on their 50th anniversary and may God bless them with many more years together. They are truly an outstanding couple from the second district of Texas.

RECOGNIZING THE WASHINGTON
HIGH SCHOOL WILDCATS AS THE
2013 SWIMMING CLASS 2A FLORIDA
CHAMPIONS

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2013

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to congratulate the First Congressional District of Florida's Booker T. Washington High School Wildcats for winning their first Class 2A State Swimming Championship. This victory marks the swim team's first state title, as well as, the first title for a girls swim team in Escambia or Santa Rosa counties.

Truly an outstanding team effort put forth by the swimmers, under the leadership of their talented coach, Ms. Megan Oberholtzer, there is no question that several performances contributed to the overall title. Jacquie Kinman and Chloe Berens swam the 100-yard breaststroke, which ended up putting the team in first place as they entered the final event. Brooke Ferrara, Miss Kinman, Rachel Martin and Brianna Mount swam the 400-yard freestyle relay in the All-American consideration time of 3:31.98. Miss Ferrara and Miss Kinman also joined Sophia Digne and Abigail Goram in the 200 medley relay winning with the All-American consideration time of 1:47.16, and Miss Mount, Miss Martin, Miss Goram, and Miss Kinman won the 200 freestyle at 1:36.57, again, an All-American consideration time. Exceptional individual swimming achievements included Miss Mount's second place finish in the 50 freestyle in 23.57 sec-

onds and Miss Kinman's second-place finish in the 100 breaststroke in 1:04.77, both All-American consideration times. Finally, Miss Ferrara finished third in the 50 freestyle and 100-yard backstroke with All-American consideration times, 23.68 and 56.56 respectively.

The Washington Wildcats ended their undefeated season with a final team score of 233, triumphing over the second-placed team by 17 points. I commend the team for challenging themselves and setting an example for their fellow students and youth in our community.

Washington High's victory at the 2013 Florida Swim Team Championships is a testament to the commitment and dedication of all the members of the team, and it is a great reflection on the entire Washington High and Northwest Florida community. On behalf of the United States Congress, my wife Vicki and I congratulate the Wildcats for this extraordinary accomplishment and wish them continued success.

CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS
RESOLUTION, 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, the bipartisan budget agreement represents some modicum of compromise, something that has been sorely lacking in this Congress. It is by no means a perfect deal, but both sides have made concessions so that we may avert a repeat of the disastrous government shutdown and begin to restore some of the draconian cuts caused by sequestration.

For me, and many of my colleagues, this will be a "hold-your-nose and vote yes vote," given our disappointment and concern about yet another cut in benefits for new federal employees. No other group in America has been asked to make the same sacrifices as the dedicated men and women of our federal workforce.

Federal employees already have contributed \$114 billion to deficit reduction as a result of a 3-year pay freeze, a reduction in retirement benefits for new hires, and lost pay as a result of furloughs. Thankfully, we were able to beat back the worst proposals to further encroach on their benefits, and I believe this bipartisan deal will minimize the prospect of additional furloughs by replacing some of the sequestration cuts.

Nonetheless, I will continue fighting for our federal employees until they receive the respect they deserve and have earned. I will continue to push back against those in Congress who unfairly impugn federal workers for partisan political gain. And I will continue to protect the rights and dignity of federal workers and the valuable public service they provide to the nation.

For Northern Virginia, which was disproportionately affected by sequestration, this agreement for the first time will replace a portion of those indiscriminate cuts with a more balanced approach. It will actually increase federal investments in research, innovation, and transportation. That in turn will help unleash business investments, which have lagged due

to a sense of uncertainty fueled by the political brinkmanship in Congress.

No one got everything they wanted out of this deal. Indeed, I along with many of my colleagues would have preferred to see an extension of long-term unemployment benefits, which has a very direct and significant benefit on more than 1 million families and our national and local economies. Every dollar of assistance generates \$1.64 in economic activity in the community. Sadly, it was not addressed here, but we will continue to push the Speaker to bring it up separately to help those still struggling to find work.

Congress faces many more serious challenges in the coming weeks and months, including the need to raise the debt ceiling, renew long-term transportation funding, and reform our broken immigration system. Perhaps this bipartisan breakthrough will provide the model we need to avoid the "my-way-or-the-highway" shutdown brand of politics that has characterized the Republican philosophy of governance for the last three years.

ANNOUNCING RECIPIENTS OF THE
2013 CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN
COMMENDATION FOR THE THIRD
DISTRICT OF TEXAS

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2013

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to honor fourteen distinguished military veterans, community servants, and American patriots who call the Third District of Texas home. All faithfully answered the call of duty and placed service above self for the sake of our great nation. Each one leaves a legacy to be remembered, for future generations to follow, a legacy of bravery, loyalty, dedication, and sacrifice. For their selfless service, bold leadership, and undying commitment for their neighbor and nation, the following individual has been selected as a recipient of the third annual Congressional Veteran Commendation:

Justin Arsenault served in the United States Army from 2003 to 2006. After enlisting, he served one tour of duty in Iraq from 2005 to 2006. During his tour, Mr. Arsenault was his unit's primary pilot for the Raven Unmanned Aerial Vehicle where he was to utilize the Raven to clear supply routes. During one particular mission, he used the Raven to maintain an aerial perimeter for troops whose vehicle had been disabled by a roadside explosive device. He continued to monitor the area for enemy combatants until ground support could reach the disabled troops and escort them to safety. For his acts of bravery and courage during this mission, Mr. Arsenault received a second Army Commendation Medal.

Since returning home, Mr. Arsenault has continued to faithfully uphold his calling to defend, protect, and serve his fellow Americans across the community. In 2007, he began his service as a police officer in Allen, Texas where he currently serves as a Field Training Officer. If all of that is not enough, off duty he volunteers his time for the Carry the Load campaign, which is held over Memorial Day weekend every year. To him, Memorial Day ought to be more than cookouts and retail

sales events, but a day to remember and honor the ultimate sacrifice given by members of our Armed Forces. This is a man who truly embodies the spirit of America.

Justin Arsenault, let me both thank and congratulate you on your exceptional service to our country and community both past and present. It is my pleasure to award you the 2013 Congressional Veteran Commendation for the Third District of Texas.

CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS
RESOLUTION, 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on H. J. Res. 59, the "Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 and Pathway for Sustainable Growth in Medicare Reform Act of 2013."

On the positive side: Republicans—and the bipartisan deal does not cut Medicare, Social Security, or Medicaid benefits by a penny even though our friends across the aisle went into the talks insisting on cuts to programs like Head Start, Housing, Social Security, Medicaid, and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs that sustain children, families, and seniors.

The agreement increases discretionary spending caps under the 2011 Budget Control Act (BCA) for FY 2014 and FY 2015 to partially restore spending cuts that would otherwise be made those two years under the sequester required by the BCA.

Under the measure, the sequester for FY 2014 and FY 2015 would be reduced to restore \$63 billion in spending authority for those two years—while \$85 billion in cuts to mandatory programs and revenue increases would be made to more than offset that increased spending and provide for a net \$23 billion in deficit reduction.

BUDGET CAPS & SEQUESTRATION

The budget proposal increases FY 2014 discretionary spending by \$45 billion and FY 2015 spending by \$18 billion compared with their scheduled sequestration levels, with the increases equally split each year between defense and non-defense spending (a \$22.4 billion increase for each category this year and a \$9 billion increase for each in FY 2015).

Those increases would set a \$1.012 trillion limit on discretionary spending for FY 2014 and a \$1.014 trillion limit for FY 2015. Under the current stopgap funding law, discretionary spending set at the woefully inadequate sequestration level of \$986 billion.

Under the new caps, defense spending for FY 2014 would be set at \$520.5 billion (about \$2 billion more than current funding), while nondefense spending would be increased to \$491.8 billion.

Because of the circumstances that led to the budget impasse during the first session of the 113th Congress, I introduced H. Res. 375, a bill expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that Congress should refrain from shutting down the Federal government or conditioning the resolution of fiscal and budgetary disputes on the taking of action relating to non-germane legislative matters.

I invite members from both sides of the aisle to co-sponsor H. Res. 375.

The budget proposal before us is not perfect—far from it—but it is a modest and positive step toward preventing Republicans from shutting down the government again and manufacturing crises that only harm our economy, destroy jobs, and weaken our middle class.

A self-manufactured crisis by the Republican majority resulted in a government shutdown that lasted 16 days and cost taxpayers \$24 billion.

The cost to Federal employees and the people they serve cannot be calculated.

As with any compromise there are some things in the agreement that I support and some things that I strongly oppose.

The agreement allows Congress to move forward in meeting its obligations to the American people by alleviating some of the damage being caused by sequestration.

It is useful to chronicle the severity of the suffering and pain inflicted by sequestration on the most vulnerable residents of Texas and the Constituents that I serve.

SEQUESTRATION IMPACTS ON TEXAS

Head Start and Early Head Start services were eliminated or severely impacted with approximately 4,800 children being impacted throughout the state of Texas.

Families in my district who rely on Federal Government programs like Head Start are hurting. The pain did not start with the shutdown, but with sequestration which hit Head Start programs for 3 to 4 year olds in the Houston area hard: \$5,341 million cut; 109 Employees cut; 699 Slots for children cut.

Head Start and Early Head Start Programs were further stressed by the federal government shutdown.

On October 2, I joined hundreds of Head Start supporters from across the country and many of my colleagues to protest the closing of Head Start programs due to the federal government shutdown.

I picked up one of the tiny blue chairs that represented the thousands of Head Start children from around the nation and said that an empty Head Start chair represents a future doctor, engineer, president, or teacher who is at risk because of the Federal Government shutdown.

My support of Head Start and Early Head Start is based on what I have seen and heard about programs like the AVANCE-Houston Early Head Start program serving parents and children in the 18th Congressional District.

The AVANCE-Houston Early Head Start is a program serving low income families in my Houston Texas District.

I visited with AVANCE-Houston administrators earlier this month because I wanted to get an update on how low-income families with infants and toddlers and pregnant women served by the program were doing.

The AVANCE-Houston Early Head Start's mission is simple: AVANCEHouston works for healthy prenatal outcomes for pregnant women, enhance the development of very young children, and promote healthy family functioning.

AVANCE-Houston serves nearly 1,800 children city wide. Each of these families and their children are suffering the effect of the legislative malpractice of the House majority.

Sequestration has cost AVANCE-Houston \$842,518 Head Start and Early Head Start in lost funding for ending the harmful effects of Sequestration on programs like Head Start had to be a priority.

SEQUESTRATION AND HOUSE BUDGET BILL'S NEGATIVE IMPACT ON THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANT PROGRAM (SNAP)

The House Republicans' Farm Bill proposed cutting our nation's food assistance programs, known as SNAP, by \$20.5 billion to stay within the unrealistic funding limitations set by sequestration even though a cut of this magnitude would deprive millions of children, seniors, disabled persons, and families of the benefits they need to survive in an economy that has not yet fully recovered from the worst recession since the Great Depression.

SNAP FACTS

In the 18th Congressional District an estimated 151,741 families live in poverty.

According to the Census my city of Houston more than 442,881 persons live near the poverty level.

The percentage of Texas households experiencing food insecurity (18%) ranked second only to Mississippi.

WE KNOW THAT THERE IS HUNGER IN AMERICA

For more than 40 years, SNAP has offered nutrition assistance to millions of low income individuals and families. Today, the SNAP program serves over 46 million people each month. Households with children receive about 75 percent of all food stamp benefits. 23 percent of households include a disabled person and 18 percent of households include an elderly person. The FSP increases household food spending, and the increase is greater than what would occur with an equal benefit in cash. Every \$5 in new food stamp benefits generates almost twice as much (\$9.20) in total community spending.

According to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), 16.7 million children under 18 in the United States live in households where they are unable to consistently access enough nutritious food for a healthy life.

FOOD INSECURITY

16.7 million Children lived in food insecure households in 2011.

20 percent or more of the child population in 37 states and D.C. lived in food insecure households in 2011.

EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE

Nearly 14 million children are estimated to be served by Feeding America, over 3 million of which are ages 5 and under.

54 percent of client households with children under the age of 3 participated in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC).

POVERTY

In 2011, 16.1 million or approximately 22 percent of children in the U.S. lived in poverty: Participation in Federal Nutrition Programs.

In fiscal year 2011, 47 percent of all SNAP household contained children.

During the 2011 federal fiscal year, more than 31 million low-income children received free or reduced-price meals through the National School Lunch Program.

Unfortunately, just 2.3 million children participated in the Summer Food Service Program that same year.

This proposed budget protects SNAP programs from crippling cuts for 2014–2015.

In addition to providing relief from sequestration there are a number of other good provisions in the Budget Agreement. For example:

THE BUDGET AGREEMENT PROTECTS SOCIAL SECURITY
AND MEDICARE

The budget agreement blocks a scheduled 23.7 percent reduction in the Medicare reimbursement rate for physician services set to occur January 1, in order to meet the sustainable growth rate. Instead, the measure's so-called "doc fix" provides a 0.5 percent increase for the first three months of 2014, and it also extends more than a dozen Medicare-related programs.

The budget deal makes sure that doctors who treat seniors have a guarantee of payment for the medical services they provide.

The budget agreement also addresses the issue of payments to hospitals that treat large numbers of uninsured patients.

The budget also makes changes to payment rates for inpatient services in long-term care hospitals.

Congressional Budget Office estimates that the three-month doc fix would cost \$7.3 billion and that the efforts to reduce the burden to taxpayers would reduce spending by \$9 billion.

The net direct spending for health care related programs, after factoring expansion of health care programs, would be an overall budget reduction of \$300 million over 10 years.

The agreement scales back the proposed cuts to federal employees sought by Republicans and exempts current federal employees.

Federal employees under the budget agreement would receive a pay increase—the first in three years.

Sequestration cuts would be diminished under this budget agreement, which opens the Federal government up for new hires in the coming year.

Federal employees are making contributions toward budget reduction considering the three years of no cost of living increases and the increased contributions toward retirement plans for new government hires and military retirees.

ON THE NEGATIVE SIDE:

Mr. Speaker, it is outrageous—it is scandalous—that the budget agreement does not include an extension of unemployment insurance for the 1.3 million jobless workers will have their benefits cut off on December 28, and nearly another 1.9 million will lose their unemployment benefits over the first half of next year.

If Congress does not extend unemployment insurance, an additional 3.6 million workers will lose access to benefits in 2014.

In Texas, 68,900 jobless workers will lose their unemployment benefits on December 28th.

An additional 106,900 Texas workers will lose access to benefits in 2014.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

The national unemployment rate remains at 7 percent and the unemployment rate in Texas sits at 6.4 percent.

This is no time to reduce unemployment insurance.

Unemployment Insurance was not designed to be a lifelong program, but a means of addressing short-term unemployment that most Americans experience over the course of their work lives.

The unusual circumstances of a global recession that began in the United States with the access and abuse of our nation's financial and mortgage insurance systems that trapped homeowners with mortgages that were much higher than the value of their homes.

This fiscal situation strained our nation's economic system then to add the cost of two wars fought at the same time for nearly a decade the nation's economy could not take the strain and by the end of 2008 the Great Recession could not be ignored.

It took time to create the economic down turn and it will take time for communities, families and workers to recover. The unemployment insurance program should reflect that reality by providing support to workers until the economy is fully recovered.

If Congress does not act immediately to extend these benefits, a devastating blow will be dealt not only to the millions of Americans who are already struggling, but to our economy.

That is why yesterday I joined more than 170 of Democratic colleagues in calling upon Speaker BOEHNER not to adjourn this House for the year without extending the vital unemployment insurance desperately needed by millions of our fellow citizens.

To let their benefits expire in the middle of the holiday season is cruel and heartless and unworthy of a great and generous nation.

Cutting off unemployment benefits at the end of the year will only further hurt an economy already injured by sequestration and the Republican government shutdown.

The Congressional Budget Office estimated that 750,000 fewer jobs will be created or retained in calendar year 2013 because of the budget cuts under sequestration.

The government shutdown cost our economy an additional 120,000 jobs and \$24 billion in tax dollars in the first two weeks of October alone, according to the Council of Economic Advisors.

The Economic Policy Institute estimates that cutting off extended unemployment benefits would cost our economy 310,000 jobs next year because of reduced consumer demand.

Other experts, like Michael Feroli, the chief economist at JPMorgan Chase, indicate that allowing the federal unemployment insurance (UI) program to expire could shave as much as 0.4 percentage point off our economy's growth in the first quarter of 2014.

Letting unemployment benefits expire will deprive our economy of the positive impact unemployment insurance provides since financially stressed unemployed workers spend any benefits they receive quickly.

CBO also concluded in a 2012 report that assistance for the unemployed has one of the "largest effects on employment per dollar of budgetary cost."

This is why I will be introducing a bill to extend the emergency Unemployment compensation program by an additional 12 months.

A colleague recounted what happened when Wal-Mart sought to fill 600 positions—23,000 people came to apply for positions.

Although employment rates have improved the numbers of unemployed persons still has the nation at a 7 percent unemployment rate.

The length of time people are unemployed is a serious indication that this recovery is not vigorous enough or strong enough to take away money that is needed to keep people in housing and allow them more time to find employment.

It is estimated that there are approximately 4 million jobs available and 12 million persons unemployed.

There is speculation that businesses are reluctant to hire because of the uncertainty cre-

ated by the dysfunction exhibited by Congress especially during 2013.

This is yet another reason why the budget agreement is important to pass, although it does not have everything I would want. It may signal to business that Congress is ready to get down to work on our nation's problems and not threaten economic calamity by not raising the debt ceiling and thereby threatening not to meet our fiscal obligations.

Congress cannot close its eyes and hope that businesses will start hiring—the purpose of unemployment insurance is the same purpose of any insurance—when it is needed for as long as it is needed it must be available.

I am not closing my eyes, Mr. Speaker; I will be introducing a bill to extend unemployment insurance for the 12 million Americans who are still in need of support until the economy is healthy again.

CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS
RESOLUTION, 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this new Ryan-Murray budget agreement because it is a strong continuation of an anti-government, pessimistic policy that has been plaguing Washington in recent years.

Make no mistake about it; this budget agreement is the direct result of the Budget Control Act, which I strongly opposed when it was being debated 2011, and this agreement takes us backwards. I knew then sequester would wreak havoc on our economy, threaten our quality of life, and squeeze the most vulnerable among us.

Here we are, over two years later, and the worst of it is coming true. The sequester has cut research, education, infrastructure, Medicare, and a number of other critical investments that are vital to a growing economy. It is robbing America of the opportunity to rise from the Great Recession as a stronger, more vibrant nation. Instead, the sequester is continuing to weaken our country with a shrunken government that is hampered by deep cuts to the safety net and hobbled by a refusal to invest in our future. This budget agreement from Congressman RYAN and Senator MURRAY is a way to partially and minimally reverse cuts that should never have happened in the first place.

It is a compromise in a narrow, Washington kind of sense: It will gain some votes from Democrats and some votes from Republicans. But let's remember how the BCA came to be enacted: In 2011, Republicans held hostage America's credit rating by threatening to default on our debts if they didn't get what they wanted. No true compromise was possible then because the negotiations were conducted in the midst of a hostage crisis. No compromise is possible now because we are still operating within the framework created by that hostage crisis.

The question we should ask ourselves is, "Where are we trying to go as a country?" We should be striving toward an optimistic future—one where we invest in research, education, infrastructure, and more. By that measure, this is a bad deal.

The agreement—not really a compromise—slashes discretionary spending and tinkers with a few other things like raising fees on airline tickets, decreasing reimbursement to Medicare providers, and lowering military retirement pensions. How could we actually think this is the kind of path forward for our country?

There is no attempt to close tax loopholes on corporate jet or on expenses of oil and gas companies, and makes no effort in asking the wealthiest among us to pay their fair share to live in an orderly, humane, equitable society. Favored corporate interests, millionaires, and billionaires will continue to receive special tax breaks as far as the eye can see while unemployment insurance expires, leaving millions struggling to find work out in the cold just weeks after Christmas. That is not the sort of fair, balanced deal that Americans have asked for and expect from their leaders.

IT'S THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME
OF THE YEAR

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2013

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, it's the most wonderful time of the year. Families across the fruited plain decorate their houses with red and green lights, hang ornaments on their trees, and think about new recipes to spice up this year's menu. Holiday party invitations flow in, carolers line the neighborhood streets at night, everybody is in the holiday spirit. In the midst of all the cheer, we are reminded that many families are sitting down this year to a table with an empty chair. They are not together because their loved ones (our American warriors) are oceans away from their families, fighting for the rest of us.

They say the worst casualty of war is to be forgotten. In our community we have a tradition to make sure that our men and women overseas know that we will never forget them. For seven straight years, Texans from the Second Congressional District and beyond have joined forces and collected handmade Christmas cards from the community to send overseas to our military. People from young school children to community leaders contribute, and this joint effort makes my annual Christmas Cards for Troops drive a success. Whether they are students, teachers, area Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, churches, and non-profits, they have been relentless in their efforts to express how grateful they are for our men and women on the front lines of battle by decorating and personalizing holiday cards for the troops. In my opinion, there's no better way than spreading the joy of the holidays overseas to the ones that can't be with their families for Christmas dinner and unwrapping gifts from under the tree. Each year is better than the last.

There is no greater sight than watching our troops open up the colorful, heartwarming cards. It wasn't until a few years ago that I witnessed firsthand what it means to them. One year, I decided to pack my bags and visit the Landstuhl Military Base in Germany, a hub for wounded Americans who come from Afghanistan and Iraq. With me, I carried two suitcases full of 6,000 handmade cards piled high from

third, fourth, and fifth graders of the Second Congressional District.

I checked one of my suitcases but decided to carry on the smaller of the two. The temptation to read the cards overtook me. I couldn't hold back so about half way through the flight, I opened the bag and began reading some of the cards. Curiosity sparked the person in the seat next to me so I shared a few of the cards with him. Then the person next to him wanted to see the cards, too. Before I knew it, the whole plane was reading them. The cards were being passed up and down the aisles, and some tears were shed. You wouldn't believe the kind words written in those cards by these Texas school children.

When I arrived at the base and hand-delivered these cards, I was amazed to see what they meant to our troops. They didn't personally know the child who the card was from but every one of them read it and smiled proudly at the words of support. Soon, nurses were scrambling to tape as many cards as they could to the hospital walls above their beds. Red, green, yellow, and blue cards were decorated with snowmen, gingerbread men, candy canes, menorahs, or even their favorite football team. There is something about a homemade card that doesn't compare to anything else, especially when it's from a child.

This year was our most successful card drive yet with a record-breaking collection of 113,000 cards. A special thank you City of Baytown, Goose Creek CISD, Humble ISD, Spring ISD, Huffman ISD, Klein ISD, Cy Fair ISD, Spring Branch ISD, as well as area Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops, local churches and non-profits. It could not have been done without them.

In a few weeks, hundreds of thousands of soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines will open up their packages from Operation Interdependence, along with their holiday card from a fellow Texan. Although the military member has never met the child or person on the other side of the world who took the time to create the card, there is nothing like receiving the holiday cheer from the land of the free and home of the brave.

And that's just the way it is.

ANNOUNCING RECIPIENTS OF THE
2013 CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN
COMMENDATION FOR THE THIRD
DISTRICT OF TEXAS

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2013

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to honor fourteen distinguished military veterans, community servants, and American patriots who call the Third District of Texas home. All faithfully answered the call of duty and placed service above self for the sake of our great nation. Each one leaves a legacy to be remembered, for future generations to follow, a legacy of bravery, loyalty, dedication, and sacrifice. For their selfless service, bold leadership, and undying commitment for their neighbor and nation, the following individual has been selected as a recipient of the third annual Congressional Veteran Commendation:

Serving in the United States Navy for ten years, Commander Jeff Hensley began his

military career after graduating from the University of Texas in August 1988. After finishing top of his class in flight school, he was assigned to fly an F-14 and deployed with Fighter Squadron 2 and 211. He later moved to Dallas where he served with the Navy Recruiting Office, which led him to Baghdad in 2005. From deployment to civilian services, Mr. Hensley has seen the whole spectrum of military service. Due to his exemplary leadership and patriotism, Hensley was awarded the Bronze Star, an Air Medal, and three Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals.

Having retired from active duty in 2008, his service to his country and the military continue to this day. He used the benefits of the new GI Bill to earn a master's degree in counseling to help other veterans make the transition from military life to civilian life. With his degree, Mr. Hensley worked with Rocky Top Equine therapy program and Equest's Hooves for Heroes program, where he serves as Program Coordinator. Furthermore, he now serves as the Texas head of the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans Association, IAVA, which serves over 10,000 IAVA members in Texas alone. Daily, he seeks the betterment of his fellow veterans and their families. His life work leaves a legacy to be honored, setting an example for future generations of a man whose commitment to serve never faded. IAVA's motto, "building the next greatest generation" couldn't be more fitting.

Commander Jeff Hensley, let me both thank and congratulate you on your exceptional service to our country and community both past and present. It is my pleasure to award you the 2013 Congressional Veteran Commendation for the Third District of Texas.

RECOGNIZING THE WEYER-
HAEUSER COMPANY, RECENTLY
NAMED ONE OF THE MOST COM-
MUNITY-MINDED COMPANIES IN
THE NATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2013

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and congratulate the Weyerhaeuser Company for being recognized as one of the most community-minded companies in the United States. The National Conference on Citizenship and Points of Light, in partnership with Bloomberg named Weyerhaeuser to The Civic 50 list as one of 50 companies that have demonstrated socially responsible practices and substantial civic involvement in their communities.

The Weyerhaeuser Company, based in Federal Way, Washington, began more than a century ago in the forest industry. The company currently owns and operates nearly 21 million acres of timberland with offices throughout North America and produces wood and fiber products for a variety of applications.

Weyerhaeuser also makes giving back to the community a company priority. Through the Weyerhaeuser Active Volunteer Employees (WAVES) Program, the company recognizes employee volunteers who contribute their time. The organizations where employees volunteer are also eligible to apply for WAVES grants, ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000. Last

year, 1,357 of Weyerhaeuser's employees participated in more than 164 service projects and contributed more than 31,820 volunteer hours. Through their efforts, 164 WAVES grants were awarded last year to the community. Additionally, Weyerhaeuser has instituted an Employee Volunteer of the Quarter program to honor Weyerhaeuser employees who significantly impact their communities through their personal efforts.

Recently, Weyerhaeuser teamed up with World Vision, a non-profit faith-based organization focused on fighting poverty and injustice, creating Operation Diaper Drive. Operation Diaper Drive is an annual event held by Weyerhaeuser employees where diapers are collected and donated to low-income families. In March of this year, nearly three quarters of a million diapers were distributed to families throughout the United States.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate the Weyerhaeuser Company on their recognition. Weyerhaeuser continues to strive as a leader in the community and in the nation for their impressive philanthropic work.

ANNOUNCING RECIPIENTS OF THE
2013 CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN
COMMENDATION FOR THE THIRD
DISTRICT OF TEXAS

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2013

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to honor fourteen distinguished military veterans, community servants, and American patriots who call the Third District of Texas home. All faithfully answered the call of duty and placed service above self for the sake of our great nation. Each one leaves a legacy to be remembered, for future generations to follow, a legacy of bravery, loyalty, dedication, and sacrifice. For their selfless service, bold leadership, and undying commitment for their neighbor and nation, the following individual has been selected as a recipient of the third annual Congressional Veteran Commendation:

Sergeant James Fairbairn served in the United States Marine Corps from 1950 to 1954. After completing boot camp, James headed to Korea in December of 1950 where he joined the 2nd Platoon of Able Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment of the 1st Division. It was in this assignment that Mr. Fairbairn served as a fire team leader during an attack against a strong enemy force. Without regard for his personal safety, he was able to rush and attack the enemy, which ultimately resulted in overrunning the enemy and completing the mission.

For his heroism in battle and his distinguished years of service, James Fairbairn earned the Bronze Star Medal with Combat Valor, a Presidential Unit Commendation Ribbon, United Nations Service Medal, Korean Service Medal, and numerous other decorations.

As a resident of Richardson, Texas, Mr. Fairbairn has continued to serve his community. He served as the president of the Dallas Chapter of the 1st Marine Division Association. He has also worked extensively with the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots pro-

gram. He currently represents the Sons of the American Revolution on the Volunteer Board of the Dallas Veterans Affairs Hospital.

Sergeant James Fairbairn, let me both thank and congratulate you on your exceptional service to our country and community both past and present. It is my pleasure to award you the 2013 Congressional Veteran Commendation for the Third District of Texas.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFESERVE
BLOOD CENTER

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to National Blood Donor Month and to recognize the great work being done by the volunteers and professionals who comprise the LifeServe Blood Center.

Established in 1969 by President Nixon, National Blood Donor Month is celebrated in January to bring awareness to the immeasurable difference made by blood donations. During National Blood Donor Month, we thank those across the country who have saved lives by donating in the past and encourage previous and first-time donors alike to schedule an appointment. Each year, only 10 percent of those eligible to donate blood choose to do so, although nearly 38,000 pints of blood are needed every day to sustain a sufficient and secure blood supply.

As one of the largest blood centers in the country, LifeServe Blood Center assists more than 100 hospitals in Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota by providing much-needed blood and blood supplies. In addition to their role as a local blood supplier, LifeServe also provides a wide range of healthcare solutions to our communities including transfusion medicine, cellular therapy, and research. It is blood centers like LifeServe that stand ready, in the face of disasters and emergencies, to meet the blood supply needs of our cities, states, and nation.

Mr. Speaker, the great work done every day by LifeServe, and all blood centers across the country, provides a crucial and life-saving service to our communities. In honor of National Blood Donor Month, I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in encouraging regular blood donations in this time of need and thanking all blood donors for their invaluable and selfless contribution. It is a great honor to represent the men and women of LifeServe in the United States Congress and I look forward to all of Iowa's participation in the busiest National Blood Donor Month yet. Thank you.

TRIBUTE TO NACARSIA "NIKKI"
MAYES

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2013

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, today I'd like to bring your attention to a very special person, someone I respect and whose friendship I value. I'm referring to Nicarsia "Nikki" Mayes

who after 36 years of dedicated public service, will be retiring this December.

Nikki started work here in 1977 as an elevator operator and it was not long before her professional and cheerful manner caught the eye of her superiors. In 1980, she became the first African American woman ever hired by the Office of the Doorkeeper. It was a tremendous achievement then and it remains an exceptional moment in both her personal history and the history of this body.

As her career progressed she joined the Office of the Sergeant at Arms and served as a member of the Chamber Security Division. Her career is a testament to what dedication, hard work and a positive attitude can accomplish.

Mr. Speaker, I don't need to remind you that our work here can be difficult and stressful. But that's what makes Nikki such a treasure. Even when there was tension inside the House Chamber, there was friendship and kindness waiting at the door.

Nikki, I wish you the best of luck as you embark on this next part of your life. You will be greatly missed by me and every one of my colleagues.

ANNOUNCING RECIPIENTS OF THE
2013 CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN
COMMENDATION FOR THE THIRD
DISTRICT OF TEXAS

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2013

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to honor fourteen distinguished military veterans, community servants, and American patriots who call the Third District of Texas home. All faithfully answered the call of duty and placed service above self for the sake of our great nation. Each one leaves a legacy to be remembered, for future generations to follow, a legacy of bravery, loyalty, dedication, and sacrifice. For their selfless service, bold leadership, and undying commitment for their neighbor and nation, the following individual has been selected as a recipient of the third annual Congressional Veteran Commendation.

Captain Shep Stahel served in the United States Navy from 1955 to 1989. After earning a Navy ROTC Scholarship to Tulane University, Mr. Stahel's Naval career began during his college years where he served on summer midshipman cruises; one in the North Sea with NATO forces and the other in Hong Kong. After graduating with a Bachelor's degree in Economics, he commissioned as Ensign and served for two years as Navigator on the USS Matthews and then as Executive Officer on the USS Duval County. During the Cuban Missile Crisis, the USS Duval County operated out of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, training soldiers to conduct amphibious landings.

After transitioning from active to reserve duty, he served as commanding officer of Surface Warfare Units in both Trenton, New Jersey and Buffalo, New York until he moved to Dallas to command a unit at Naval Air Station Dallas.

This year, Mr. Stahel retired from IBM after 50 years of service. During his time there, he managed business affairs for IBM Corporation's legal department in the South-Southwestern region of the U.S. Additionally, for the

past twenty plus years, Mr. Stahel has served as the founder and chairman of countless city and transportation boards for crucial city development of Dallas and Plano.

Captain Shep Stahel, let me both thank and congratulate you on your exceptional service to our country and community both past and present. It is my pleasure to award you the 2013 Congressional Veteran Commendation for the Third District of Texas.

RECOGNIZING THE TOWN OF SEYMOUR'S RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE BLUE WATER NAVY VIETNAM VETERANS ACT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2013

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with my full support of the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act that I rise today at the request of First Selectman Kurt Miller, the Board of Selectmen, and the Town of Seymour to officially submit the following town resolution into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

Whereas, During the Vietnam War, the United States military sprayed 22 million gallons of Agent Orange and other herbicides over Vietnam to reduce forest cover and crops used by the enemy; these herbicides contained dioxin, which has since been identified as carcinogenic and has been linked with a number of serious and disabling illnesses affecting thousands of veterans; and

Whereas, The United States Congress passed the Agent Orange Act of 1991, to address the plight of veterans exposed to herbicides while serving the Republic of Vietnam; the Act amended Title 38 of the United States Code to presumptively recognize as service-connected certain diseases among military personnel who served in Vietnam between 1962 and 1975; this presumption has provided access to appropriate disability compensation and medical care for Vietnam veterans diagnosed with such illnesses as Type II diabetes, Hodgkin's disease, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, prostate cancer, Parkinson's, multiple myeloma, peripheral neuropathy, AL Amyloidosis respiratory cancers, and soft tissue sarcomas and others yet to be identified; and

Whereas, Pursuant to a 2001 directive, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs policy has denied the presumption of a service connection for herbicide-related illnesses to Vietnam veterans who cannot furnish written documentation that they had "boots on the ground" in-country, making it virtually impossible for countless United States Navy, Marine and Air Force veterans to pursue their claims for benefits; moreover, personnel who served on ships in the "Blue Water Navy" in Vietnamese territorial waters were, in fact, exposed to dangerous airborne toxins, which not only drifted offshore but washed into streams and rivers draining into the South China Seas; and

Whereas, The United States Navy has been excluded ever since, Agent Orange has been verified, through various studies and reports, as a wide spreading chemical that was able to reach Navy Ships through the air and waterborne distribution routes; and

Whereas, Warships positioned off the Vietnamese shore routinely distilled seawater to obtain potable water, a 2002 Australian study found that the distillation process, rather than removing toxins, in fact concentrated dioxin in water used for drinking, cooking,

and washing; this study was conducted by the Australian Department of Veterans Affairs after it found that Vietnam veterans of the Royal Australian Navy had a higher rate of mortality from Agent Orange-associated diseases than did Vietnam veterans from other branches of the military; when the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention studied specific cancers among Vietnam veterans, it found a higher risk of cancer among United States Navy veterans; and

Whereas, Herbicides containing TCDD did not discriminate between soldiers on the ground and sailors on ships offshore, and

Whereas, More than 30 Veterans Service Organizations support the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2013; by not passing H.R. 543, a precedent could be set to selectively provide certain groups with injury-related medical care while denying other groups without any financial, scientific or consistent reasoning, and

Whereas, When the Agent Orange Act passed in 1991 with no dissenting votes, congressional leaders stressed the importance of responding to the health concerns of Vietnam veterans and ending the bitterness and anxiety that had surrounded the issue of herbicide exposure, the federal government has also demonstrated its awareness of the hazards of Agent Orange exposure through its involvement in the identification, containment, and mitigation of dioxin "hot spots" in Vietnam; and

Whereas, The United States Congress should reaffirm the nation's commitment to the well-being of all of its veterans and direct the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to administer the Agent Orange Act under the presumption that herbicide exposure in the Republic of Vietnam includes the country's inland waterways, offshore waters, and airspace; similarly, now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Town of Seymour hereby respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to restore the presumption of a service connection for Agent Orange exposure to United States Veterans who served on the inland waterways, in the territorial waters, and in the airspace over the combat zone.

THE INNOVATION ACT

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2013

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my support for H.R. 3309, the Innovation Act.

While not perfect, this legislation would take significant steps toward reducing the number of costly and abusive patent lawsuits.

"Patent trolls," or non-practicing entities that take advantage of the legal process for their own economic gain, are a massive cost to businesses and a significant strain on our already overburdened justice system.

I strongly agree that we should be addressing this critical problem especially at a time of continuing economic recovery.

However, like many, I had serious concerns about specific portions of this legislation.

That is why I voted in strong support of an amendment introduced by my dear friend and colleague Congressman JOHN CONYERS, the Ranking Member of the Judiciary Committee.

His amendment would have improved the Innovation Act by adding provisions that pro-

tect customers targeted in infringement suits, promote transparency in patent ownership, and direct the Patent and Trademark Office to develop educational materials for small businesses.

Unfortunately, while his amendment failed, I hope we will continue to work to implement many of his suggestions.

As we vote on this legislation today, it is also important that we remember other issues affecting our ability to fight patent fraud.

For example, the sequester cost the Patent and Trademark Office nearly \$150 million this year. It also resulted in 1000 fewer patent examiners and delayed the construction of a satellite patent office in Silicon Valley.

I commend this legislation's well intentioned goal to curb abusive patent litigation and look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues to end this destructive practice.

THE U.S. POST-TYPHOON RESPONSE IN THE PHILIPPINES: HEALTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2013

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, Recently, the deadliest typhoon ever to hit South East Asia devastated portions of the Philippines, including the islands of Leyte, Samar, and Cebu. With sustained winds of 155 miles per hour, Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda reached as high as 270 miles per hour at one brief point. The storm surge reached a maximum height of 40 feet. It is the deadliest Philippine typhoon on record, killing more than 5,600 people. Another 1,759 are listed as missing. Approximately 26,000 were injured. Yolanda is also the strongest storm ever recorded at landfall, and unofficially the fourth strongest typhoon ever recorded in terms of wind speed. Philippines Foreign Secretary Alberto Del Rosario told us the storm was "three and a half times the size of Katrina."

Several weeks ago, I led a congressional delegation to the Philippines to witness the devastation unleashed by Typhoon Haiyan—known locally as Typhoon Yolanda—and to gain a better understanding of the unmet needs going forward.

Joined by my distinguished colleagues TRENT FRANKS and AL GREEN—and staff director Greg Simpkins and counsel Piero Tozzi—we were unanimous in our deep respect and abiding gratitude for the accomplishments of the U.S. military, USAID leaders, and NGOs on the ground including Catholic Relief Services—who alone has committed over \$20 million to assist victims. For their part, the Philippine military was also playing a vital role along with the remnants of local governing bodies.

In the immediate aftermath of the storm—right up until arrival—highly motivated U.S. service members brought desperately needed supplies, including food, water, medicine, and housing materials by the plane-load to the ruins of Tacloban, with homeless, destitute victims—over 19,000 and counting—hitching flights back to Manila for safety and shelter.

As was the case after the 2004 tsunami, the United States deployed an aircraft carrier—this

time the USS *George Washington*—and other major military assets to provide assistance. Smart, rapid response, combined with unique airlift capability has made all the difference in the world.

In the Philippines, I had the privilege of meeting Col. Eric Mellinger, Chief of Staff of the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Force. I nominated Eric to the Academy in 1982—and it was clear watching him in action that he has earned extraordinary respect. His leadership—and that of Generals Kennedy and Wissler—ensured that a desperate, shell-shocked population of victims got immediate, tangible help. Every Marine we saw, including three from New Jersey—Lance Cpl. Anthony Pellegrini, Lance Cpl. James Soccodato, and Lance Cpl. Michael Nappa—was working around the clock to protect victims. “Sleep—what’s that?” one Marine told me with a smile. “We’re saving lives.”

Al Dwyer, Principal Regional Advisor for East Asia and the Pacific at the USAID Office of Foreign Disaster Relief said “when the U.S. hit the ground things got moving . . . this was a model response . . . we saved lives here—I know that for a fact.” The cooperation and teamwork of the military and disaster assistance leaders from USAID, including Jeremy Konyndyk—Director of the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance—who traveled with us, the NGO community, and Philippine officials was a textbook example of how disaster assistance ought to be done. But of course the relief efforts are far from over. The emergency phase has matriculated into recovery.

With Donald Reilly from Catholic Relief Services, our delegation visited a sanitation kit distribution at a local parish church, and received a briefing from Mayor Remedios Petilla of Palo—whose daughter Jessica Petilla is a medical doctor in New Jersey—and met with numerous survivors who told us heartbreaking stories yet radiated a calm and inner peace. One man told us how his father drowned only a few feet from where we stood and how he had stoically carried many waterlogged dead bodies to a mass grave. He said he nearly collapsed emotionally however when he carried the lifeless body of a three year-old girl. He said he just broke down, overwhelmed, and felt he could continue no more. Yet amazingly, a few hours later, there he was—determined to rebuild and overcome and full of faith in God.

That resiliency was best summed up by Archbishop Jose Palma of Cebu who said “the Typhoon was the strongest in the world . . . but our faith in the Lord is even stronger . . . no calamity or natural devastation can quench the fire of our hope. The Filipino soul is stronger than Yolanda.”

Enroute from Tacloban to Manila aboard a C130 commanded by Major Jason Kauffman, our plane was diverted to seek the whereabouts and rescue of a helicopter that crashed into Manila Bay. After a flawless, just above the deck, systematic search for survivors in the water—kind of like looking for a needle in a haystack—the pilot spotted two individuals, opened the back end of the C130, and kicked out a yellow life raft to two lifejacketless swimmers. With night darkness fast approaching, it was clear that their lives had been saved. Aboard was the crew’s superior officer, Colonel John Peck, 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade Chief of Staff, along with copilot Captain Kim and Crewmasters MSgt. Holdaway, Sgt. Weins, Cpl. Oliver, and LCpl Lopez.

Back in Manila, we had productive meetings with both the Health Minister Enrique Ona and Secretary of Foreign Affairs Albert del Rosario. Matt Bohn, Resident Country Director of the Millennium Challenge Corporation told us that roads that had been constructed pursuant to a \$435 million 5-year MCC grant had been only minimally damaged but had provided—after debris removal—an additional artery for humanitarian aid.

We also met with a plethora of NGOs and U.N. agencies. Our interest was not only in seeing how effective our emergency aid coordination has been throughout it all, but going forward where our assistance ought to be directed in the medium- and long-term. We felt that two areas deserved special attention: preventing or addressing potential epidemics and minimizing human trafficking.

It normally takes two to three weeks for a marked increase in disease prevalence after a natural disaster such as the typhoon, but international health experts on the scene told us that dengue fever already was endemic in the storm-ravaged areas and could increase four- to five-fold in the coming weeks. In addition to dengue fever, cholera, hepatitis A, typhoid fever, leptospirosis, shigelosis, pneumonia and other diseases can proliferate in a post-storm environment. There are vaccines for cholera, hepatitis A and typhoid fever (as well as some other diseases likely to spread post-storm), but there are no such vaccines for dengue fever, leptospirosis or shigelosis.

Efforts to address potential epidemics are complicated by several factors. First, the Philippines is undergoing a rainy season that will not only increase breeding grounds for mosquitoes and other disease-bearing pests, but also will hamper relief efforts. Furthermore, the many residents without shelter or with inadequate shelter will be more susceptible to the elements. Second, the lack of electricity means no cold chain for medicines that must be refrigerated to remain usable. Third, many roads remain uncleared or badly damaged, making transportation for health workers or patients more difficult. Fourth, many Filipino health workers have either left the affected areas or died in the storm, and the continued presence of foreign health workers will depend on ongoing donor funding and the health needs demanded by subsequent crises elsewhere.

Internationally-funded protection efforts currently focus on family reunification, personal identification and creation of safe spaces for women and children. USAID grantees are establishing women-friendly and child-friendly spaces in strategic locations to address the needs of women and adolescent girls, as well as male children. The lack of electricity and insecure housing raises their risk of falling prey to abusers, especially at night.

However, while there is acknowledgement of the increased risk of human trafficking in the wake of the storm, the lack of reports of increased trafficking may be a good thing—or could mean that this issue is not yet a sufficient focus of protection efforts. This is despite the fact that the Philippines had a problem with human trafficking even before the latest typhoon. The Philippines was raised from Tier II Watch List to Tier II in the current human trafficking report by the Department of State. Nevertheless, that report states that trafficking of men, women, and children remains a significant problem, but child sex trafficking is a

special danger, with children being forced to perform sex acts on the internet. Clearly, there needs to be more involvement of trafficking-in-persons experts on recovery planning teams.

Also important will be providing shelter for the 1.2 million families whose homes have been damaged or destroyed. Schools have been so widely destroyed on Leyte that officials told us the school year may be over now—months before it normally would have ended in March. Livelihoods have been severely affected as the coconut industry—the leading agricultural producer—has been decimated, and it will take 5–7 years to replace the trees lost in this storm.

The Philippines is a major American ally and trading partner. There are an estimated 350,000 Americans living in the Philippines, and 4 million Filipinos living in the United States. We have an important stake in seeing that our friends and neighbors in the Philippines can recover from this devastating storm.

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Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to honor fourteen distinguished military veterans, community servants, and American patriots who call the Third District of Texas home. All faithfully answered the call of duty and placed service above self for the sake of our great nation. Each one leaves a legacy to be remembered, for future generations to follow, a legacy of bravery, loyalty, dedication, and sacrifice. For their selfless service, bold leadership, and undying commitment for their neighbor and nation, the following individual has been selected as a recipient of the third annual Congressional Veteran Commendation:

Keeshaun Coffey served with honor in the United States Navy from 2008 to 2012. He began his military career by enlisting as a Religious Program Specialist. Selected for the Fleet Marine Force, he served at the Officer Candidate School in Quantico, Virginia, where he trained chaplain candidates and facilitated over 150 religious services and over 200 field services.

Mr. Coffey’s next assignment led him to Yokosuka, Japan, where he served with the Forward Deployed Naval Forces. In this position, he planned and implemented community service events which allowed the USS Cowpens to log 3,059 community service hours. Following his service with the USS Cowpens, Mr. Coffey remained in Japan where he was assigned to the Chapel of Hope and the United States Naval Hospital Yokosuka. He was stationed there when the 2011 tsunami and earthquake struck Japan. As his final act of military service, Mr. Coffey spent long hours creating general ledgers for Operation Tomodachi in order to maintain 100 percent accountability in the expenditure of government and donated funds.

After Mr. Coffey’s service to the military honorably ended, he enrolled in the University

of Texas at Dallas to continue his education. On campus he has continued serving the community by co-founding and serving as President of the Veterans of Dallas at UTD's student organization. In 2012, he played an

active role in the creation and establishment of the UTD Veteran Services Center.

Keeshaun Coffey, let me both thank and congratulate you on your exceptional service to our country and community both past and

present. It is my pleasure to award you the 2013 Congressional Veteran Commendation for the Third District of Texas.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the *Extensions of Remarks* section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, December 17, 2013 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

DECEMBER 18

10 a.m.

Committee on Finance

Subcommittee on Social Security, Pensions, and Family Policy

To hold hearings to examine the role of Social Security, defined benefits, and private retirement accounts in relation to retirement crisis.

SD-215

Committee on Foreign Relations

Subcommittee on East Asian and Pacific Affairs

To hold hearings to examine rebalance to Asia IV, focusing on economic engagement in the Asia-Pacific region.

SD-419

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider S. 1417, to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize programs under part A of title XI of such Act, S. 1719, and H.R. 3527, bills to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the poison center national toll-free number, national media campaign, and grant program, and the nominations of David Weil, of Massachusetts, to be Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor, France A. Cordova, of New Mexico, to be Director of the National Science Foundation, Steven Joel Anthony, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Railroad Retirement Board, James H. Shelton III, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Secretary of Education, and any pending nominations.

SD-430

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Business meeting to consider S. 1486, to improve, sustain, and transform the United States Postal Service, and an original bill entitled, "Cybersecurity Recruitment and Retention Act".

SD-342

2 p.m.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer, focusing on measuring the effectiveness of the

reauthorization act and maximizing research dollars to America's small businesses.

SR-428A

2:15 p.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

Business meeting to consider an original bill entitled, "Egypt Assistance Reform Act of 2013", S. 653, to provide for the establishment of the Special Envoy to Promote Religious Freedom of Religious Minorities in the Near East and South Central Asia, S. Res. 314, commemorating and supporting the goals of World AIDS Day, S. Res. 288, supporting enhanced maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea and encouraging increased cooperation between the United States and West and Central African countries to fight armed robbery at sea, piracy, and other maritime threats, S. Res. 312, calling on the government of Iran to fulfill their promises of assistance in this case of Robert Levinson, one of the longest held United States civilians in our Nation's history, S. Res. 75, condemning the Government of Iran for its state-sponsored persecution of its Baha'i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights, S. Res. 318, expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the critical need for political reform in Bangladesh, S. Res. 317, expressing the sense of the Senate on the continuing relationship between the United States and Georgia, an original resolution entitled, "in support of the Ukrainian people in light of President Yanukovich's decision not to sign an Association Agreement with the European Union", and the nominations of Dana J. Hyde, of Maryland, to be Chief Executive Officer, Millennium Challenge Corporation, Mark E. Lopes, of Arizona, to be United States Executive Director of the Inter-American Development Bank for a term of three years, and Keith Michael Harper, of Maryland, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as United States Representative to the UN Human Rights Council, Department of State.

S-116

Special Committee on Aging

To hold hearings to examine the future of long-term care policy, focusing on continuing the conversation.

SD-562

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine what information data brokers have on consumers, and how they use it.

SR-253

Committee on Indian Affairs

Business meeting to consider S. 1352, to reauthorize the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996, and the nomination of Vincent G. Logan, of New York, to be Special Trustee, Office of Special Trustee for American Indians, Department of the Interior.

SD-628

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Daniel D. Crabtree, to be United States District Judge for the District of Kansas, Cynthia Ann Bashant, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California, Jon David Levy, of Maine, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maine, and Theodore David

Chuang, and George Jarrod Hazel, both to be a United States District Judge for the District of Maryland.

SD-226

DECEMBER 19

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Business meeting to consider S. 37, to sustain the economic development and recreational use of National Forest System land and other public land in the State of Montana, to add certain land to the National Wilderness Preservation System, to release certain wilderness study areas, to designate new areas for recreation, S. 404, to preserve the Green Mountain Lookout in the Glacier Peak Wilderness of the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, S. 974, to provide for certain land conveyances in the State of Nevada, S. 1237, to improve the administration of programs in the insular areas, S. 1300, to amend the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 to provide for the conduct of stewardship end result contracting projects, S. 1301, to provide for the restoration of forest landscapes, protection of old growth forests, and management of national forests in the eastside forests of the State of Oregon, S. 1341, to modify the Forest Service Recreation Residence Program as the program applies to units of the National Forest System derived from the public domain by implementing a simple, equitable, and predictable procedure for determining cabin user fees, S. 1491, to amend the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to improve United States-Israel energy cooperation, H.R. 1158, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to continue stocking fish in certain lakes in the North Cascades National Park, Ross Lake National Recreation Area, and Lake Chelan National Recreation Area, and H.R. 2337, to provide for the conveyance of the Forest Service Lake Hill Administrative Site in Summit County, Colorado.

SD-366

10 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider S. 619, to amend title 18, United States Code, to prevent unjust and irrational criminal punishments, S. 1410, to focus limited Federal resources on the most serious offenders, S. 1675, to reduce recidivism and increase public safety, S. 975, to provide for the inclusion of court-appointed guardianship improvement and oversight activities under the Elder Justice Act of 2009, and the nominations of John B. Owens, of California, and Michelle T. Friedland, of California, both to be a United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, Nancy L. Moritz, of Kansas, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit, David Jeremiah Barron, of Massachusetts, to be United States Circuit Judge for the First Circuit, Matthew Frederick Leitman, Judith Ellen Levy, Laurie J. Michelson, and Linda Vivienne Parker, all to be a United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan, Christopher Reid Cooper, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, Gerald Austin McHugh, Jr., and Edward G. Smith, both to be a United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, M. Douglas

Harpool, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Missouri, Sheryl H. Lipman, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Tennessee, Stanley Allen Bastian, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Washington, Manish S. Shah, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, and Peter Joseph Kadzik, of New York, to be an Assistant Attorney General, Robert L. Hobbs, to be United States Marshal for the Eastern District of Texas, and Gary

Blankinship, to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of Texas, all of the Department of Justice.

SD-226

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Subcommittee on Financial and Contracting Oversight

To hold hearings to examine the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security.

SD-342

2:30 p.m.

Select Committee on Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate confirmed the nomination of Jeh Charles Johnson, of New Jersey, to be Secretary of Homeland Security.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S8823–S8867

Measures Introduced: Five bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 1828–1832, and S. Res. 322. **Page S8845**

Measures Passed:

Authorizing Printing: Senate agreed to S. Res. 322, to authorize the printing of a collection of the rules of the committees of the Senate.

Pages S8846, S8862

Measures Considered:

Workforce Investment Act: Senate began consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 1356, to amend the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to strengthen the United States workforce development system through innovation in, and alignment and improvement of, employment, training, and education programs in the United States, and to promote individual and national economic growth.

Pages S8823–24

Appointments:

United States-China Economic Security Review Commission: The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, pursuant to Public Law 106–398, as amended by Public Law 108–7, and upon the recommendation of the Majority Leader, in consultation with the Chairmen of the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the Senate Committee on Finance, reappointed the following individuals to the United States-China Economic Security Review Commission: William A. Reinsch of Maryland for a term beginning January 1, 2014 and expiring December 31, 2015, and The Honorable Carte P. Goodwin of West Virginia for a term beginning January 1, 2014 and expiring December 31, 2015.

Page S8862

Mayorkas Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Alejandro Nicholas Mayorkas, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security. **Page S8836**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 53 yeas to 38 nays (Vote No. 277), Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to consideration of the nomination. **Page S8836**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur on Wednesday, December 18, 2013. **Page S8836**

Koskinen Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of John Andrew Koskinen, of the District of Columbia, to be Commissioner of Internal Revenue. **Page S8836**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 55 yeas to 37 nays (Vote No. 278), Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to consideration of the nomination. **Page S8836**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Alejandro Nicholas Mayorkas, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security. **Pages S8836–37**

Davis Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Brian J. Davis, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida. **Page S8837**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of John Andrew Koskinen, of the

District of Columbia, to be Commissioner of Internal Revenue. **Page S8837**

Yellen Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Janet L. Yellen, of California, to be Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. **Page S8837**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Brian J. Davis, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida. **Page S8837**

Gibson Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Sloan D. Gibson, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs. **Page S8837**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Janet L. Yellen, of California, to be Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. **Page S8837**

Sewall Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Sarah Sewall, of Massachusetts, to be an Under Secretary of State (Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights). **Page S8837**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Sloan D. Gibson, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs. **Pages S8837–38**

Connor Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Michael L. Connor, of New Mexico, to be Deputy Secretary of the Interior. **Page S8838**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Sarah Sewall, of Massachusetts, to be an Under Secretary of State (Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights). **Page S8838**

Raskin Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Sarah Bloom Raskin, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary of the Treasury. **Page S8838**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Sen-

ate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Michael L. Connor, of New Mexico, to be Deputy Secretary of the Interior. **Page S8838**

Wright Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Jessica Garfola Wright, of Pennsylvania, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness. **Page S8838**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Sarah Bloom Raskin, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary of the Treasury. **Page S8838**

Engler Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Richard J. Engler, of New Jersey, to be a Member of the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board. **Page S8838**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Jessica Garfola Wright, of Pennsylvania, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness. **Page S8838**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 78 yeas to 16 nays (Vote No. EX. 274), Anne W. Patterson, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Ambassador, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Near Eastern Affairs). **Pages S8834, S8867**

By 78 yeas to 16 nays (Vote No. EX. 276), Jeh Charles Johnson, of New Jersey, to be Secretary of Homeland Security. **Pages S8835, S8867**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 57 yeas to 37 nays (Vote No. 275), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Pages S8834–35**

Executive Communications: **Pages S8841–44**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Pages S8844–45**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S8845–46**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:
Page S8846

Additional Statements:

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S8846–62**

Notices of Hearings/Meetings: **Page S8862**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S8862**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S8862**

Quorum Calls: One quorum call was taken today. (Total—13) **Page S8834**

Record Votes: Five record votes were taken today. (Total—278) **Pages S8834–36**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 3 p.m. and adjourned at 8:16 p.m., until 9 a.m. on Tuesday, December 17, 2013. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S8862.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Armed Services: Committee ordered favorably reported 425 nominations in the Army, Navy, and Air Force.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 14 public bills, H.R. 3373–3386; and 2 resolutions, H. Res. 446–447 were introduced. **Page H8117**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page H8118**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 3008, to provide for the conveyance of a small parcel of National Forest System land in Los Padres National Forest in California, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 113–295);

H.R. 2954, to authorize Escambia County, Florida, to convey certain property that was formerly part of Santa Rosa Island National Monument and that was conveyed to Escambia County subject to restrictions on use and reconveyance (H. Rept. 113–296);

H.R. 1170, to direct the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Land Management and the Bureau of Reclamation, to convey, by quitclaim deed, to the City of Fernley, Nevada, all right, title, and interest of the United States, to any Federal land within that city that is under the jurisdiction of either of those agencies, with an amendment (H. Rept. 113–297); and

H.R. 585, to provide for the unencumbering of title to non-Federal land owned by the city of Anchorage, Alaska, for purposes of economic development by conveyance of the Federal reversion interest to the City (H. Rept. 113–298). **Page H8117**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Sensenbrenner to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H8115**

Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the guest chaplain, Reverend Patrick Riffle, St. Peter's Catholic Church, Washington, DC. **Page H8115**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H8116.

Quorum Calls—Votes: There were no Yea-and-Nay votes, and there were no Recorded votes. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 11 a.m. and adjourned at 11:03 a.m.

Committee Meetings

No hearings were held.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2013

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Arun Madhavan Kumar, of California, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce and Director General of the United States and Foreign Commercial Service, 10 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: business meeting to consider the nominations of Steven Croley, of Michigan, to be General Counsel, and Christopher Smith, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary for Fossil Energy, both of the Department of Energy, and Esther Puakela Kia'aina, of Hawaii, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine the nominations of Janice Marion Schneider, of New York, to be Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management, and Neil Gregory Kornze, of Nevada, to be Director of the Bureau of Land Management, both of the Department of the Interior, and Marc A. Kastner, of Massachusetts, to be Director of the Office of Science, and Ellen Dudley Williams, of Maryland, to be Director of the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy, both of the Department of Energy, 10 a.m., SD–366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Rhea Sun Suh, of Colorado, to be Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish

and Wildlife, Victoria Marie Baecher Wassmer, of Illinois, to be Chief Financial Officer, and Thomas A. Burke, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Administrator, both of Environmental Protection Agency, and Roy K. J. Williams, of Ohio, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development, 2:30 p.m., SD-406.

Committee on Foreign Relations: Subcommittee on African Affairs, to hold hearings to examine responding to the humanitarian, security and governance crisis in the Central Africa Republic, 2 p.m., SD-419.

Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Helen Meagher La Lime, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Angola, Larry Edward Andre, Jr., of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, Eric T. Schultz, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Zambia, and Cynthia H. Akuetteh, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador to the Gabonese Republic, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Republic of the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe, all of the Department of State, 4 p.m., SD-419.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: to hold hearings to examine the Navy Yard tragedy, focusing on the physical security for Federal facilities, 10:30 a.m., SD-342.

Committee on the Judiciary: to hold hearings to examine protecting small businesses and promoting innovation by limiting patent troll abuse, 10 a.m., SD-226.

Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the Federal Arbitration Act and access to justice, focusing on if recent Supreme Court decisions undermine the rights of consumers, workers, and small businesses, 2:30 p.m., SD-226.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Daniel Bennett Smith, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of State for Intelligence and Research, and Caroline Diane Krass, of the District of Columbia, to be General Counsel of the Central Intelligence Agency, 2:30 p.m., SD-106.

House

No hearings are scheduled.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of December 17 through December 20,
2013

Senate Chamber

On Tuesday, at 10 a.m., Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Reid motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to H.J. Res. 59, Bipartisan Budget Act.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: December 17, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Arun Madhavan Kumar, of California, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce and Director General of the United States and Foreign Commercial Service, 10 a.m., SD-538.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: December 18, to hold hearings to examine what information data brokers have on consumers, and how they use it, 2:30 p.m., SR-253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: December 17, business meeting to consider the nominations of Steven Croley, of Michigan, to be General Counsel, and Christopher Smith, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary for Fossil Energy, both of the Department of Energy, and Esther Puakela Kia'aina, of Hawaii, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine the nominations of Janice Marion Schneider, of New York, to be Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management, and Neil Gregory Kornze, of Nevada, to be Director of the Bureau of Land Management, both of the Department of the Interior, and Marc A. Kastner, of Massachusetts, to be Director of the Office of Science, and Ellen Dudley Williams, of Maryland, to be Director of the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy, both of the Department of Energy, 10 a.m., SD-366.

December 19, Full Committee, business meeting to consider S. 37, to sustain the economic development and recreational use of National Forest System land and other public land in the State of Montana, to add certain land to the National Wilderness Preservation System, to release certain wilderness study areas, to designate new areas for recreation, S. 404, to preserve the Green Mountain Lookout in the Glacier Peak Wilderness of the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, S. 974, to provide for certain land conveyances in the State of Nevada, S. 1237, to improve the administration of programs in the insular areas, S. 1300, to amend the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 to provide for the conduct of stewardship end result contracting projects, S. 1301, to provide for the restoration of forest landscapes, protection of old growth forests, and management of national forests in the eastside forests of the State of Oregon, S. 1341, to modify the Forest Service Recreation Residence Program as the program applies to units of the National Forest System derived from the public domain by implementing a simple, equitable, and predictable procedure for determining cabin user fees, S. 1491, to amend the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to improve United States-Israel energy cooperation, H.R. 1158, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to continue stocking fish in certain lakes in the North Cascades National Park, Ross Lake National Recreation Area, and Lake Chelan National Recreation Area, and H.R. 2337, to provide for the conveyance of the Forest Service Lake Hill Administrative Site in Summit County, Colorado, 9:30 a.m., SD-366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: December 17, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Rhea Sun Suh, of Colorado, to be Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish and Wildlife, Victoria Marie Baecher Wassmer, of Illinois, to be Chief Financial Officer, and Thomas A. Burke, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Administrator, both of Environmental Protection Agency, and Roy K. J. Williams, of Ohio, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development, 2:30 p.m., SD-406.

Committee on Finance: December 18, Subcommittee on Social Security, Pensions, and Family Policy, to hold hearings to examine the role of Social Security, defined benefits, and private retirement accounts in relation to retirement crisis, 10 a.m., SD-215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: December 17, Subcommittee on African Affairs, to hold hearings to examine responding to the humanitarian, security and governance crisis in the Central Africa Republic, 2 p.m., SD-419.

December 17, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Helen Meagher La Lime, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Angola, Larry Edward Andre, Jr., of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, Eric T. Schultz, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Zambia, and Cynthia H. Akuetteh, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador to the Gabonese Republic, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Republic of the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe, all of the Department of State, 4 p.m., SD-419.

December 18, Subcommittee on East Asian and Pacific Affairs, to hold hearings to examine rebalance to Asia IV, focusing on economic engagement in the Asia-Pacific region, 10 a.m., SD-419.

December 18, Full Committee, business meeting to consider an original bill entitled, "Egypt Assistance Reform Act of 2013", S. 653, to provide for the establishment of the Special Envoy to Promote Religious Freedom of Religious Minorities in the Near East and South Central Asia, S. Res. 314, commemorating and supporting the goals of World AIDS Day, S. Res. 288, supporting enhanced maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea and encouraging increased cooperation between the United States and West and Central African countries to fight armed robbery at sea, piracy, and other maritime threats, S. Res. 312, calling on the government of Iran to fulfill their promises of assistance in this case of Robert Levinson, one of the longest held United States civilians in our Nation's history, S. Res. 75, condemning the Government of Iran for its state-sponsored persecution of its Baha'i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights, S. Res. 318, expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the critical need for political reform in Bangladesh, S. Res. 317, expressing the sense of the Senate on the continuing relationship between the United States and Georgia, an original resolution entitled, "in support of the Ukrainian people in light of President Yanukovich's decision not to sign an Association Agreement with the European

Union", and the nominations of Dana J. Hyde, of Maryland, to be Chief Executive Officer, Millennium Challenge Corporation, Mark E. Lopes, of Arizona, to be United States Executive Director of the Inter-American Development Bank for a term of three years, and Keith Michael Harper, of Maryland, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as United States Representative to the UN Human Rights Council, Department of State, 2:15 p.m., S-116, Capitol.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: December 18, business meeting to consider S. 1417, to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize programs under part A of title XI of such Act, S. 1719, and H.R. 3527, bills to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the poison center national toll-free number, national media campaign, and grant program, and the nominations of David Weil, of Massachusetts, to be Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor, France A. Cordova, of New Mexico, to be Director of the National Science Foundation, Steven Joel Anthony, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Railroad Retirement Board, James H. Shelton III, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Secretary of Education, and any pending nominations, 10 a.m., SD-430.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: December 17, to hold hearings to examine the Navy Yard tragedy, focusing on the physical security for Federal facilities, 10:30 a.m., SD-342.

December 18, Full Committee, business meeting to consider S. 1486, to improve, sustain, and transform the United States Postal Service, and an original bill entitled, "Cybersecurity Recruitment and Retention Act", 10 a.m., SD-342.

December 19, Subcommittee on Financial and Contracting Oversight, to hold hearings to examine the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security, 10:30 a.m., SD-342.

Committee on Indian Affairs: December 18, business meeting to consider S. 1352, to reauthorize the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996, and the nomination of Vincent G. Logan, of New York, to be Special Trustee, Office of Special Trustee for American Indians, Department of the Interior, 2:30 p.m., SD-628.

Committee on the Judiciary: December 17, to hold hearings to examine protecting small businesses and promoting innovation by limiting patent troll abuse, 10 a.m., SD-226.

December 17, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the Federal Arbitration Act and access to justice, focusing on if recent Supreme Court decisions undermine the rights of consumers, workers, and small businesses, 2:30 p.m., SD-226.

December 18, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Daniel D. Crabtree, to be United States District Judge for the District of Kansas, Cynthia Ann Bashant, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California, Jon David Levy, of Maine, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maine, and Theodore David Chuang, and George

Jarrold Hazel, both to be a United States District Judge for the District of Maryland, 2:30 p.m., SD–226.

December 19, Full Committee, business meeting to consider S. 619, to amend title 18, United States Code, to prevent unjust and irrational criminal punishments, S. 1410, to focus limited Federal resources on the most serious offenders, S. 1675, to reduce recidivism and increase public safety, S. 975, to provide for the inclusion of court-appointed guardianship improvement and oversight activities under the Elder Justice Act of 2009, and the nominations of John B. Owens, of California, and Michelle T. Friedland, of California, both to be a United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, Nancy L. Moritz, of Kansas, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit, David Jeremiah Barron, of Massachusetts, to be United States Circuit Judge for the First Circuit, Matthew Frederick Leitman, Judith Ellen Levy, Laurie J. Michelson, and Linda Vivienne Parker, all to be a United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan, Christopher Reid Cooper, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, Gerald Austin McHugh, Jr., and Edward G. Smith, both to be a United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, M. Douglas Harpool, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Missouri, Sheryl H. Lipman, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Tennessee, Stanley Allen Bastian, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern Dis-

trict of Washington, Manish S. Shah, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, and Peter Joseph Kadzik, of New York, to be an Assistant Attorney General, Robert L. Hobbs, to be United States Marshal for the Eastern District of Texas, and Gary Blankinship, to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of Texas, all of the Department of Justice, 10 a.m., SD–226.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: December 18, to hold hearings to examine Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer, focusing on measuring the effectiveness of the reauthorization act and maximizing research dollars to America's small businesses, 2 p.m., SR–428A.

Select Committee on Intelligence: December 17, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Daniel Bennett Smith, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of State for Intelligence and Research, and Caroline Diane Krass, of the District of Columbia, to be General Counsel of the Central Intelligence Agency, 2:30 p.m., SD–106.

December 19, Full Committee, to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

Special Committee on Aging: December 18, to hold hearings to examine the future of long-term care policy, focusing on continuing the conversation, 2:15 p.m., SD–562.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

9 a.m., Tuesday, December 17

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

11 a.m., Thursday, December 19

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Senate will resume consideration of the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to H.J. Res. 59, Bipartisan Budget Act, with a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Reid motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the joint resolution at 10 a.m.

House Chamber

Program for Thursday: The House will meet in pro forma session at 11 a.m.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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