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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Savior of humanity, Your unfailing love sustains us. Stagger freedom's enemies and bring them to their knees. Use our lawmakers so effectively that our citizens may rejoice because of Your mercy.

Lord, be for our Nation a towering rock of safety, a shelter in the time of storm. We wait quietly before You. So use Your strong arms to bring us Your peace.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH). The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I ask unanimous consent to address the Senate for 1 minute.

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

APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. GRASSLEY. The latest political ploy by the Democrats is to paint the Senate majority leader as an obstructionist because he hasn't moved to consider certain bills passed by the other body.

Well, let's think about that for just a minute. They can hardly use that talking point anymore.

Yesterday, the Senate majority leader moved to take up the House-passed appropriations package, and the Senate Democrats blocked that motion.

The Senate isn't obliged to consider every partisan bill from the House, and the House doesn't have to consider every bill that is passed by the Senate. But if there is any House bill that the Senate has the responsibility to take up, to debate, and to amend, it is the annual spending bills to keep government operating. We have to fund the government, and that is what we are doing.

So I hope we don't hear any of this bellyaching anymore when we have a House bill that the Senate doesn't somehow take up.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I want to thank the senior Senator from Iowa for his observations this morning. That is exactly where we find ourselves with what happened on the Senate floor yesterday afternoon.

APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, Senate Democrats blocked this year's funding for our national defense. They voted it down. We can't move the legislation forward.

Democrats blocked the funding our commanders need to keep pace with Russia and China. Democrats blocked money for the tools and training that our men and women in uniform badly need while our adversaries continually pour money into new weapons and technology. The Democrats even voted against a pay raise—a pay raise—for our servicemembers. All but two Democrats voted to filibuster all of this and kept the Senate from even considering the legislation.

Never mind that before we adjourned in August the Democrats in the House and Senate all agreed to a carefully ne-

gotiated framework to keep our appropriations process on track. In fact, the Speaker of the House and the Democratic leader in the Senate publicly agreed to the exact dollar figure for the Defense bill they just voted down yesterday. They publicly agreed to the number in the Defense bill they just voted down yesterday.

We all agreed in the caps agreement that poison pills, new policy riders, or any changes to Presidential transfer authorities were off the table—off the table—unless both sides were on board.

So the appropriations process, including at the committee level with Chairman SHELBY and Ranking Member LEAHY, appeared to be going pretty smoothly, but, as we have seen a number of other times in the recent past, the Democratic leadership seemed to have a change of heart.

Perhaps it sunk in that actually meeting President Trump and Republicans halfway, as divided government obviously requires, might have earned some criticism from the far left. But whatever the reason, our Democratic friends turned on a dime, reneged on the bipartisan agreement, and began demanding exactly the kinds of poison pills and partisan policy changes that we all promised not to do.

That is how we get to a spectacle like what happened yesterday. That is how we get to a place where 42 Senate Democrats vote to filibuster defense funding and obstruct a pay raise for our servicemembers, for all the world to see, because Democratic leadership decided they saw more of a political upside in picking new fights with the President than in keeping their word and investing in our men and women in uniform.

In fact, I understand that just yesterday, our Democratic leaders were offered even more money for the Labor-HHS bill, but they declined it. So it is not about the money. It is not about compromising and getting to yes. It is about not wanting to take yes for an answer.

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



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I have great respect for our Democratic friends, but I think this episode has to go down as a new high-water mark for the policy consequences of what some people call “Trump derangement syndrome.”

We are at a point where 42 Senate Democrats would decline to fund the U.S. Armed Forces essentially just to spite the occupant of the White House. If you ask me, that is one heck of a price to pay to put on a show for “the resistance.”

But yesterday’s vote is now a matter of record. It is in the past. I really am hopeful that we can get back on track with the kind of appropriations process my Democratic colleagues have already pledged they would support. They had already pledged to support it.

When the good work that takes place in committees is allowed to proceed without this top-down partisan maneuvering, it tends to yield pretty good results. I think we were all pleased with the bipartisan funding bill that Chairman SHELBY and Senator LEAHY produced together last year. I understand this morning’s appropriations markup is expected to be bipartisan as well.

For example, I am proud the Financial Services and General Government bill would include a bipartisan amendment providing another \$250 million for the administration and security of elections, to help States improve their defenses and shore up their voting systems.

I am proud to have helped develop this amendment and to cosponsor it in committee. That would bring our total allocation for election security to more than \$600 million since fiscal 2008.

It is a crucial issue. The Trump administration has made enormous strides to help States secure their elections without giving Washington new power to push the States around. That is how we continue the progress we saw in 2018, and that is exactly what we are doing.

This is exactly the kind of positive outcome that is possible when we stop posturing for the press and let Chairman SHELBY and Senator LEAHY conduct a bipartisan committee process.

As time grows shorter before the end of September, I hope the critical defense funding that Democrats blocked yesterday will soon earn the same kind of productive treatment, because I don’t think the American people will have much patience with the notion that Democrats’ first responsibility is irritating the White House and funding the Department of Defense coming second.

I hope we can reboot this process and move forward for the sake of our Senate process, for the sake of stable funding for our government, and for the sake of our Nation’s security.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Brian McGuire, of New York, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. FISCHER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE JUDICIARY

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, last week, the Senate confirmed President Trump’s 150th judge. That is a significant milestone and one that has been harder to achieve than it normally would be thanks to the Democrats’ determination to delay judicial confirmations. Again and again, the Democrats have used the time-consuming cloture vote process to delay the confirmations of President Trump’s nominees—even of nominees they ultimately chose to vote for.

By this point in President Obama’s first term, the Republicans had required cloture votes on just three of President Obama’s judicial nominees—three. Compare that to today. As of September 12, the Democrats had required cloture votes on a staggering 71.7 percent of President Trump’s picks for the bench—71 percent. Basically, for more than two out of every three judges, the Democrats have required cloture votes. That simply means they have filibustered that particular nominee. The way you end the filibuster is by invoking cloture.

When the Republicans were in the minority when President Obama was in the White House, at this point in President Obama’s first term, the Democratic majority had invoked cloture just three times for three judges whom the Republicans had tried to block. As I said, right now, at the same point in President Trump’s first term, we are talking about almost 72 percent of all of the nominations combined having been filibustered. If you think about that and if you add it up totally, cumulatively, it is about 100 now compared to 3 during President Obama’s first term at the same time in office.

As I have said, many of these were nominees the Democrats ultimately

went on to vote to confirm. In other words, it was not that President Trump nominated scores of extreme nominees whom the Democrats felt they couldn’t support. Again and again, the Democrats have delayed a nominee, then turned around and voted in favor of him or her.

In one particularly memorable example, in January of 2018, the Democrats forced the Senate to spend more than a week considering four district court judges even though not one single Democrat voted against their confirmations—not one single Democrat. These judges could have been confirmed in a matter of minutes by voice votes. Instead, the Democrats forced the Senate to spend more than a week on their considerations—time that could have been spent on genuinely controversial nominees or on some of the many important issues that face our country.

So far this September, the Senate has confirmed six district court judges. The Democrats forced cloture votes on four of them despite the fact that all four were eventually confirmed by huge bipartisan margins. In fact, one was confirmed by a unanimous vote of 94 to 0.

If the Democrats had had a serious reason for their obstruction of the President’s judicial nominees, they would not have been repeatedly turning around and voting for them. Their obstruction isn’t based on principle; it is based on partisanship. They don’t like this President, so they are obstructing his nominees even when they agree they are well qualified for their positions. As a result, we are forced to spend hours upon hours of Senate floor time on uncontroversial nominations—time we could be using for other priorities.

Democratic delays are also not helping the judicial vacancy rate, which is still high despite the Republicans’ efforts to get judges confirmed. High numbers of vacancies result in there being long waits to get cases heard, which serves nobody.

While Democratic obstruction is bad enough, unfortunately, we have a lot more to worry about. In recent months, the Democrats have moved beyond obstruction and into directly threatening the independence of the judiciary. Court-packing—an idea that pretty much everybody thought had been consigned to the dustbin of history almost a century ago—is enjoying a revival among members of the Democratic Party.

For anyone who needs a refresher on this concept, the theory of court-packing is quite simple. If the Supreme Court is not deciding cases to your liking, add more judges to the Court until you start getting the decisions you want. It is not hard to see why this is a terrible idea, but that hasn’t stopped it from gaining traction in the Democratic Party. In fact, five prominent Democrats—including a Democratic Presidential candidate and the second-

ranking Democrat in the Senate—recently filed an amicus brief with the Supreme Court that threatened the Court if it failed to rule according to the Democrats' preference.

They wrote:

The Supreme Court is not well, and the people know it. Perhaps the Court can heal itself before the public demands it be restructured in order to reduce the influence of politics.

Translation: If you don't rule the way we want you to, you will not like the consequences.

Threatening members of the judiciary is within the domain of dictators and despots, not Members of the U.S. Congress, and it is deeply disturbing that prominent Democrats apparently now see nothing wrong with trying to intimidate the Supreme Court.

Unfortunately, it is becoming apparent that there are few lengths to which the Democrats will not go in their increasingly desperate partisanship. Just this week, we saw the Democrats leap on the opportunity to drag Justice Kavanaugh's name through the mud again based on yet another vague and unsubstantiated rumor.

More than one Democratic Presidential candidate instantly cried that he should be impeached. What was the basis for such a drastic suggestion? It was a New York Times article that was, as the leader pointed out, so short on reporting that it ran on the opinion page of the New York Times instead of in the news section, not to mention that after running this piece, the Times had to quickly issue a correction and note a glaring omission in the original story. What was the omission? It was the fact that the supposed victim of Justice Kavanaugh's supposed behavior declined to be interviewed and that her friends said she had no memory of the alleged incident.

It is not hard to see what is behind the Democrats' relentless campaign to smear Justice Kavanaugh's name. They are furious that it was a Republican and not a Democratic President who had the opportunity to choose a Justice to replace a perceived swing vote on the Supreme Court, and they are afraid that Justice Kavanaugh will not issue the rulings they want.

Here we get to the heart of the problem with the Democrats' increasingly unhinged leftism and attacks on the judiciary. The Democrats aren't looking for judges or a judiciary that will rule according to the law; they are looking for a judiciary that will rule in accordance with the Democrats' preferred policies whether they have anything to do with the law or not, and that is a very dangerous goal.

Sure, it might seem nice when an activist judge who shares your political opinions reaches outside the meaning of the statute and rules for your preferred outcome. Yet what happens when that same judge reaches beyond the law to your detriment? What protection do you have if the judge and not the law becomes the highest au-

thority? The only way to ensure the protection of individuals' rights is to ensure the rule of law, and that means having judges who will make decisions according to the law, not according to their personal preferences or the principles of a particular political party's.

In the wake of the Democrats' threat to the Supreme Court, all 53 Republican Senators sent a letter to the Justices that underscored our commitment to protecting the independence of the judiciary. We noted in the letter:

There is no greater example of the genius of our Constitution than its creation of an independent judiciary. . . . Time and again, our independent federal courts have protected the constitutional rights of Americans from government overreach even when that overreach was politically popular.

If we want our courts to continue protecting Americans' constitutional rights, then we need to ensure they remain independent.

The Democrats' interest in having judges who will rule according to their preferred outcomes is not new, but in the past, their interest has not led them to attempt to bully judges into voting their way. I hope the Democrats will think better of their repressive tactics before our independent judiciary becomes the victim of their political agenda.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF MILITARY FORCE

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Madam President, I could stay here all day, listening to the names of the brave men and women whom I was lucky enough to serve with in the military. I could stay here all night, telling stories about their heroism and courage. I could stay here all week, all month, talking about the troops who are serving overseas right now and about those who are on their eighth or ninth tours of duty or about those teenagers who weren't even alive when the Twin Towers fell, yet who are ready to ship off to Afghanistan at this very moment if that is what is asked of them. I could go on and on all year if I wanted, and I still wouldn't be able to convey the sacrifices they are making because they love this country and would do anything to defend her.

I will not stand idly by and let a single one of them shed blood in an avoidable conflict because Donald Trump has abdicated matters of war and peace to a despot who regularly flouts basic human rights and openly murders journalists. Yet, after tensions spiked between Saudi Arabia and Iran this past weekend, that is exactly what he seemed to be willing to do. He tweeted that the U.S. was "locked and loaded" and just waiting for the Crown Prince to tell him how to proceed. We can't let that slip by.

The President—the Commander in Chief of the greatest military of the greatest democracy on the face of the Earth—just suggested that he was outsourcing the powers of war to a foreign monarch—powers that aren't even his to hand over—and he did it in a tweet.

While Trump may have never read the Constitution, I have, so let me direct his attention to article I, which makes it clear that the President does not have the authority to declare war. Only Congress has that power. We are the ones tasked with deciding when and how Americans are sent into combat. We are the ones charged with that most solemn duty, not Donald Trump and certainly not Muhammad bin Salman. Yet Trump is acting as if article I simply doesn't exist, as if he could just usurp this power from the legislative branch and trade it to whomever he pleases, as if obeying the Constitution is optional even while he tweets that he is willing to obey a foreign prince.

This should not be a partisan issue. No matter if you are struggling to pay rent or if your name is plastered in gold on the front of a building on Fifth Avenue, no one can overrule the Constitution. Trump doesn't get to mire us in yet another Middle East conflict just because he has a bizarre tendency to bow down and kiss up to the world's cruelest tyrants.

Whether you ask constitutional scholars or high school students taking U.S. history classes, they will tell you the same thing—that on matters of military force, whether they are our allies or our adversaries, American Presidents do not get to choose to take orders from foreign leaders. They take direction from Congress—full stop.

I am here to say that we have not authorized him to ensnare us in another endless, senseless war.

We haven't debated and passed a new authorization for the use of military force in more than 15 years, and there is just no way that the AUMF passed to go after the perpetrators of 9/11 can justify military action against Iran nearly two decades later, sending troops overseas who may not have even been alive when that AUMF was voted on.

Listen, it is not just me who believes this. It is not just my fellow Democrats in the Senate either. During the confirmation hearing for now-Secretary of Defense Mark Esper, I asked Trump's own nominee point-blank whether the existing AUMF gives this administration the right to conduct a war with Iran. His answer? His answer was: No. No, they do not.

Even in decades past, when prior Presidents have gotten us entangled in bad wars based on bad intelligence, at the very least they made sure to loop in the United Nations, but Trump is acting as if he wouldn't even do that. He is too busy thumping his chest and catering to the whims of autocrats. He is too infatuated with maximum pressure to consider even minimum diplomacy, too distracted beating the drums of war to even think about how many troops he would be sending into harm's way.

For what? To protect the Saudi oil industry or the Crown Prince's personal profits?

Once again, the Trump foreign policy doctrine has proven reckless, senseless, and dangerous, full of gaslighting and bluster, a doctrine in which fact and fiction are one in the same.

It is shameful. It is terrifying that we have a Commander in Chief who comes to military decisions by virtue of temper tantrum and then announces them via tweet, a President who doesn't seem to care that if he keeps on the path of fire and fury he has been treading, our own homeland will be in greater danger, more wounded warriors will be sent to Walter Reed, and more fallen heroes will be laid to rest in the hallowed grounds of Arlington.

Donald Trump may never have deigned to put on our Nation's uniform, so he probably doesn't know that the commander's greatest responsibility is to safeguard the troops so they are able to carry out the mission. That means we do not send them into harm's way recklessly and without full support both logistically and legally.

As a former unit commander, I ran for Congress so that when the drums of war sounded, I would be in a position to make sure our elected officials fully consider the true costs of war, not just in dollars and cents but in the sacrifices of our troops and their families. That was the vow I made to my buddies that I deployed with and all those who have served since I hung up my uniform.

Now, as the drums of war are pounding once again, I am here today to keep my promise to do our troops justice and to make sure Donald Trump does not outsource overseas yet another American job—Congress's job to declare war. If the Trump administration wants to go to war, they must bring their case to Congress and give the American people a say through their elected representatives. They must respect our servicemembers enough to prove why war with Iran is worth turning more moms and dads into Gold Star parents. They must testify about what the end state in Iran actually looks like.

Then, when their case has been made, when Congress's debate is done, we should vote. It is our duty. It is the least we owe to the troops we would be sending into harm's way. If the vote to authorize military force passes, then I will be the first person to volunteer to deploy. I am ready to pack my rucksack, to dust off my uniform. I am ready to fly helicopters, take on the grunt work, do whatever else it takes to uphold that oath that all servicemembers and veterans have sworn: to protect and defend this Nation we love, no matter what.

It would be nice if we had a President willing to do the same instead of one who thinks he looks tough by pushing us to the brink of a needless conflict.

Listen, Trump may think he comes off as strong by using phrases like "locked and loaded" and by spewing threats 280 characters at a time, but he has never seemed weaker to me. A real

Commander in Chief would not dole out matters of war to the highest bidder. A true leader would not bend to the whims of despots just because of the size of their bank accounts. A strong President would not care more about keeping tyrants happy than safeguarding our most precious resource: the brave men and women willing to lay down their lives to defend our Nation. Yet, day after day, Donald Trump wraps himself in the flag in the morning and then abandons our servicemembers and our democratic norms by the afternoon.

While he may have already shirked his duty as an elected official, I refuse to abandon mine. So as many times as is necessary, I am going to keep coming back to this Chamber, keep raising my voice under this great Capitol dome, and keep demanding what is actually in our Nation's best interest because, you see, I don't take my orders from war criminals or dictators or princes or monarchs. I don't serve foreign regimes. I serve the American people. Trump would do well to try that sometime.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, yesterday, the Senate failed to advance a motion to proceed to a package of appropriations bills, demonstrating something that Leader McConnell already knew: There are not enough votes in the Senate for the President's wall.

The Senate refuses to fund the border wall that the President promised Mexico would pay for, especially not at the expense of our troops and their families and important public health programs like childcare and Head Start. Just yesterday, the Pentagon warned of dire outcomes if the money to fund the military is not provided.

Read today's Washington Post. Our military people are upset with this. Now, their chain of command is not going to publicly say it, but we know it. Over 120 military projects stand to lose funding, and we aren't talking about fixing parking lots. We are talking about military readiness. We are talking about medical facilities for troops in North Carolina. We are talking about schools for military families in Kentucky. We are talking about explosives stored in unsafe conditions. We are talking about a very important engineering lab at West Point to train our future soldiers. Even hurricane recovery projects in Florida are at risk.

The Defense Department was very clear that without this funding, lives would be at risk, but that is what Republicans on the Appropriations Committee proposed. The Senate rightly rejected that idea.

The Republican leader is saying we are hurting the military? Give me a break. We are defending the military. How much bull does the majority leader think the American public will swallow? They are taking money out of the military to put it in the wall, and he says that we are hurting the military? Oh, no. Leader McConnell is hurting the military, and we defended them. We defended them because we want the money to go to the military, not to the wall.

By the way, in that regard, Leader McConnell did not stick with the agreement. The agreement was not only on the 302(a)s but there would be bipartisan agreement on where the money on the defense side and the non-defense side would be distributed.

Instead of consulting Democrats, they tried to jam something down our throats, taking money out of defense, out of Head Start and other programs in the health and human services budget and put it into the wall. Well, that wasn't going to stand, it isn't going to stand, and it will not stand.

I hope Leader McConnell has learned his lesson. Shutting down the government or trying to eyeball for the wall isn't going to work. Let's roll up our sleeves and work together.

My friend the Republican leader and Chairman Shelby have now shown the President that they tried again to fund his wall. They have seen, once again, that the votes are not there. They have seen, once again, that when the Senate Republicans do the President's bidding and refuse to engage the Democrats, the only thing they accomplish is wasted time.

The pattern repeats itself far too frequently. The same impulse to do the President's bidding—they are so afraid of this President—and that is what led to the 35-day Trump shutdown earlier this year. Let's not repeat that, Republicans. Let's learn our lessons.

The same impulse led Republicans to deny for months disaster aid to Puerto Rico. In each case, whether it be taking money out of needed places like the military and putting it into the wall or not being fair to Puerto Rico when it came to aid, they had to relent and work with Democrats. I am glad they did for the good of the country.

So enough time has been wasted this work period. Leader McConnell, Chairman Shelby, let's sit down. It is time for you to sit down and negotiate with Democrats on the way forward.

(Mr. SCOTT of Florida assumed the chair.)

CONTINUING RESOLUTION

Mr. President, let's talk about the short-term CR, which was released last night. The continuing resolution is an important measure to keep the government open until late November and

allow appropriators to get a bipartisan agreement for fiscal year 2020.

One program that has not received enough attention is the agricultural relief program known commonly as the Commodity Credit Corporation. This is an important program that should help all farmers suffering from certain exigencies of the market, like price declines and natural disasters.

Unfortunately, over the past year, the President turned this important agricultural relief program that we all support into a giant slush fund. The relief payments have gotten political. Crops in red States have received outsized subsidies, while crops in blue States were shortchanged. Cotton, for example, has gotten a huge subsidy, compared to dairy and specialty crops, fruits and vegetables. The payments were not matched to the damage caused to each crop. Even soybeans, the supposed reason for this at the beginning, were greatly shortchanged for cotton, and even now cotton is being treated better.

In addition—and just as bad, if not worse—there have been huge amounts of waste and abuse in the program. Large agribusinesses, including some foreign agribusinesses, like a Brazilian beef corporation, are receiving funding through this program while American dairy farmers are passed over.

There are limits on the CCC program. If you make over \$900,000, you shouldn't get any money. The most any farm can get is \$250,000 if there are two farmers in the family, a husband and a wife. Those don't seem to abate either.

We are very pleased that Republicans acceded to our wish. Democrats were able to inject some transparency into the agricultural relief program.

In this short-term CR, we require reporting on whether the funding is going to foreign sources and justification for why money went where it did. We are going to look at this report before we move to the full appropriations bill in a month or two to make sure the money is going to our American farmers who need it—not foreigners, not wealthy agribusiness, not all slanted to one product like cotton when there are so many other needs.

This is a good victory for Democrats in a day of some victories for Democrats.

ELECTION SECURITY

Mr. President, there is another bright spot, election security. This morning, after months and months of Republican resistance and months of insistent Democratic pressure, Senate Republicans have finally agreed to support our Democratic request for additional election security funding in advance of the 2020 elections.

This is similar to an amendment Democrats offered during last year's appropriations process to help States harden their election infrastructure to protect against Russian or Chinese or Iranian interference.

A year ago, our Republican friends, unfortunately and shortsightedly, re-

jected this amendment. Maybe, just maybe, Republicans are starting to come around to our view that election security is necessary; that if Americans don't believe their elections are on the up and up, woe is us as a country and as a democracy.

It is not all the money we requested and doesn't include a single solitary reform that virtually everyone knows we need, but it is a start. Leader MCCONNELL kept saying that we don't need the money. I made umpteen speeches here, in this chair, and the Republican leader denied the need. But now, thank God, he has seen the light. We need more money for election security; ask election officials, Democrat or Republican, throughout the country. I hope today's vote means Senate Republicans are beginning to see the light on election security.

While this funding is important, it is not the only thing we need to do to secure our elections from Russian, Chinese, Iranian, or any other foreign country's interference. There are multiple bipartisan pieces of legislation awaiting action on the floor that would counter foreign influence operations against our democracy, safeguard our elections, and deter foreign adversaries from even attempting to interfere.

We have been warned time and again by our national security leaders—nearly all of them Republicans appointed by President Trump—that China and, of course, Russia are potential threats in 2020. We cannot sit on our hands while our adversaries try to replicate and outdo what Putin accomplished in 2016.

Leader MCCONNELL should bring the bipartisan bills. We are getting the money in approps, but we need more legislation to refine where the dollars are.

Leader MCCONNELL, now that you have seen the light on the money, go one step further: Bring the bipartisan bills—the Defending American Security from Kremlin Aggression Act, the Secure Elections Act, and the DETER Act—to the floor for a debate and a vote. Otherwise, the job will remain incomplete and our democracy vulnerable.

BACKGROUND CHECKS

Mr. President, finally on guns, yesterday, according to reports, Attorney General Barr came to Capitol Hill to discuss a one-page proposal on gun legislation that he had put together. It became clear soon after that the White House, seemingly out of fear of reprisal by the NRA, was unwilling to embrace its own Attorney General's proposal. Once again, the White House refused to take a stand on what they propose to do on the question of gun violence.

President Trump and Senate Republicans are trying to find a way to have their cake and eat it too—searching for a plan that the public will accept and won't offend the NRA. It is a fool's errand.

Leader MCCONNELL, President Trump, you can't please the NRA and

at the same time do good gun legislation that will save lives. You cannot please the NRA unless you do something that is either regressive or, at the very best, toothless. Get it through your heads. That is how it is.

If you want to do something real on gun legislation and save lives, you have to reject the NRA's ministrations. The NRA is wildly out of step with the views of the American public. Its policies are reactionary; its leadership, recalcitrant and divided.

Look no further than the universal background check bill. Ninety-three percent of Americans, the great majority of gun owners, and 80 percent of Republicans support the idea. But not the NRA. As for yesterday's plan floated by the Republican Attorney General, a plan that would only modestly expand background checks, representatives of the NRA called it a nonstarter.

The views of the NRA and the views of the American public are fundamentally incompatible. President Trump, Leader MCCONNELL, Senate Republicans, which side are you on? Are you with the NRA or are you with the American people?

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, today Speaker PELOSI unveiled the House's plan to try to lower out-of-pocket costs for prescription drugs. This, of course, has been a priority for many of us in Washington, including the Presiding Officer.

We have been working on it really hard here in the Senate. Actually, three standing committees of the Senate have now reported out legislation dealing with this issue: the Judiciary Committee, the Finance Committee, and the HELP Committee, or the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee. All are working together to try to come with up bipartisan packages to lower prescription drug costs.

These bills, of course, include ideas from Republicans and Democrats.

Mr. President, apparently, we have some technical difficulties here.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. I can hear you better now.

Mr. CORNYN. It sounds like we have fixed that. Thank you.

As I was saying, while these bills include ideas from both Republicans and Democrats, it shouldn't surprise people that in an area as complex as this, there are going to be some disagreements along the way. But that is what we do here: We work through those disagreements and try to build consensus.

While I know that it is only a bipartisan bill that has any chance at all to

make its way to the President's desk for his signature, Speaker PELOSI appears to have a different approach. House Democrats want to replace our free-market healthcare system with the heavyhanded government approach that puts us on a path to socialized medicine. They want to allow the government to set prices and put bureaucrats at the center of our healthcare system, instead of patients.

The Speaker's plan is just the latest example of a partisan messaging document masquerading as legislation, and it has absolutely no chance—zero, zip, nada—of passing the Senate or becoming law.

In contrast, the ideas we have been working on would lower out-of-pocket costs by increasing competition and transparency, while stopping the bad actors who try to game the system. Unlike the House, we have been considering bills that have broad bipartisan support, as I said, which means they have the potential to actually become law, to get something done.

Speaker PELOSI should take note that we in the Senate have done the hard work of finding consensus with our colleagues on both sides of the aisle. I encourage our friends in the House of Representatives to stop wasting time and, instead, start working in a bipartisan fashion and work on legislation that can actually become law. Only then will the American people see the benefit of a reduction in out-of-pocket costs for their prescription drugs.

APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. President, on another matter, with the end of the fiscal year just a week and a half way, we know the clock is running out for us to pass funding bills. After the longest government shutdown in history earlier this year, I thought there was bipartisan support to get the regular appropriations process back on track. Both parties knew there was a funding crisis at stake this fall if we couldn't come together and reach a compromise.

So that is exactly what we did before the August break. Our colleagues on the Appropriations Committee, led by the chairman, Senator SHELBY, worked day and night to reach an agreement that was acceptable to both parties in both Chambers, as well as earning the support of the President. That is not easy to do. That was the 2-year budget caps agreement. But they got it done. That is until the August recess occurred, and, apparently, memories faded about what exactly had been agreed to, or people reconsidered their previous agreement and decided to withdraw their consent.

We knew this caps deal, as imperfect as it was, would lay the foundation for the appropriations process this fall and get us out of this reoccurring movie called the looming shutdown.

At the end of July, we passed a 2-year budget agreement. It was a fair compromise, considering everybody's interests. While there are still details to be

hashed out in the individual appropriations bills, it was a strong start. We thought we had made it past this shutdown movie and scenario.

We agreed to top-line defense spending and nondefense spending. There was a promise not to derail the appropriations process with poison pill policy riders, and we got it done with plenty of time to spare.

Now it appears that our Democratic friends are backing down from their commitments, which is a serious mistake on their part. If we can't work together in good faith and trust that our colleagues will actually stick to their word and keep their commitments, then, that is going to do nothing but further erode our ability to function on behalf of the American people.

Imagine my surprise when, yesterday, the Senate voted to begin debate on the first batch of funding bills and Democrats blocked it. They stopped it dead in its tracks. Even though they had agreed to the spending caps and a process to go forward, they blocked it. They voted to deny our troops the largest pay raise in a decade. They voted to withhold vital funding from our military at a time when we face growing threats around the world. They voted to derail the very process they had agreed to before August. In so doing, they once again put partisan politics above our responsibilities to the American people.

What is the reason for this? A disagreement over funding allocations of 0.003 percent of the total budget—0.003 percent of the total budget. That is like robbing a bank in order to steal the change from the gumball machine. I am really disappointed. We are better than that, and I hope our colleagues will reconsider.

Our national security is on the line. If there is one thing we ought to do above all else, it is to provide for the defense and to make sure that the American people are safe and that those who put themselves in harm's way and who volunteer to wear the uniform of the U.S. military are treated with respect and fairness. It is inappropriate and it is just wrong to play games with national security or with our military, as our Democratic colleagues appear to be doing.

DEBBIE SMITH ACT

Finally, Mr. President, 4 months ago, the Senate passed a bipartisan bill that I introduced with the Senator from California, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, to reauthorize what has arguably been the single greatest driver behind our progress to reduce the rape kit backlog.

The Debbie Smith Act was first passed in 2004 to provide State and local crime labs with the resources they need to end the backlog of unsolved crimes. At one point, we learned there were perhaps as many as 400,000 forensic kits, or rape kits, sitting either in evidence lockers or in labs that had been untested—400,000. In each one of those kits is the evidence needed to identify the assailant in a sexual as-

sault or, conversely, to rule out somebody in a sexual assault.

Also, as a result of uploading of this information, if it is tested, into the FBI system, or the CODIS system, it can help to solve a myriad of crimes, not just sexual assault cases.

The Debbie Smith Act is one of those rare cases where there has always been bipartisan and bicameral support. More than \$1 billion has been provided to forensic labs because of this law, enabling them to get untested evidence off the shelf so we can provide victims with answers and we can take these assailants, which, characteristically, don't just do it one time—they do it multiple times until they are ultimately caught—off the street.

As I said, while the primary goal of the legislation was to reduce the rape kit backlog, under the Debbie Smith Act, this has provided an abundance of DNA evidence that has been used to solve other numerous crimes. That is because once the evidence is tested, it is uploaded in the FBI's DNA database, called CODIS. Similar to the fingerprint databases, this DNA database can help to identify and convict people who commit any type of crime that is under investigation.

For example, if a criminal commits a burglary in one State, DNA from that burglary case can later be used to connect this criminal to an unsolved rape case in other States. It is that powerful.

According to the National Institute of Justice, 42 percent of the hits in the FBI's DNA database system are the direct result of Debbie Smith Act funding—42 percent.

Last month, I visited a living community in Grapevine, TX, called The Gatehouse. This is a place where women and children who have been victimized by domestic violence find the care and resources they need to restart their lives. I spoke with survivors of sexual assault, advocates, and law enforcement about the impact of the Debbie Smith Act and the need to reauthorize this critical program before it expires at the end of the month.

Here is the thing that completely confounds me. The Debbie Smith Act is not partisan. It is not even controversial. It is not divisive. The last time we voted on it, not a single Senator voted no. So there is no reason for the House to stall on this critical legislation. If the House doesn't act by the end of the month, it will expire.

Once again, I urge Speaker PELOSI to allow this bill to go to the floor of the House without further delay. It would be simply shameful to allow this program to expire, especially when she has a bipartisan bill in her hand and all she has to do is allow it to go to the floor of the House for a vote.

I yield the floor.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. FISCHER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

BACKGROUND CHECKS

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, in February of this year, the House of Representatives passed what is known as the universal background check in regard to gun sales. Since that time, the Senate has had no action whatsoever on gun safety issues. Leader MCCONNELL could bring this bill to the floor, and I am confident we have the support to pass it.

I do hear from many of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle that we are waiting for the President, and unless the President signs off on a bill, they are not interested in bringing it up. The last time I checked the Constitution of the United States, the first article of the Constitution provides for the legislative branch of government, and that is us. We make the laws, not the President of the United States. It is up to us to deliver and consider legislation and pass legislation. Yet there is no action from the floor of the Senate. Leader MCCONNELL will not bring up gun safety legislation.

Every day we wait—every single day—100 people in America die from gun violence. That is why many of us are frequently speaking on the floor of the Senate about the need to consider gun safety legislation.

It has been over 200 days since the House took bipartisan action on the universal background checks. Since that time, we have seen many mass shootings, including on August 3 in El Paso, August 4 in Dayton, and August 31 in Odessa. There is no action on the floor of the Senate. Every day, there are people dying in our communities and in our homes from gun violence. Yet there is no action on the floor of the Senate.

The United States is an outlier among the developed nations in the world. We have 10 times, 20 times, 30 times more instances of gun violence than in developed countries in the world. We have more guns in private ownership than the people of developed worlds, more suicides, more mass shootings, more gun violence. Yet there is no action on the floor of the Senate.

The issue is kind of simple. Inaction is not an answer to gun violence in America. Americans are expecting us—the Members of the Senate—to consider gun safety legislation. We want the majority leader to bring that bill to the floor today before another 100 people die. Let us take action.

I mentioned several times the bill that passed the House of Representatives over 200 days ago, the universal background checks. Let me just talk a moment about why that bill needs to be considered and passed as soon as possible. In 1993, we passed the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act. It

provides for a presale check as to whether an individual is entitled to own a handgun. As I am sure my colleagues are aware, the Supreme Court of the United States has determined that the Second Amendment is not absolute. If you have been convicted of a violent crime, if you have mental issues, you are not entitled to have a handgun. The Brady presale check determines whether you fall into those categories, and they will deny you the right to buy a handgun if you do.

Since its inception in 1993, 3 million sales have been stopped. It works. It is compliant with the Supreme Court, and it doesn't interfere with legitimate Second Amendment rights. It was passed in 1993. It is now 2019. Sellers of handguns have figured out a way to get around the 1993 law with private sales, gun shows, and internet sales. We didn't have internet gun sales in 1993. We need to close those loopholes.

Here is the situation. Some States have done this. In the States that have done it, we see that the results are favorable. There is less gun violence in those States that have passed universal background checks. However, let me just tell you about the State of Maryland. Of the guns that are recovered from crime scenes in Maryland, 53 percent are guns that were acquired in a State outside of Maryland. We need universal background checks in order to provide the types of results that can keep our communities safer by keeping guns out of the hands of people who are not entitled to have guns.

How do the American people feel about this? There are 90-plus percent who believe that we should have universal background checks. Yet there has been no action on the floor of the U.S. Senate. The Republican leader will not bring the bill to the floor. This is a bill that should have been passed a long time ago. Every day that we delay, there are another 100 deaths from gun violence.

We shouldn't stop there. We should deal with assault-style military weapons. When someone has one of these assault weapons, within a matter of seconds, he can shoot off multiple rounds and kill multiple numbers of people. Even if you have those who come to the rescue—if law enforcement is on the scene or people are able to deal with the circumstances—in a matter of seconds, you can already have multiple casualties. We need to get rid of these military-style weapons in private ownership.

When you talk to law enforcement officers and ask them what they fear the most when they go into a situation in which someone is armed, it is the assault weapons they fear. It is not fair to our law enforcement officers, who put their lives on the line for us and who rush into harm's way, to allow for these types of weapons to be available to the general public.

We can do something about it. Let us take up legislation that restricts the private ownership of assault-style

weapons. There has been no action, though, on the floor of the Senate. The Republican leader will not bring up any issues on gun safety.

I could add legislation with regard to the large-capacity magazines. We see that. They are used in mass shootings because you can shoot off multiple rounds without reloading. Again, as we have seen in mass shooting circumstances, it has added to the number of deaths. It is not inconveniencing the public to restrict that type of capacity from being out there, which is known to cause harm by those who want to create a situation of mass casualties. Again, there has been no action on the floor of the Senate by the Republican leader.

We have bipartisan legislation that would identify those individuals who pose extreme risks so that there is a red flag placed on those individuals that prevents them from being able to purchase handguns—bipartisan legislation. Our States are acting, but there has been no action on the floor of the U.S. Senate. The Republican leader will not even bring that up.

We could go over a whole host of other issues, such as mental health and earlier identification—those types of services. There are a lot of things we can do. I would hope that the one option that would be off the table would be that of doing nothing, but that seems to be the Republican leader's preferred option—to let this issue rest without there being any action taken by the Senate. It has been over 200 days since the House of Representatives acted, but there has been no action here on the floor of the Senate.

I urge all of my colleagues to impress upon the Republican leader that it is well past time for us to consider gun safety legislation. Let us bring these bills to the floor. Let us not wait for the President of the United States. We are the legislative branch of government. Let us act and do the right thing to keep our communities and our homes safer.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, let me join the Senator from Maryland in expressing my frustration. Many of us worked long and hard to be elected to the U.S. Senate, not just to represent our States but to respond to the challenges that face us in the United States. The challenge of gun safety faces everyone. Thank you to the Senator from Maryland for making that point on the floor of the Senate.

Many people come to the Senate Galleries, sit in the chairs, and wait for the Senate to act. It is a long waiting game because, unfortunately, the Senate does little or nothing under the

leadership of Senator McCONNELL. I don't know why this Senator has not accepted the fact that the U.S. Senate has an important role to play. We speak for people not only in Illinois and in Maryland but for those all across the United States, and they are very concerned.

In the recent trip home over the recess, I visited some of the areas around Chicago and in the city, and there were many conversations about the gun violence that we see across America. That gun violence has been punctuated by the horrible events in El Paso and Odessa, TX, and in other communities that have been affected by these mass killings. We have become numb, I am afraid, to the reality of gun violence in America. We have decided, I am afraid, that the Second Amendment to the Constitution is somehow holding us back—binding us and restraining us—from even doing the most basic things.

Overwhelmingly, the people of America, by a factor of over 90 percent—Democrats and Republicans—believe that we should have background checks. We believe that the people who have been convicted of violent felonies shouldn't own guns—period. We believe, as well, that when it comes to those who have serious mental instability, they should also be precluded from gun ownership. The laws do not allow us to adequately ask the question or to test whether the buyer has been convicted of a felony or has such a background.

In the city of Chicago, hardly a weekend goes by without there being dozens shot and 9 or 10 or more losing their lives. Most of them are young people, but not exclusively. Older people, as well, are caught in the crossfire.

People say: Well, I thought Chicago had these tough gun laws. What is going on there? Why do you have so many gun deaths?

The answer is obvious for those of us who spend time in that great city. We are about 20 minutes away from northwestern Indiana and from the gun shows that are held there, where people don't ask questions when they sell firearms. All you need to do is to have the money and the open trunk of your car to fill it up with guns and drive them back to the city of Chicago. That is why no State can solve this problem. We need Federal legislation.

As I talk to people across this country, they tell me the heartbreaking stories of sitting down with their children who have gone through some drill or program at school to forewarn them of what would happen if an active shooter were to come onto the premises. As we know, that reality is not beyond reach. In Connecticut, we saw a beautiful first grade class that was attacked by a killer with a weapon who took the lives of those children. If that scandalous massacre of children in a first grade classroom didn't move this Congress and this President to act, what will?

The President said to me in a conversation several weeks ago that we

are going to have a background check bill and that it will be the best in the history of the world. Well, I was skeptical when he said it. I am even more skeptical today. I knew what would happen. When the President had a choice between the public interest of gun safety and the special interest of the National Rifle Association, the National Rifle Association prevailed.

This President refuses to come forward with any proposal, and Senator McCONNELL believes his hands are tied and cannot bring this issue to the floor of the Senate. He cannot run the risk that his Members would have to be on the record as having taken a vote, as they were elected to do, on an issue of this importance.

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Madam President, this is not the only issue that we are ignoring—the only issue that is, frankly, not even being considered on the floor of the Senate. There is another one that is equally important to me and to most people across this country, and that is dealing with the challenge of immigration.

A few years ago, a bipartisan group of Senators—eight of us—I, Senator McCain, Senator SCHUMER, and others—sat down and wrote a comprehensive immigration reform bill. It was months of Republicans and Democrats sitting down, face-to-face, night after night, going through every section of our immigration code to come up with a comprehensive bill to deal with the obvious shortcomings, but we did it. We brought it to the floor of the Senate and it received 68 votes. There were 14 Republicans who joined the Democrats to pass this comprehensive immigration reform. We sent it to the Republican House of Representatives, and Speaker Boehner refused to even consider it. So all of our effort and all of our work was really for nothing.

We continue to face the challenge of immigration. We know what it is like at the border. Under this President, we have seen the worst border situation in modern times. His refusal to acknowledge the three Central American countries that are sending all of these immigrants to the United States has led to some horrible circumstances.

Recently, the inspector general of Health and Human Services came forward with a report on the Trump administration's response to this border crisis. It was a report on the policy of zero tolerance. I am sure you will remember it. It was under Attorney General Sessions, and he somehow found a quotation in the Bible to justify forcibly removing children from their parents. We removed 2,880 children from their parents at the border under this zero tolerance policy before there was an uprising in the United States against it and before the President backed off of it.

I commend the inspector general's report on what happened to those children—to every American. I saw it firsthand. I witnessed these children as

they were being removed from their parents and the trauma they went through as a result.

So why aren't we debating the immigration policy on the floor of the U.S. Senate? I am told that perhaps, later today, the junior Senator from Utah—at this point, I think he is the senior Senator from Utah—will come forward with a unanimous consent request to consider fixing one part of the immigration problem. I want to fix that problem and many more.

THE DREAM ACT

Madam President, I want to make sure that when we come to the floor to discuss immigration, as we should, that we take up the issue of the DREAM Act.

The DREAM Act was a bill that I introduced in the Senate 18 years ago. It states, if you were brought to the United States as a child and are undocumented in this country but you have gone through school and have had no criminal record of any serious consequence, you deserve a chance to be able to earn your way to legal status and citizenship. I introduced this bill 18 years ago. It passed in the Senate in 1 year and passed in the House in another, but it has never come up with the 60 votes—the supermajority requirement—in the Senate.

President Obama was a cosponsor when he was in the Senate, and when he had the White House under his control, I asked him to consider an Executive order to achieve the same goal, and he did. He created a program called DACA. There were 790,000 young people across America who paid the filing fee, who went through the criminal background checks, and who then received the protection to stay in this country and work legally.

Of course, in September of 2017, President Trump abolished this program. It took away the protection these young people had. He was challenged in court, and the court said we are going to continue this program until it is resolved at the highest levels of our Federal judiciary as to whether President Trump has this authority.

On November 12, across the street, the U.S. Supreme Court will consider that case—790,000 lives and more, for that matter, hang in the balance of how the Justices will make this decision on their future.

This should be debated on the floor of the Senate. It is why we are here. It is why we were elected. I think we can find bipartisan answers to many of these questions, but we need the Senate majority leader, the Republican leader, to really accept the reality of the Senate actually going to work. Instead of speeches by individual Senators on the floor, as impressive as they may be, we might actually pass a law. Think of that—a bill coming to the floor, subject to amendment, and actual debate in the Senate Chamber. We would fill the Galleries. It is such a novelty. It doesn't happen anymore.

Unfortunately for America, many issues, whether it is gun safety or sensible immigration policy, are the victims of our inaction in the U.S. Senate. We can do better, and we should. Ultimately, the American people have the last word as to whether this Senate will act on issues like gun safety and immigration. The last word is your vote. In the next election, I hope more and more Americans will vote for a Senate that responds to the challenges of our day and doesn't avoid our responsibility under the Constitution.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, for the information of all of our colleagues, the next vote will occur at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, cloture on the McGuire nomination.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam 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

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 176.

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 senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Joseph Cella, of Michigan, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Kiribati, the Republic of Nauru, the Kingdom of Tonga, and Tuvalu.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam 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 senior 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, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Joseph Cella, of Michigan, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Kiribati, the Republic of Nauru, the Kingdom of Tonga, and Tuvalu.

Mitch McConnell, David Perdue, John Cornyn, John Barrasso, Mike Crapo, John Thune, Tim Scott, John Hoeven, Shelley Moore Capito, Kevin Cramer, John Boozman, Steve Daines, Richard Burr, James E. Risch, Roy Blunt, Thom Tillis, Martha McSally.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam 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

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 367.

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 senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Daniel Habib Jorjani, of Kentucky, to be Solicitor of the Department of the Interior.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam 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 senior 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, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Daniel Habib Jorjani, of Kentucky, to be Solicitor of the Department of the Interior.

Mitch McConnell, David Perdue, John Cornyn, John Barrasso, Mike Crapo, John Thune, Tim Scott, John Hoeven, Shelley Moore Capito, Kevin Cramer, John Boozman, Steve Daines, Richard Burr, James E. Risch, Roy Blunt, Thom Tillis, Martha McSally.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam 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

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 292.

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 senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of David Fabian Black, of North Dakota, to be Deputy Commissioner of Social Security for a term expiring January 19, 2025. (Reappointment)

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam 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 senior 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, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of David Fabian Black, of North Dakota, to be Deputy Commissioner of Social Security for a term expiring January 19, 2025. (Reappointment)

Mitch McConnell, David Perdue, John Cornyn, John Barrasso, Mike Crapo, John Thune, Tim Scott, John Hoeven, Shelley Moore Capito, Kevin Cramer, John Boozman, Steve Daines, Richard Burr, James E. Risch, Roy Blunt, Thom Tillis, Martha McSally.

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls be waived.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST— H.R. 1044

Mr. LEE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1044 and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

I ask unanimous consent that the Lee amendment, No. 939, be agreed to, that the bill as amended be considered read a third time and passed, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. PERDUE. Madam President, I want to commend my good friend from the great State of Utah, Senator MIKE LEE, for his work on putting this bill together and pulling the people together to support this bill.

I support this bill. We have some language that needs to be clarified, and I still have some concerns about the impact this legislation would have on

some specific industries in not only my State but in the country. I want to work with Senator LEE in addressing these concerns and come to a resolution on this very quickly. I commit to working with him and his team to make sure we get to a resolution because we want the exact same thing, and this is totally consistent with what President Trump is trying to do in his long-term work to fix our broken immigration system.

With that, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Madam President, I want to recognize my appreciation for the Senator from Georgia, who has expressed a good-faith, earnest desire to work with me on this legislation. I want very badly to get this passed. It needs to pass. I want to talk for a few minutes about the reasons this legislation needs to pass.

I believe this legislation, as amended, as I proposed to be enacted today with Lee amendment No. 939, is itself ready to be passed into law. In my opinion, there is no justifiable cause for delay. We will continue to work on it. I wish we could pass it today. It should be passed today because it is ready.

The bill we are talking about, of course, is the Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act. This is an important, bipartisan piece of legislation, one that I have been proud to sponsor, along with Senator HARRIS, who has been my Democratic partner on this issue.

The Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act has been a priority of mine for many years, nearly the entire time I have been in the Senate. During that time, it has been the subject of strong debate and a lot of scrutiny on the Hill. Like most bills, its path to becoming law has not always been straight or clear and certainly not clear of obstacles. But with the passage of the companion bill in the House of Representatives by an overwhelming bipartisan vote of 365 to 65, I believe that now is the moment we really can finally move forward with this small but critically important fix to our immigration system. We could do that. We would be in a position to do that today had an objection not been raised.

Notwithstanding that objection, I am going to continue to work in the coming days to make it a reality because this is a reform whose time has come, and I would like to take a moment to explain why it deserves support from my colleagues.

Again, we have to take into account that this passed the House of Representatives with a vote of 365 to 65. It is not easy to find something that can garner that much bipartisan support.

Wrangling over the nuts and bolts and fine-print details of the policy, as extremely as important as that is, can at times allow us to lose sight of more basic foundational principles that should shape any law or any set of laws we put on the books.

Among other things, our laws should be consistent with our Nation's deeply held beliefs and values. A system of laws should also be clear and coherent, meaning that it should not only give adequate notice of what is required in order for a person to comply with the law, but it also should be something that is capable of being complied with. Finally, the means employed by any law should be consistent with the objectives that law seeks to accomplish. These are not partisan principles. They are simple yet incredibly important guideposts that should direct the actions of anyone entrusted with crafting a legal system, as we certainly are in this Chamber.

Unfortunately, the laws we pass don't always live up to the standards of fair and effective and consistent law-making. One of the starkest examples of our failure to abide by these same principles involves the way we allocate employment-based green cards.

Few ideas are more central to who we are as Americans than the notion that people should be judged and treated by their government based on their own merits as individuals—as individuals with inherent God-given rights—and not on the basis of the color of their skin or of the country in which they were born.

Our Founders wrote: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal." Those words are as much a part of our national creed in this moment as they were when they were written some 243 years ago. Our laws should reflect this. They should reflect the enduring truth found in those words, which I believe were inspired. They are inspirational to this day. I believe they were inspired at the time they wrote them, and that is why they are lasting in their importance and their persuasive effect.

Despite this ideal, section 1152 of the Immigration and Nationality Act provides that "the total number of [employment-based] visas made available to natives of any single foreign state . . . in any fiscal year may not exceed 7 percent . . . of the total number of such visas made available." That rather antiseptic language, technical and clinical on its face, is, on closer inspection, deeply out of step with our country's commitment to nondiscrimination and to equal treatment under the law.

In practice, section 1152's 7 percent cap on immigrants from any one country means that, if two immigrants apply for an employment-based visa at precisely the same moment and have the exact same skills and education and other factors taken into account on their applications, one of them may wait 12 months for a green card while his counterpart languishes in the green card backlog for decades. That is not an exaggeration—literally decades.

The only factor that accounts for this gross and unfair, difficult to justify or defend disparity in treatment is the fact that the second immigrant in

my hypothetical example happened to have been born in a different country than the first. They are otherwise identically situated to each other, but one may be processed within a year, and the other may languish for decades. This is because, under the per-country cap system, immigrants from larger, more populated countries are only eligible to receive the same number of green cards annually as immigrants from smaller countries. As a result, the wait times for immigrants from larger countries have grown and grown decade after decade, with no end in sight. This amounts to a de facto country-of-origin discrimination, plain and simple, and no amount of legalese or wonkish policy arguments can cover up that fact.

Beyond its incompatibility with the deep and abiding principles upon which this country was founded, the per-country cap system violates another one of those commonsense maxims of good lawmaking that I mentioned earlier: the need for clarity and for consistency in the law.

Title VII of the Civil Rights Act provides that it is unlawful for an employer "to discriminate against any individual with respect to his compensation, terms, conditions, or privileges of employment, because of such individual's race, color, religion, sex, or national origin." Yet the conditions created by the per-country caps virtually guarantee that employers on some level must take into account the national origin when recruiting certain immigrant workers.

If prospective hires from one country will be able to obtain a green card in 12 months, while those from another—even a person who happens to have superior training and skills—will be unable to obtain a green card for possibly decades, it is virtually unavoidable that the employer will take national origin into account. Think about that. One section of the U.S. Code forbids employers from taking national origin into account when making employment decisions; another section makes it impossible for an employer not to take that into account. The grounds on which that kind of system can be defended as sound public policy are beyond me.

The pernicious consequences of this intrinsically flawed system do not stop there, as 95 percent of immigrants stuck in the green card backlog are already in the United States on temporary visas. In many cases, they have brought their spouses and their children with them to build a life in this country. Yet, because temporary visa holders can only sponsor their foreign-born child up until the time the child turns 21, many in the backlog, waiting decades for a green card, are forced to choose between separating from their child as the child ages out of the temporary visa or abandoning their dream of settling in America in order to return to their home country in order to keep their family together. In the most heartbreaking among those cases—of

which there are sadly far too many—the child was brought here at a very young age and may have no memory of the country to which they would be forced to return.

It bears repeating. This is happening not because these individuals broke the law—they haven't done anything wrong—and it is not because they don't satisfy the merit-based eligibility criteria needed to receive an employment-based green card. I understand that immigration laws do have consequences, and we have to follow the law, but it doesn't stem from any violation of the law or any lack of eligibility stemming from any factor other than country of origin. It happens for no reason other than the country in which they happen to have been born.

If that made sense, if there were some sound principle and public policy that anyone could point to, then perhaps we wouldn't have occasion to be talking about changing this law. Perhaps we wouldn't have gotten 365 votes, Democrats and Republicans joining together in the House of Representatives voting to pass this. The fact is, I have yet to meet anyone in this body or in the House of Representatives who can defend this flawed policy on its merits because it makes no sense.

Finally, the per-country cap system is irredeemably flawed because, among its other problems, it is also incompatible with the goals that our employment-based visa system are meant to advance in the first place. The employment-based visa system is supposed to enable American businesses to bring the best and the brightest to this country. Yet, under the per-country caps, a factor that has nothing to do with a person's skills or merit distorts and in many cases ultimately determines the recruitment process. This weakens the merit-based portion of our immigration system. Indeed, it is directly at war with the supposed purpose of our employment-based green card system.

Despite its obvious deficiencies, the per-country caps have been part of our immigration laws since the 1950s. This is something that came into our law during the Elvis Presley era, during the Buddy Holly era—not exactly something that was intended to remain on the books very long. Regardless of what they intended at the time as far as how long it should last, I don't believe they had good, legitimate reasons to put it into law then. Whatever reasons they had then certainly don't apply now. They are not even discernible to anyone I know today.

It is long past time that we replace that flawed policy with a more rational and equitable approach. Fortunately, the solution to these problems is not only straightforward, but it is agreed upon by a broad bipartisan coalition of Senators and Representatives. We must simply eliminate the per-country caps in order to ensure a fair and reasonable allocation of employment-based green cards. That is exactly what the Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act

would accomplish. Without the per-country caps, our skills-based green card system would operate on a first come, first served basis, ensuring that immigrants would be admitted into the United States based purely on their merit rather than their country of origin.

This reform would also ensure that the hardships caused by decades-long wait times are eliminated. As I have said in the past, there is no question that immigration is one of if not the most politically fraught issues in Congress right now. It makes it all the more important for us, at least, to come together to get something done in the areas where we can find common ground. The Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act is an important point of common ground.

Any immigration bill that has 35 Senate cosponsors—20 Republicans and 15 Democrats, as this bill does—presents a unique opportunity to secure a victory for the American people. The reason this bill commands such widespread support from all points along the political spectrum is because, as I have explained, the arguments in its favor are not your typical partisan or ideological arguments. No. They are commonsense arguments about the way any rational legal system should work in that it makes clear that the per-country caps system must go.

That is what is needed to make our immigration laws consistent with our principles, consistent with other laws on the books, and consistent with the merit-based objectives this component of our immigration system is meant to promote.

The other reason the Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act has been so successful in attracting support from both sides of the aisle is because we have scrupulously avoided the typical poison pills that so often doom many good-faith attempts at immigration reform. This bill is not comprehensive in its approach. It is not a comprehensive immigration reform package. It is not even close to that. That is, in fact, why this bill is something we can actually get done now. That is why this bill is so close to being passed. It is why this bill really should pass into law today.

While it does not fix many of the other flaws that plague our broken immigration system, it is a great and a vitally important start to reform. If we are ever to have a chance at modernizing and repairing our immigration laws, we need to recognize that we cannot necessarily solve all of our problems at once. The fact that this is the case shouldn't stand in the way of us starting to work on the issues the American people sent us here to solve. We cannot allow the perfect to be the enemy of the excellent. That is why I have come to seek unanimous consent to pass this legislation today.

Look, I understand it has drawn an objection, but it has drawn an objection in a way that drew an objection a

few weeks ago from another Member. We have been able to work through that Member's concerns. I am hopeful, I am optimistic that my colleague who raised an objection today can be persuaded that this bill needs to be passed, we can address his concerns, and that we can resolve them.

I will be working with my distinguished friend and colleague from Georgia throughout this weekend to try to find a solution, some explanation, or, if necessary, language that can win his support. We are very close on what we believe is appropriate and acceptable.

I remain steadfastly convinced that this law, as written, as amended, as offered up by unanimous consent today could and should be the law of the land. I believe it is ready for prime time. It is ready to become law, but when seeking unanimity on a measure in order to pass it, one must do everything one can do in order to seek actual unanimity, and that is what I intend to do in the coming days. I intend to be back next week, making yet another attempt to pass this bill into law, and I hope and expect we will be able to do so.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. YOUNG). The Senator for Alabama.

Mr. JONES. Mr. President, thank you. I appreciate your comment, "The Senator for Alabama." That is exactly how I like to be recognized, so thank you very much.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 2486

Mr. President, I rise today to appeal to my colleagues to support the renewal of vital funding for historically Black colleges and universities and all minority-serving institutions.

I have risen in this body on more than one occasion to talk about the importance of HBCUs and minority-serving institutions.

Alabama is home to 14 HBCUs—more than any other State in the country. They are part of the fabric of our economy in Alabama and a part of the fabric of our society. They are the pride of their communities. They are the pride of those folks who went there and had relatives who went there and even those individuals who are not alums or relatives of alums.

Our HBCUs are a source of enduring pride in our State and across this country. They serve an incredibly important function. They educate those from underserved communities more than any other college or university. It is important that we continue funding them because their challenges with funding are great.

They do not have the endowments that other colleges and universities have. They don't have the source of funding. It is only through our efforts in Congress and across the country that we can continue the great work of these HBCUs.

Recently, the House passed what is known as the FUTURE Act, which is H.R. 2486. My colleague Senator SCOTT and I have a similar bill that has been introduced in the Senate because, at

the end of September, all funding for HBCUs is set to end.

Our act would extend that. We need to make sure that we fund all of our HBCUs, that they are not left in the lurch and not left with any uncertainty about their future funding. I truly believe this is such a bipartisan effort that we can get this across the finish line. I have urged Senator McCONNELL to put this on the floor because it is quite urgent.

As in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 2486, which is at the desk; that the bill be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator for Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I am reserving the right to object.

The Senator from Alabama is a valued member of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee. Ensuring that historically Black colleges and universities have continued funding is something we all want to do. However, instead of the short-term patch, I favor a long-term solution.

I am ready to do this, along with a few other bipartisan higher education proposals that also have bipartisan support. Such a package could include permanent mandatory funding of \$255 million for historically Black colleges and universities and reduction of the number of questions on the FAFSA that 20 million families fill out every year for their Federal aid, as Senators BENNET and JONES have proposed. I would like to see the Senate pass again the legislation Senator MURRAY and I persuaded the Senate to pass that reduces the current FAFSA to 22 questions. Senators SCHATZ, LEE, and DURBIN have proposed Pell grants for prisoners. There is a proposal by Senators PORTMAN and KAINE and many other bipartisan Senators on short-term Pell grants for job training. We could expand Pell grant eligibility. We could increase the maximum Pell grant award.

These are all things we should be able to agree on, including funding for historically Black colleges and universities. I have been talking with Senator MURRAY now for several years about reauthorizing the Higher Education Act. I intend to discuss this all with her and with our committee members next week.

We have the time to do it because, while the legislation expires at the end of this month, the money doesn't for several more months. So, in the meantime, I hope we can work together, as we often do in our committee, to pass a smaller package of higher education proposals, including a long-term proposal for historically Black colleges and universities, while we continue to work on the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, what we are seeing here today really disappoints me. We have, today, a straightforward opportunity to prevent a critical part of our higher education system—HBCUs, Tribal colleges, and other minority-serving institutions—from having to deal with a lapse in funding. We should take it. This is bipartisan legislation. It has passed the House. There is no reason at all to delay it a minute longer here in the Senate.

I thank the Senator from Alabama for his leadership on this. I express my personal strong support for the FUTURE Act, which will give us then time to work out a permanent fix for funding HBCUs, Tribal colleges, and minority-serving institutions through a comprehensive HEA reauthorization, which is what I have made clear is necessary.

I appreciate what the Senator from Tennessee said about moving forward with higher education reauthorization. I am hopeful we can continue to work on reaching a compromise, as we have done on several other pieces of legislation. As I have said before, I believe any reauthorization of the Higher Education Act needs to have real answers to the challenges students are facing today on affordability and access and accountability and campus safety. I truly believe we have an opportunity to get a comprehensive bill done that helps solve these challenges for our students.

I hope the Senator from Tennessee and our colleagues on the HELP Committee continue to focus on our efforts there. Meanwhile, I believe we should listen to the Senator from Alabama. We should pass the bipartisan FUTURE Act instead of playing politics with valuable and underresourced institutions.

I yield the floor.

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

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

UNITED AUTO WORKERS STRIKE

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, right now at this moment, thousands of UAW workers in Ohio—in places like the Chevrolet plant in Parma-Cleveland area, the transmission plant in Toledo, the plant in Defiance, OH, and all over the country—are going without their paychecks and without their health insurance to demand that General Motors respect the work they do to make their companies successful.

In a nutshell, workers are fed up. More and more of them are beginning to see that unions are the best way to make their voices heard. For too long,

General Motors hasn't listened. Auto-workers are the engine behind GM's success. GM wouldn't be making a dime in profit without the workers who actually make their cars and trucks.

Back up for a moment. Think about what has happened to General Motors. The Presiding Officer has autoworkers in the State of Indiana, as I do in Ohio. Back up 10 years, when General Motors and Chrysler went into bankruptcy. The taxpayers and workers—through givebacks—rescued both companies. For 10 years, GM has gotten more and more profitable. Workers were working hard, but workers were making significantly less money during those 10 years. Then you saw these companies' profits increase. GM started sending more jobs to Mexico to build the Chevy Blazer, for instance. The same day, they announced the layoff of one shift in Lordstown. Then there were the stock buybacks from the Trump tax cuts, where 80 percent of the tax benefits went to the richest 1 percent of people in this country. The stock buybacks with the GM executives meant tens of millions of dollars more in their pocket. Yet they continue to squeeze workers. Now workers are simply saying: We want to be, in essence, paid back for the givebacks we did when we, as taxpayers and workers, rescued that company.

Rather than invest in American workers, the company shut down its most productive plant in North America and laid off hundreds of workers—4,500 workers, actually—in Lordstown, OH, while announcing they are going to build a place in Mexico. They could retool the Lordstown plant. They could build the Blazer in Ohio, but instead they throw workers out of a job, and they pay workers way less to make cars in Mexico.

Now GM workers are saying: Enough. I stand with them. They are standing up and fighting for increased investments in their local communities. We know if that Lordstown plant would reopen with the Blazer or with an electric vehicle—a couple of electric vehicles or whatever they put there—we know what that would mean for those Lordstown families, those GM families. We know what it would mean to that community.

I spoke yesterday with Dave Green, the former President of GM Local 1112. He is now working in another GM plant in the Presiding Officer's home State. He is away from his family. He is away from home. He didn't choose that. Dozens of workers are in that situation all because GM wanted to move its production offshore. Those workers are saying: Enough.

In Lordstown, the workers whose jobs GM took are picketing in solidarity with other UAW workers at the empty plant. Reporters asked them why, and they answered: Brotherhood—brother and sister support. Workers who transfer to other plants in Michigan, Missouri, Kentucky, and Indiana are coming back to join them. That is what the

labor movement is all about: brotherhood, sisterhood, solidarity. It is about the recognition that workers should have a voice and should have a share in the profits they create for their companies. GM made more than \$10 billion in North America in 2018. That is \$10,000 million. It is the UAW workers who made that money for the company. What did GM do? They shut down plants.

Now they have thrown striking workers off their health insurance. We heard from one worker in Local 14 in Toledo who said his 4-year-old daughter, Chesney, had a doctor's appointment scheduled next week to check on the tubes in her ears that help her hear, but GM canceled that family's insurance so they had to cancel the appointment. That is what has happened. It is despicable.

GM needs to agree to a contract that honors the dignity of work—a contract that recognizes the autoworkers, communities, and families who help drive the success of the auto industry in Ohio and across the country.

Again, 10 years ago, taxpayers rescued GM out of bankruptcy. Workers agreed to major givebacks to that company, taking much less money in order to save the company. GM profits have soared. GM executive compensations have exploded upward. GM owes that to our communities, and GM owes that to its workers.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BRAUN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO ALAINA VIK

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, it is that time of the week—the end of the week in the Senate—when I come to the floor and recognize someone special in the great State of Alaska, someone who is doing something important for their community, for the State, for the country. It is the highlight of my week, and I know it is for our pages.

We have some new pages here. It is commonly recognized as the favorite speech of the week for the pages because they get to hear stories about real people, particularly people in Alaska.

You will hear a lot of these speeches as you are here working hard in the Senate.

We are glad the new pages are here.

As you know, my State is certainly one of the most interesting, imagined States in the whole country. By the way, people watching in the Gallery—my friend Scott Lee is up there—watching on TV, come up to Alaska. You will love it. I guarantee you, it will be the trip of a lifetime. No one comes to Alaska and is disappointed.

I like to talk about Alaska on the Senate floor. People see a lot of what is

going on in the State on the nature channels and the adventure channels. There is a story about Alaska on cable TV, it seems like, daily, almost hourly. Not nearly enough of these stories focus on the people who live there— independent, patriotic, generous men, women, and, yes, kids, children, who call Alaska home.

Today, I want to recognize 13-year-old Alaina Vik, who lives in Eagle River, AK. That is a beautiful community, about 15 miles north of Anchorage.

Alaina is a young woman with a big heart. She lives with her mother, Amy, who owns her own real estate company, and her father, Curtis, who is an Alaska State trooper. He is someone I know well because he and I served together with the very outstanding Marine Corps Reserve unit based in Alaska, Echo Company, 4th Recon Battalion.

Trooper Vik, semper fi.

To you and Amy, great job on raising such an exceptional daughter.

Why is she so exceptional? Let's get into what Alaina has done for us. But, first, let me talk a little bit about what is going on in Alaska because I always like to update what is happening in this speech.

I was home for the whole month of August—actually, almost 5 weeks. I did a week of my own on Marine Corps Reserve duty. It was great to be home. I got to travel all over the State. When I say “travel all over,” we are talking hundreds, if not thousands, of miles, literally, between communities. There was a lot going on.

Unfortunately, as it happens in so many summers in Alaska, fires were taking their toll, but the weather was amazing, with beautiful blue skies. For the most part, the sun was out. It was perfect for fishing, hiking, and camping—all the things that so many people in Alaska who come to visit and live here do in the summer.

Now we are heading into the fall. Leaves are starting to turn. It is moose hunting season. The snow isn't far away for most of the State. In some parts of the State, it is actually already on the ground.

Some might say that winter is coming, but I think it is too soon. Winter is coming, but not just yet. I will let you know when that happens.

School has started, and Alaina Vik has entered eighth grade. Her favorite subject is art. Like so many Alaskans, she has been busy. What has she been busy doing? Why are we honoring this young Alaskan who is doing a lot for our State?

First, as a Girl Scout in Troop 690, under the amazing leadership of the troop leader, Mrs. Melissa Jones, Alaina sold more cookies than any other Girl Scout in the entire State of Alaska—more than 5,000 boxes. That is amazing; isn't it?

I love Girl Scout cookies. I think they are the best in the country, but 5,000 boxes in one State is pretty darn impressive.

What is her secret? She said: “My mom told me to go out almost every day to sell cookies, to talk to people and to interest them in buying the cookies.”

Her older brother, Kyle, who, by the way, is an Eagle Scout—you could see what a high-achieving family this is—also helped coach his sister and helped take her out to sell cookies.

Alaina said: “I'm a really hard worker when it comes to Girl Scout cookies.” Obviously, she is—5,000 boxes.

Selling cookies just wasn't good enough for her. She wanted to do more for her Girl Scout project. So she took her passion to the next level, using her selling skills to help others and focusing on the men and women in our military, particularly those who are deployed.

In Alaska, we proudly boast of having the record of more vets per capita than any State in the country. So this is something that a lot of our communities can get behind. She and her fellow Girl Scouts began to send our deployed military members Girl Scout cookies. She got the idea when the father of one of the members of her Girl Scout troop was deployed. Her troop wanted to make sure he felt remembered on his deployment.

All told, in 2017, she was able to donate 800 boxes to our troops, some of whom are deployed in Kuwait and Qatar.

She didn't stop there. As I have often said, we live in one of the most patriotic States in the country. Alaina Vik is just one more bit of proof of that. She wanted to do more for the men and women in uniform. She said:

They're fighting for us. They're protecting us. They deserved to be appreciated [and remembered] and honored.

This is a 13-year-old girl. Remember, she is also the daughter of a recon marine.

With the help of her mother, Amy, and her father, Curtis, and her two younger brothers, she expanded her effort into what is now called Operation Sweet Support. You could find that on Facebook. In addition to just cookies, she is also sending snacks, pencils, duct tape, and toys. Who doesn't need a toy or duct tape when they are deployed? You can use it for everything.

When the news got out about this project, she started to receive donations from all over the community in Eagle River and all over Alaska. So far this year, through this project, she has sent out over 98 care packages to Alaskan troops who are deployed overseas, particularly in Kosovo and Kuwait. She is aiming to send out 75 more by the end of the year—one 13-year-old girl in the great State of Alaska.

She puts a personalized handwritten note into each of the boxes thanking them. “This is my way of saying thank you,” one of her notes reads.

Here is another one:

You are amazing and appreciated and loved. Thank you for your service.

That is another note from Alaina to our service men and women deployed overseas.

She gets notes back, of course. One wrote:

Thank you for everything you've done for us. Please keep supporting the troops [and sending cookies].

Our military members love cookies. They say it makes a big difference.

Someone also sent her an American flag that was flown overseas in appreciation of the cookies, as well as a unit coin, a military coin, sent to Alaina by our appreciative troops. "It was amazing," she said, when she got this.

As someone who has been deployed myself, away from family and friends, I know what it means to get such care packages. It means the world. It means that people back home are remembering what you are doing.

Alaina, thank you for your great work supporting our troops, for the example you are setting for all the young men and women, not just in Alaska but America.

Amy and Curtis, thanks for raising such a wonderful daughter.

Alaina, keep up the great work. Congratulations, once again, on being our Alaskan of the Week.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

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

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

NATIONAL CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce a resolution that would recognize September as National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. In the United States, more than 15,000 kids are diagnosed with cancer every single year, and more than 300,000 children are diagnosed globally.

On average, more than 75 children in West Virginia alone are diagnosed with cancer every year, which has been a steady increase over the last 10 years. We have made a lot of progress over the last few decades in research for prevention and care, but there is more work to be done. That is why I am here today to continue the drumbeat and elevate the issue.

I will share a story of a young man I met just last week. On Friday, I had the honor of visiting with students and teachers at George Washington High School in Charleston, WV. One student by the name of Nicholas "Nick" Spence came up to me during my visit and shared that at age 15 he was diagnosed with cancer. He later sent me a letter telling me about his story and asked me to help raise awareness of childhood cancer, which I assumed we had already done since we have done it for adult cancer.

Nick's letter goes like this:

Dear Senator Manchin,

Thank you for visiting my school on Friday. It was really cool to meet you. As I shared with you in person, at age 15 my life was changed forever. Before then, it never crossed my mind that I would become a cancer patient, much less a pediatric one.

I was diagnosed with cancer and underwent chemotherapy. As a result, in May 2018, I had to have my leg amputated.

After two long years, I am proud to say that I finally overcame and defeated my cancer, and I'm currently a senior at George Washington High School.

I feel very strongly that there needs to be more awareness about childhood cancer in West Virginia, and I appreciated speaking with you about that during your visit.

That's why I'm writing today to ask you to continue fighting for West Virginians and to do whatever you can to help raise awareness about childhood cancer.

Signed, Nick Spence

Thank you, Nick, for standing up and reaching out to me. I will never forget how you walked across the gym after we were done with the meeting with all of the students at your high school, and I was impressed by your willingness to stand up and come over and tell me, basically, what you were concerned about and what you want to change.

In addition, I would also like to recognize some very special guests who have driven here today from West Virginia, and they are in the Senate Chamber today. From Charleston, WV, we have Kelly Wymer, Ali Wymer, and Cherie White. I thank them for attending and being here. They are in town representing the West Virginia Kids Cancer Crusaders at the CureFest here in DC on the National Mall.

When Ali was just 6½ years old, she was diagnosed with cancer. She underwent 2½ years of treatment, including two surgeries and chemotherapy.

We are so proud to have Ali here in the Chamber with us today. She is currently 21 years old and healthy as can be. They said "healthy as a horse." I say "healthy as can be." She is a student at BridgeValley Community and Technical College, majoring in healthcare—what else?

Nick, I know you are at home watching this now, and I just want to thank you. I really want to thank you for sharing your story with me. It really touched me how brave you are for speaking up and advocating for people other than yourself.

I am glad we were able to do this in such quick order. Usually things don't happen this quickly in Washington, but, truly, when it comes to the children of our country and our home State, it means so much to us.

I am proud to say that this is a bipartisan resolution, and I have teamed up with Senator JOSH HAWLEY from Missouri to introduce this resolution. This resolution is also supported by Senator JACK REED from Rhode Island and my fellow West Virginia Senator, SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO.

In addition to recognizing September as National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, this resolution calls on

Federal, State, and local governments, along with nonprofit organizations, to create and host programs and activities that focus on increasing public knowledge on the risks of cancer.

Finally, this resolution recognizes the human toll of cancer and makes a pledge that the United States of America will make the prevention and cure of cancer a public health priority.

I am proud to introduce this resolution. And, Nick, thank you again. Ali, thank you, and thanks to all of those who are so brave and the families who support them and help raise awareness for childhood cancer.

I urge all of my colleagues—all of my colleagues—to join me in supporting this resolution.

I yield the floor.

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

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

TRIBUTE TO BERNARD INGOLD

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, on behalf of myself and Mr. REED, as the chair and ranking member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, as well as the cochairs of the Senate Army Caucus, it is our honor to pay tribute to a great leader, an exceptional officer, and a senior executive of the U.S. Army, Mr. Bernard P. Ingold. Mr. Ingold is the principle deputy chief of legislative liaison for the Office of the Secretary of the Army, and as he prepares to leave this position for a well-deserved retirement, we commend him for his outstanding leadership, advice, and sound professional judgment on numerous critical issues of enduring importance to the Army, Congress, and this Nation.

Bernie Ingold has served our Army and our Nation for more than 40 years as an Army officer and a Department of the Army civilian. A native of Michigan, Mr. Ingold was commissioned in 1979 as a judge advocate general officer upon earning a degree in law from the University of Arkansas. His service to the Nation included roles as a deputy staff judge advocate for U.S. Army Berlin, as a legislative counsel for the office of the chief of

legislative liaison, and as the deputy director for legal policy in the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

After serving 20 years on Active Duty, Mr. Ingold retired and continued his service as a civilian in the Department of the Army. From 1999 to 2010, he served as the deputy chief legislative counsel for the Army's office of the chief of legislative liaison. In 2010, he entered into the senior executive service and began his role as the principle deputy for the office of the chief of legislative liaison. For the past 10 years, Mr. Ingold has implemented and enhanced strategic partnerships with Congress. He has assisted seven Army chiefs of legislative liaison and helped the Army significantly advance its relationships with both legislative Chambers and improved and broadened congressional support for Army priorities. Mr. Ingold managed complex issues through multiple legislative cycles, enabling the Army to receive the necessary resources to improve readiness, accelerate modernization, and reform processes to support combat operations, sustain the all-volunteer force, and improve the quality of life for soldiers, Army civilians, and their families. Throughout his career, he has been a true professional, dedicated soldier, leader, officer, and senior executive.

On behalf of the Senate, we thank Bernard P. Ingold, his wife Lolita, and their entire family for their continued commitment, sacrifice, and contributions to this great Nation. We join our colleagues in wishing him future success as he transitions into retirement.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE "PRIDE OF THE SOUTHLAND" MARCHING BAND

• Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 150th anniversary of the University of Tennessee "Pride of the Southland" marching band and congratulate this esteemed band on 150 years of success.

The "Pride of the Southland" marching band was founded in 1869 by Gustavus Robert Knabe, from Germany. During the 150 years of the marching band, there have been 10 directors, including the current director, Dr. Donald Ryder, who was preceded by both Dr. Gary Sousa and Dr. W.J. Julian. It was Dr. Julian who created the now famous "Circle Drill."

Since the band was formed after the close of the Civil War, it had a military style with both uniforms and music. The marching band maintained a military look until 1951, when the then-band director, Walter M. Ryba, changed the look of the uniform and created a new look on the field. When Dr. W.J. Julian became the director in 1961, the marching band was moved from the military department and

placed in the music education curriculum. With this change, they received new uniforms consisting of navy blue trousers and jackets with an orange and white military-style vest overlay with braided shoulder straps and a white plume with an orange and white shako. This is the uniform currently still in use today.

Over the last 150 years, the marching band has grown dramatically from 13 members to over 350 members. With such a deep and rich history, it is no surprise that several families have had multiple generations who have participated in the "Pride."

The "Pride of the Southland" marching band has been recognized internationally for their unique marching style and music, including the innovative "Circle Drill," which has become a strong tradition each fall, and "Rocky Top," which started as the band's half-time show in October 1972, during the Vols annual football game versus Alabama.

In 1982, the marching band opened the World's Fair in Knoxville and has performed in 15 Presidential inaugurations—a record unmatched by any civilian organization—with the first being President Dwight Eisenhower in 1953 and, most recently, President Donald Trump. The band has appeared in over 50 bowl games, including the Rose Bowl, Cotton Bowl, Sugar Bowl, Orange Bowl, Citrus Bowl, Peach Bowl, Sun Bowl, Hall of Fame Bowl and the 1998 National Championship Fiesta Bowl. They have also performed on the field with stars such as Charlie Daniels Band, Kenny Rogers, Kenny Chesney, Lee Greenwood, Roy Acuff, the Osborne Brothers, and many others.

At home in Neyland Stadium, the "Pride of the Southland" band has impressed Vol fans with its pre-game show, which is considered one of the finest ever performed. The band created the "V-O-L-S" chant, the opening of the "Power T," "USA," and more.

I would like to recognize the "Pride of the Southland" marching band for its 150 years of rich history and commend the University of Tennessee and all band members, past and present, for the part they have played to make the program such a storied success. When I was 14, I sold programs at Neyland Stadium. There is nothing more exciting than watching a football game in Neyland Stadium, and if your seats are by the band, that is even better.

There are no other traditions in the University of Tennessee's history that can surpass the astounding accomplishments and success that the "Pride of the Southland" marching band has in its 150 years of service to a great university.●

TRIBUTE TO RICK LATER

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week I have the honor of recognizing Fire Marshal Rick Later of Beaverhead County for his 40 years of service protecting the folks of Dillon and Beaverhead County.

Later's experience with firefighting began in 1974, when he joined the Dillon Volunteer Fire Department as a volunteer. After decades of volunteer service, Later became fire marshal in 2003. In his new role, he was given the responsibility of not only managing fire safety and prevention in Dillon, but overseeing the safety of Montanans across Fire District No. 2.

The district stretches from Glen, to the south end of the reservoir, to Horse Prairie to Bannack. Spanning over 5,500 square miles, the county is roughly the size of the State of Connecticut.

As fire marshal, Later ran the fire hall diligently every day. He oversaw equipment maintenance and managed fire investigations and building inspections. He also worked closely with the Dillon City Council and developed a relationship with the Beaverhead County Planning Board and Zoning Commission.

Later's service to his community and commitment to volunteering is exemplary of the Montana spirit. I commend him for 40 years of service, and I join the folks in Dillon and Beaverhead County in gratitude for his insight and leadership over the years.●

TRIBUTE TO BROOKE MILLS

• Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I am proud to recognize Brooke Mills of Concord as September's Granite Stater of the Month for her work advocating for concussion awareness and prevention in New Hampshire and across the country.

In March of 2014, Brooke, then a freshman in high school, suffered a severe concussion during a mandatory handball game in gym class. The ramifications of this concussion went beyond the physical bruising in her brain and affected everything from her social life to her academics.

Brooke suffered from memory loss and had to wear sunglasses indoors because the lighting in her school was too harsh, which led to teasing and bullying from her classmates. She also had to strictly limit the time she spent on her phone, which affected her ability to hang out with friends and use social media, a difficult situation for someone who just started high school.

However, instead of letting her concussion get the best of her, Brooke turned her injury into a platform that she used to educate people about the dangers of concussions, while also providing reassurance for others who were going through similar trauma that they too could overcome the lasting impacts of a concussion.

Brooke started a blog called Finding My Way, where she writes about her concussion and how it impacts her day-to-day life in the hopes of helping others suffering from concussions feel less alone. She also launched an organization called Lessen the Impact, dedicated to sharing her story and providing resources to help identify and prevent a concussion.

Additionally, Brooke is a peer-to-peer speaker for the Brain Injury Association of New Hampshire, where she gives presentations at high schools and middle schools about how to identify a concussion and stresses the importance of being kind and understanding to those who suffer from this invisible injury.

As a result of Brooke's advocacy, as Governor of New Hampshire, I declared the third Friday in September as Concussion Awareness Day in New Hampshire. This week, with a bipartisan group of my colleagues, I introduced a resolution in the U.S. Senate to recognize this day nationally.

Concussion Awareness Day is also recognized by other States, as well as by the National Brain Injury Association. There is also a companion resolution recognizing this day that has been introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives.

I want to thank Brooke for all that she has done and continues to do to turn a challenging experience into an opportunity to educate and bring awareness to Granite Staters and Americans about the dangers of concussions. She has truly demonstrated the grit, resilience, and empathy that reflects the best of our State.●

TRIBUTE TO DAN OHNESORGE

● Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I am pleased to recognize Mr. Dan "Ohno" Ohnesorge on the occasion of his retirement. In his 11 years as the Enid Woodring airport director, Dan has been a fixture in the Oklahoma aviation community, even serving as president of the Oklahoma Airport Operators Association for the 2012-13 term. In recognition of his passionate service to the Woodring Airport, Dan was awarded the Oklahoma Airport Manager of the Year in 2016, the same year that Enid Woodring Regional Airport was recognized as the Oklahoma Airport of the Year by the Oklahoma Airport Operators Association.

Dan has been a passionate advocate for aviation since 1975. After graduating from Florida State University with a BS in meteorology, he earned a masters of aero science from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. In his time in the U.S. Air Force, he flew F-16s with the 307th Fighter Squadron, and his dedication to serving the country has continued to the present.

In his time as president of the Oklahoma Air Force Association, Dan has worked tirelessly to ensure the men and women training to become pilots at Vance Air Force Base are able to augment their training by using the runway at Woodring Airport. He was instrumental in the decision to locate a memorial honoring the men and women who gave their lives in service to their country during the Vietnam war at the Woodring Airport. It is a testament to his vision for this memorial that Oklahomans from across the State regularly visit this memorial.

Under his leadership, Enid Woodring Regional Airport expanded the main runway which enhanced the safety and capability of Vance Air Force Base's pilot training program and built a new terminal building which will more efficiently serve the general aviation and military pilots and other users of the growing airport.

I am thankful that I have gotten to know Dan through his passion for aviation and his commitment to the men and women who serve in our Nation's Armed Forces. I know that I join his family, the Enid Woodring Regional Airport, Vance Air Force Base, and the city of Enid in thanking Dan for his years of service and contributions to the aviation community.

Congratulations on your retirement.●

REMEMBERING JOYCE ADAMS

● Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, today I would like to remember in the record a longtime member of the U.S. Military Academy West Point's admissions team, Ms. Joyce Adams.

For the last 39 years, Joyce Adams has served with distinction as valued member of the West Point admissions family. From 1980 until 2002, Joyce Adams served as a candidate technician first in the mid-Atlantic region and later in the far West region. In this capacity, she assisted more than 60,000 candidates navigate the West Point application process.

In 2002, Joyce was promoted to be congressional nominations specialist. In this position, she assisted all 541 congressional offices in navigating the nomination process. During her more than 17 years as the U.S. Military Academy nominations specialist, Joyce directly impacted more than 100,000 candidate nominations and earned the respect and admiration of candidates, parents, admissions officers, and Members of Congress.

In addition to this work, Joyce also volunteered to serve as the candidate technician for all recruited athlete files. Thanks to her hard work and attention to detail, all of West Point's varsity athletic teams were positioned to compete at the highest level.

I have it on the highest authority from West Point that Joyce's impact on the directorate of admissions, on the U.S. Military Academy West Point, and on the Nation will be felt for years to come. The candidates she assisted have risen to the highest levels of military and civilian leadership, and she will be missed.●

REMEMBERING DR. RAVINDRA LAL

● Mr. JONES. Mr. President, I rise today with deep sadness, but also with reverence to remember Dr. Ravindra Behari "Ravi" Lal, who died on July 23, 2019. Dr. Lal was an esteemed educator and innovator in the field of physics. His impact on Alabama A&M University and the Huntsville area is incalculable.

Dr. Lal was born on October 5, 1935, in Agra, India. He was one of three children born to Avadh Behari and Radhapyari Lal Mathur. Dr. Lal earned his Ph.D. in solid state physics from Agra University in 1962 and married his wife Usha in the same year. In 1964, Dr. Lal and Usha moved to Huntsville, where they raised their son Amit. That same year, Dr. Lal began his teaching and research career for the National Academy of Sciences as a resident research associate at NASA/Marshall Space Flight Center. It was there that Dr. Lal conducted groundbreaking work on the effects of radiation on thermal control coatings for Apollo and other spacecrafts. Through a special recommendation from famed aerospace engineer, Dr. Wernher von Braun, Dr. Lal earned a rare extension of his postdoctoral associate position with NASA.

Following his time at Marshall Space Flight Center, Dr. Lal worked for 2 years as a senior scientist and assistant professor at the Indian Institute of Technology in Delhi, India. He returned to the United States in 1970 as a senior research associate for the University of Alabama in Huntsville, leaving in 1973 to become an associate professor of physics at Paine College in Augusta, GA.

Dr. Lal made his return to Huntsville in 1975 to begin his long and impressive career at Alabama A&M University—AAMU—rising from associate professor of physics to department chair to university eminent scholar. In 1978, during his tenure at AAMU, he was chosen by NASA as a principal investigator for a space shuttle experiment on the maiden flight of the Spacelab-3 Mission in 1985, making Dr. Lal one of the first university professors to be selected for an experiment on space shuttle and the first from AAMU. During this project, he worked as one of the pioneers in crystal growth experiments in microgravity. Dr. Lal later served for 7 years as the principal investigator for a project from NASA's Commercialization of Space program.

Dr. Lal was deeply committed to bettering the AAMU and Huntsville communities during his tenure as an educator and beyond. In 1997, Dr. Lal launched the popular Annual Nobel Laureate Lecture Series, which has since brought 20 Nobel Prize winners to Huntsville. He was instrumental in establishing AAMU's masters and doctorate programs in physics. AAMU celebrated his commitment to his field and students in 2005, naming Dr. Lal an AAMU eminent scholar. Recognized as one of the first Indian couples in Huntsville, Dr. Lal and his wife Usha mentored and advised Indian families new to their city and were actively involved in helping to build a temple, the Hindu Cultural Center of North Alabama, for the local Indian community. Dr. Lal also served on the board for AshaKiran, an organization that provides assistance to individuals from multicultural backgrounds that are experiencing crises.

Dr. Lal was highly respected and celebrated in his field, earning recognition from the Alabama House of Representatives in 1985 for his achievements on NASA's Spacelab-3 experiment. He was also awarded NASA's Public Service Achievement award for those same achievements by NASA Administrator James C. Fletcher. Dr. Lal was selected for the Professional of the Year award by the Huntsville Association of Technical Societies, the Noble prize in Science by the National Association for Equal opportunity in Higher Education, and the Lifetime Achievement Award from AAMU Research Institute.

Dr. Lal will be dearly missed by all whose lives he touched, both through his work as a brilliant educator and scientist and as a pillar in the Huntsville community. Both Alabama and the United States have benefited immeasurably from his contributions to the field of physics and space research.●

REMEMBERING DEB BOWMAN

● Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the life of Deb Bowman.

There is a difference between public servants and bureaucrats, and we have known or dealt with both. Our office spends an incredible amount of time and energy helping constituents bust through the Federal bureaucracy, and unfortunately, we often bump heads with federal bureaucrats. It is time-consuming and aggravating for constituents. After experiences like these, we unfortunately have a tendency to stereotype all government employees in that manner.

Thankfully, that is not always the case. There are examples of legitimate public servants, often behind the scenes, who truly seek to make the lives of our citizens better. One of those special individuals is Deb Bowman.

Deb Bowman was the truest, most sincere—and brutally honest—public servant I have had the honor of knowing.

For those of us who knew Deb, especially her family—her husband Randy, her children Brooke and Jessamine, and her grandkids—our hearts ache. At just 65 years old, Deb passed away on September 17, 2019, after a fairly recent lung cancer diagnosis. Years earlier, Deb became a kidney transplant recipient, and I believe that experience and the other hardships in her life shaped her view of public service.

Deb was a loyal friend who worked with me while I served as Governor. She was a tremendous asset on my 2002 transition team, as a senior adviser and cabinet secretary. Prior to that, Deb was an adviser to Governors Mickelson and Janklow and she went on to serve Governor Dugaard before her retirement in 2014.

It is not hard to understand how four Governors saw the same value and passion in Deb. It is a testament to the legacy she has left.

Deb was a fierce conversationalist. Her ability to identify with those less fortunate was her signature quality. She was able to put a "face" on the policy decisions that were made and reminded Governors, legislators, and State employees that the monetary and policy decisions we make impact real people and families. She was a tough and relentless advocate for those less fortunate. And she inspired understanding about the role society and State government played when it came to children, the poor, and the elderly.

Often, Deb would be outright arguing a position with me, and she would say, "Oh now come on Governor, that's 'bullcrap', have you considered" Needless to say, Deb won those debates multiple times, and our State is better off for it.

She understood that her value was not mimicking the opinions being expressed around the table. She brought compassion to her advocacy, and I believe it made me a better Governor. Her service was not without sacrifice. On top of time away from her family and the strain upon her health, her empathy was so deep and pure that she carried the weight of the vulnerable through long hours and personal anguish. Yet despite many times being dismissed as the lone, unpopular voice, she would take a drive around the capitol, think over her argument, and show up with a new line of reasoning. She was persistent.

When I think of the rare public servant like Deb, I am reminded of Matthew 23:11: "The greatest among you must be a servant." Deb was a phenomenal public servant, for all the right reasons.

Deb could have been the CEO of any organization and made a bunch more money. She was intelligent, a hard worker, a professional, a leader. She chose public service, and in doing so, she was a friend, to me and to many.

Thank you, Deb, for showing all of us what a true public servant looks like.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Roberts, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

REPORT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO PERSONS WHO COMMIT, THREATEN TO COMMIT, OR SUPPORT TERRORISM THAT WAS ESTABLISHED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13224 ON SEPTEMBER 23, 2001—PM 30

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days before the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism declared in Executive Order 13224 of September 23, 2001, is to continue in effect beyond September 23, 2019.

The crisis constituted by the grave acts of terrorism and threats of terrorism committed by foreign terrorists, including the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, in New York and Pennsylvania and against the Pentagon, and the continuing and immediate threat of further attacks on United States nationals or the United States that led to the declaration of a national emergency on September 23, 2001, has not been resolved. This crisis continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13224 with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism.

DONALD J. TRUMP.

THE WHITE HOUSE, September 19, 2019.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:25 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 4285. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend and modify certain authorities and requirements relating to the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

At 3:52 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by

Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 4378. An act making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2020, and for other purposes.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

H.R. 2486. An act to reauthorize mandatory funding programs for historically Black colleges and universities and other minority-serving institutions.

H.R. 4378. An act making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2020, and for other purposes.

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-2621. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Jerry D. Harris, Jr., United States Air Force, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2622. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Industrial Security Program (NISP)" (RIN0790-A171) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 12, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2623. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Office of Inspector General (OIG) Privacy Program" (RIN0790-AK58) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 18, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2624. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Transitional Compensation (TC) for Abused Dependents" (RIN0790-A199) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 18, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2625. A communication from the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Technical Amendments to Update Cross-References to the Commission's FOIA Regulations" (17 CFR Parts 200, 201, 229, 230, and 240) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 18, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2626. A communication from the Chairman of the United States International Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Trade Authorities Extension: Economic Impact of Trade Agreements Implemented under the Bipartisan Trade Act of 2015"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2627. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report to Congress: The Child Welfare Sys-

tem Response to Sex Trafficking of Children"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2628. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to Executive Order 13313 of July 31, 2003, a semiannual report detailing telecommunications-related payments made to Cuba pursuant to Department of the Treasury licenses; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2629. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the export of defense articles, including technical data and defense services, to Taiwan to support the 30/40mm MK44 Bushmaster Automatic Cannon System and associated Ammunition Handling System for the Clouded Leopard Vehicle Program in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 19-010); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2630. A communication from the Secretary of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation's Office of Inspector General's Semiannual Report to Congress and the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation Management's Response for the period from October 1, 2017 through March 31, 2018; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2631. A communication from the Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General and a Management Report for the period from October 1, 2017 through March 31, 2018; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2632. A communication from the Acting Director of the Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report of the Chief Human Capital Officers Council for 2018; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2633. A communication from the Acting Chairman of the Administrative Conference of the United States, transmitting, a report of four recommendations adopted by the Administrative Conference of the United States at its 71st Plenary Session; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2634. A communication from the Deputy Bureau Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Promoting Telehealth in Rural America" ((RIN3060-AF85) (FCC 19-78)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 17, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2635. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to Safety Standard for Infant Bouncer Seats" (16 CFR Part 1229) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 17, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-137. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California urging

the United States Congress to enact legislation to repeal the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision from the Social Security Act; to the Committee on Finance.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 3

Whereas, Two Federal Social Security Administration laws, the Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset, passed by Congress more than 30 years ago without statistical analysis, diminish or eliminate the fully earned Social Security benefits or large numbers of public service employees in California; and

Whereas, These provisions affect workers who have been employed in a government position that is not coordinated with the Social Security program, such as California public school teachers who have not been able to receive Social Security credits since 1965; and

Whereas, Most peace officers, including the California Highway Patrol, firefighters, and many other public servants working for cities and special districts are not covered by Social Security, making them subject to these provisions; and

Whereas, In California, more than 300,000 retirees have had their Social Security benefits diminished or completely eliminated by these laws; and

Whereas, Effective government requires highly qualified and motivated personnel, and California government agencies need to compete to recruit and retain outstanding employees, including hiring 16,000 new public school teachers each year; and

Whereas, The recruitment and retention of qualified individuals reentering the workforce is impeded by these two provisions, which reduce or eliminate the Social Security retirement benefits either earned by workers, themselves, or received through dependent status; and

Whereas, The Government Pension Offset severely cuts, and usually eliminates, all spousal and survivor benefits that were earned from what is deemed by the State of California to be community property income; and

Whereas, The Government Pension Offset requires that a recipient of benefits report any yearly cost-of-living increase in the recipient's public pension, so that the recipient's Social Security benefits may be reduced by two-thirds of that amount; and

Whereas, The Windfall Elimination Provision cuts earned Social Security benefits from work that is separate from the work for which the individual earned a pension from a governmental entity; and

Whereas, The Windfall Elimination Provision subverts the purpose of Social Security retirement benefits by eliminating the formula that reimburses low-income workers at a higher rate than high-income workers, causing severe hardships for those who have not had high-paying public service; and

Whereas, Until 2005, there were no requirements that a public employer advise new workers that they would be subject to these penalties; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature requests that the Congress of the United States enact legislation to repeal the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision from the Social Security Act, and further requests that President Donald Trump sign that legislation; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary or the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and the Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the

United States, and to the author for appropriate distribution.

POM-138. A joint resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas applying to the United States Congress, under the provisions of Article V of the United States Constitution, for the calling of a convention of the states limited to proposing amendments to the United States Constitution that impose fiscal restraints on the federal government, limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, and limit the terms of office for its officials and for members of the United States Congress; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 3

Whereas, the founders of the United States Constitution empowered state legislators to be guardians of liberty against excessive use of power by the federal government; and

Whereas, the federal government has created a crushing national debt through improper and imprudent spending; and

Whereas, the federal government has ceased to operate under a proper interpretation of the United States Constitution; and

Whereas, the federal government has invaded the legitimate roles of the states through the manipulative process of federal mandates, most of which are unfunded to a great extent; and

Whereas, it is the solemn duty of the states to protect the liberty of our people, particularly for the generations to come, by proposing amendments to the United States Constitution through a convention of the states under Article V of the United States Constitution for the purpose of restraining these and related abuses of power: Now, Therefore, be it

Resolved, By the Senate of the Ninety-second General Assembly of the State of Arkansas and by the House of Representatives, a majority of all Members elected to each House agreeing thereto: That the General Assembly hereby applies to the United States Congress, under the provisions of Article V of the United States Constitution, for the calling of a convention of the states limited to proposing amendments to the United States Constitution that impose fiscal restraints on the federal government, limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, and limit the terms of office for its officials and for members of the United States Congress; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate is hereby directed to transmit copies of this application to the President of the United States Senate, the Secretary of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, the members of the Arkansas congressional delegation, and the presiding officers of each house of the legislatures in the several states, requesting their cooperation; and be it further

Resolved, That this application constitutes a continuing application in accordance with Article V of the United States Constitution until the legislatures of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the several states have made applications on the same subject; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Assembly adopts this application expressly subject to the following reservations, understandings, and declarations:

(1) An application to the United States Congress to call an amendment convention of the states pursuant to Article V of the United States Constitution confers no power to the United States Congress other than the power to call such a convention. The power of the United States Congress to exercise this ministerial duty consists solely of the

authority to name a reasonable time and place for the initial meeting of a convention;

(2) The United States Congress shall perform its ministerial duty of calling an amendment convention of the states only upon the receipt of applications for an amendment convention for the substantially same purpose as this application from two-thirds (2/3) of the legislatures of the several states;

(3) The United States Congress does not have the power or authority to determine any rules for the governing of a convention for proposing amendments called pursuant to Article V of the United States Constitution. The United States Congress does not have the power to set the number of delegates to be sent by any state to such a convention, nor does it have the power to name delegates to such a convention. The power to name delegates remains exclusively within the authority of the legislatures of the several states;

(4) By definition, an amendment convention of the states means that states shall vote on the basis of one (1) state, one (1) vote;

(5) A convention for proposing amendments convened pursuant to this application shall be limited to consideration of the topics specified herein and no other. This application is made with the express understanding that an amendment that in any way seeks to amend, modify, or repeal any provision of the Bill of Rights of the United States Constitution shall not be authorized for consideration at any stage. This application shall be void ab initio if ever used at any stage to consider any change to any provision of the Bill of Rights of the United States Constitution;

(6) Pursuant to Article V of the United States Constitution, the United States Congress may determine whether proposed amendments shall be ratified by the legislatures of the several states or by special state ratification conventions. The General Assembly recommends that the United States Congress select ratification by the legislatures of the several states;

(7) The General Assembly may provide further instructions to its delegates and may recall its delegates at any time for a breach of a duty or a violation of the instructions provided; and

(8) Delegates are bound to the instructions provided by the General Assembly and a failure to follow the instructions provided constitutes a breach of the delegate's duty and subjects them to recall and replacement.

POM-139. A joint resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas applying to the United States Congress, under the provisions of Article V of the United States Constitution, for the calling of a convention of the states limited to proposing amendments to the United States Constitution that impose fiscal restraints on the federal government, limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, and limit the terms of office for its officials and for members of the United States Congress; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 3

Whereas, the founders of the United States Constitution empowered state legislators to be guardians of liberty against excessive use of power by the federal government; and

Whereas, the federal government has created a crushing national debt through improper and imprudent spending; and

Whereas, the federal government has ceased to operate under a proper interpretation of the United States Constitution; and

Whereas, the federal government has invaded the legitimate roles of the states

through the manipulative process of federal mandates, most of which are unfunded to a great extent; and

Whereas, it is the solemn duty of the states to protect the liberty of our people, particularly for the generations to come, by proposing amendments to the United States Constitution through a convention of the states under Article V of the United States Constitution for the purpose of restraining these and related abuses of power: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, By the Senate of the Ninety-second General Assembly of the State of Arkansas and by the House of Representatives, a majority of all Members elected to each House agreeing thereto: That the General Assembly hereby applies to the United States Congress, under the provisions of Article V of the United States Constitution, for the calling of a convention of the states limited to proposing amendments to the United States Constitution that impose fiscal restraints on the federal government, limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, and limit the terms of office for its officials and for members of the United States Congress; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate is hereby directed to transmit copies of this application to the President of the United States Senate, the Secretary of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, the members of the Arkansas congressional delegation, and the presiding officers of each house of the legislatures in the several states, requesting their cooperation; and be it further

Resolved, That this application constitutes a continuing application in accordance with Article V of the United States Constitution until the legislatures of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the several states have made applications on the same subject; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Assembly adopts this application expressly subject to the following reservations, understandings, and declarations:

(1) An application to the United States Congress to call an amendment convention of the states pursuant to Article V of the United States Constitution confers no power to the United States Congress other than the power to call such a convention. The power of the United States Congress to exercise this ministerial duty consists solely of the authority to name a reasonable time and place for the initial meeting of a convention;

(2) The United States Congress shall perform its ministerial duty of calling an amendment convention of the states only upon the receipt of applications for an amendment convention for the substantially same purpose as this application from two-thirds (2/3) of the legislatures of the several states;

(3) The United States Congress does not have the power or authority to determine any rules for the governing of a convention for proposing amendments called pursuant to Article V of the United States Constitution. The United States Congress does not have the power to set the number of delegates to be sent by any state to such a convention, nor does it have the power to name delegates to such a convention. The power to name delegates remains exclusively within the authority of the legislatures of the several states;

(4) By definition, an amendment convention of the states means that states shall vote on the basis of one (1) state, one (1) vote;

(5) A convention for proposing amendments convened pursuant to this application shall

be limited to consideration of the topics specified herein and no other. This application is made with the express understanding that an amendment that in any way seeks to amend, modify, or repeal any provision of the Bill of Rights of the United States Constitution shall not be authorized for consideration at any stage. This application shall be void ab initio if ever used at any stage to consider any change to any provision of the Bill of Rights of the United States Constitution;

(6) Pursuant to Article V of the United States Constitution, the United States Congress may determine whether proposed amendments shall be ratified by the legislatures of the several states or by special state ratification conventions. The General Assembly recommends that the United States Congress select ratification by the legislatures of the several states;

(7) The General Assembly may provide further instructions to its delegates and may recall its delegates at any time for a breach of a duty or a violation of the instructions provided; and

(8) Delegates are bound to the instructions provided by the General Assembly and a failure to follow the instructions provided constitutes a breach of the delegate's duty and subjects them to recall and replacement.

POM-140. A resolution adopted by the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Hampton, New Hampshire, urging the United States Congress to enact the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019; to the Committee on Finance.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Ms. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with amendments:

S. 253. A bill to coordinate the provision of energy retrofit assistance to schools (Rept. No. 116-107).

By Ms. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

H.R. 762. A bill to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to provide for the dissemination of information regarding available Federal programs relating to energy efficiency projects for schools, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 116-108).

By Ms. COLLINS, from the Committee on Appropriations, without amendment:

S. 2520. An original bill making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 116-109).

By Mr. HOEVEN, from the Committee on Appropriations, without amendment:

S. 2522. An original bill making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 116-110).

By Mr. KENNEDY, from the Committee on Appropriations, without amendment:

S. 2524. An original bill making appropriations for financial services and general government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 116-111).

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. GRAHAM for the Committee on the Judiciary.

W. Stephen Muldrow, of Puerto Rico, to be United States Attorney for the District of Puerto Rico for the term of four years.

Michael D. Baughman, of Pennsylvania, to be United States Marshal for the Western District of Pennsylvania for the term of four years.

Kerry Lee Pettingill, of Oklahoma, to be United States Marshal for the Eastern District of Oklahoma for the term of four years.

Fernando L. G. Sablan, of Guam, to be United States Marshal for the District of Guam and concurrently United States Marshal for the District of the Northern Mariana Islands for the term of four years.

(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. TILLIS (for himself and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 2509. A bill to rename the Office of Technology Assessment as the Congressional Office of Technology, to revise the functions and duties of the Office, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. 2510. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a refundable tax credit for certain teachers as a supplement to State effort to provide teachers with a livable wage, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself and Ms. SINEMA):

S. 2511. A bill to amend title 40, United States Code, to provide the Marshal of the Supreme Court of the United States and Supreme Court Police with the authority to protect the Chief Justice of the United States, any Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, and other individuals in any location, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 2512. A bill to prohibit a court from awarding damages based on race, ethnicity, gender, religion, or actual or perceived sexual orientation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. HASSAN (for herself and Mr. LEE):

S. 2513. A bill to provide for joint reports by relevant Federal agencies to Congress regarding incidents of terrorism, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. CASEY):

S. 2514. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that workers and communities that are responsible for record corporate profits benefit from the wealth that those workers and communities help to create, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MERKLEY:

S. 2515. A bill to require the Food and Drug Administration to conduct a study on the effects of radiofrequency radiation in the 5G networks on human health; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. LEE):

S. 2516. A bill to amend the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act to restrict the debt collection practices of certain debt collectors; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. REED, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 2517. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax rate parity among all tobacco products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 2518. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to establish an Assistant Secretary for Rural Economic Investment and an Office of Rural Economic Investment, to ensure that rural communities are adequately represented in Federal decision-making for transportation policy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. ROMNEY (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 2519. A bill to protect the public health by prohibiting non-tobacco e-cigarette flavors and ensuring electronic nicotine delivery systems are tamper-proof; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. COLLINS:

S. 2520. An original bill making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Appropriations; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. KAINE (for himself and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 2521. A bill to award grants for the recruitment, retention, and advancement of direct care workers; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HOEVEN:

S. 2522. An original bill making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Appropriations; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BOOKER, and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 2523. A bill to amend section 455(m) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 in order to allow adjunct faculty members to qualify for public service loan forgiveness; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. KENNEDY:

S. 2524. An original bill making appropriations for financial services and general government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Appropriations; placed on the calendar.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. GARDNER):

S. 2525. A bill to require the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology to conduct a study of personal protective equipment worn by firefighters to determine the prevalence and concentration of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself and Mr. GARDNER):

S. 2526. A bill to require the Secretary of Energy to identify and convey to the State of Colorado land for use as a storage site for residual radioactive material, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 2527. A bill to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to reinstate the ban on the export of crude oil and natural gas produced in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 2528. A bill to require the Director of National Intelligence to submit to Congress a report on the purpose, scope, and means of expanded Chinese influence in international organizations, and for other purposes; to the Select Committee on Intelligence.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CASEY, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. KAINE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. UDALL, Mr. GARDNER, and Mr. BRAUN):

S. Res. 319. A resolution designating the week beginning September 16, 2019, as National Hispanic-Serving Institutions Week; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Mr. RISCH, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. Res. 320. A resolution recognizing and supporting the goals and ideals of National Forensic Science Week; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. COONS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 321. A resolution designating September 2019 as "National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month"; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 500

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 500, a bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to establish, fund, and provide for the use of amounts in a National Park Service Legacy Restoration Fund to address the maintenance backlog of the National Park Service, and for other purposes.

S. 596

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 596, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for direct payment to physician assistants under the Medicare program for certain services furnished by such physician assistants.

S. 638

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 638, a bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to designate per- and

polyfluoroalkyl substances as hazardous substances under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, Liability Act of 1980, and for other purposes.

S. 680

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 680, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat certain amounts paid for physical activity, fitness, and exercise as amounts paid for medical care.

S. 743

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 743, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the soldiers of the 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional), commonly known as "Merrill's Marauders", in recognition of their bravery and outstanding service in the jungles of Burma during World War II.

S. 803

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the names of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 803, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to restore incentives for investments in qualified improvement property.

S. 818

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 818, a bill to exempt certain 16- and 17-year-old individuals employed in logging operations from child labor laws.

S. 875

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) were added as cosponsors of S. 875, a bill to provide for the reporting to State and local law enforcement authorities of cases in which the national instant criminal background check system indicates that a firearm has been sought to be acquired by a prohibited person, so that authorities may pursue criminal charges under State law, and to ensure that the Department of Justice reports to Congress on prosecutions secured against prohibited persons who attempt to acquire a firearm.

S. 926

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 926, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that kombucha is exempt from any excise taxes and regulations imposed on alcoholic beverages.

S. 1032

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the names of the Senator from Wyoming

(Mr. BARRASSO) and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 1032, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the definition of income for purposes of determining the tax-exempt status of certain corporations.

S. 1148

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1148, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to require the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to give preferential consideration to individuals who have successfully completed air traffic controller training and veterans when hiring air traffic control specialists.

S. 1355

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1355, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an exclusion from gross income for AmeriCorps educational awards.

S. 1376

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1376, a bill to amend parts B and E of title IV of the Social Security Act to eliminate barriers to providing child welfare services for children and youth in need, to provide additional resources to implement programmatic changes necessary to meet the requirements of the Family First Prevention Services Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1391

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1391, a bill to require reporting regarding certain drug price increases, and for other purposes.

S. 1455

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1455, a bill to amend the Horse Protection Act to provide increased protection for horses participating in shows, exhibitions, sales, and auctions, and for other purposes.

S. 1628

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1628, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the employer credit for paid family and medical leave, and for other purposes.

S. 1700

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1700, a bill to provide a temporary safe harbor for publishers of online content to collectively negotiate with dominant online platforms regarding the terms on which content may be distributed.

S. 1723

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1723, a bill to amend the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 to provide for the establishment of a Ski Area Fee Retention Account.

S. 1766

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1766, a bill to implement policies to end preventable maternal, newborn, and child deaths globally.

S. 1840

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1840, a bill to establish certain requirements for the small refineries exemption of the renewable fuels provisions under the Clean Air Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1841

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1841, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the publicly traded partnership ownership structure to energy power generation projects and transportation fuels, and for other purposes.

S. 1862

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1862, a bill to limit the fees charged and collected from applicants for naturalization and related benefits based on poverty, and for other purposes.

S. 2158

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2158, a bill to improve certain programs of the Department of Health and Human Services with respect to heritable disorders.

S. 2179

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2179, a bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to provide social service agencies with the resources to provide services to meet the urgent needs of Holocaust survivors to age in place with dignity, comfort, security, and quality of life.

S. 2203

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2203, a bill to extend the transfer of Electronic Travel Authorization System fees from the Travel Promotion Fund to the Corporation for Travel Promotion (Brand USA) through fiscal year 2027, and for other purposes.

S. 2254

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2254, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to create a Pension Rehabilitation Trust Fund, to establish a Pension Rehabilitation Administration within the Department of the Treasury to make loans to multi-employer defined benefit plans, and for other purposes.

S. 2293

At the request of Mr. CRAMER, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) and the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) were added as cosponsors of S. 2293, a bill to extend the authority of the Export-Import Bank of the United States and to modify the quorum requirement of the Bank, and for other purposes.

S. 2317

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) were added as cosponsors of S. 2317, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to credit individuals serving as caregivers of dependent relatives with deemed wages for up to five years of such service, and to support State medical training programs for caregivers.

S. 2321

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 2321, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint a coin in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the establishment of Negro Leagues baseball.

S. 2414

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2414, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the Health Coverage Tax Credit.

S. 2434

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2434, a bill to establish the National Criminal Justice Commission.

S. 2452

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2452, a bill to provide incentives for agricultural producers to carry out climate stewardship practices, to provide for increased reforestation across the United States, to establish the Coastal and Estuary Resilience Grant Program, and for other purposes.

S. 2453

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2453, a bill to assist in the conservation of the North Atlantic right whale

by supporting and providing financial resources for North Atlantic right whale conservation programs and projects of persons with expertise required for the conservation of North Atlantic right whales, and for other purposes.

S. 2461

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2461, a bill to designate a portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as wilderness.

S. 2463

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2463, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for regulation and taxation of electronic cigarettes and alternative nicotine products.

S. 2493

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2493, a bill to establish the Malign Foreign Influence Response Center in the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, and for other purposes.

S. 2496

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2496, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to eliminate the Medicare and disability insurance benefits waiting periods for disabled individuals.

S. CON. RES. 9

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 9, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that tax-exempt fraternal benefit societies have historically provided and continue to provide critical benefits to the people and communities of the United States.

S. RES. 205

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 205, a resolution expressing the gratitude of the Senate for the people who operate or support diaper banks and diaper distribution programs in their local communities.

S. RES. 313

At the request of Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 313, a resolution designating

the week of September 22 through September 28, 2019, as “Gold Star Families Remembrance Week”.

S. RES. 318

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a co-sponsor of S. Res. 318, a resolution to support the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and the Sixth Replenishment.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. REED, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 2517. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax rate parity among all tobacco products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2517

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Tobacco Tax Equity Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. INCREASING EXCISE TAXES ON CIGARETTES AND ESTABLISHING EXCISE TAX EQUITY AMONG ALL TOBACCO PRODUCT TAX RATES.

(a) TAX PARITY FOR ROLL-YOUR-OWN TOBACCO.—Section 5701(g) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “\$24.78” and inserting “\$49.56”.

(b) TAX PARITY FOR PIPE TOBACCO.—Section 5701(f) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “\$2.8311 cents” and inserting “\$49.56”.

(c) TAX PARITY FOR SMOKELESS TOBACCO.—(1) Section 5701(e) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “\$1.51” and inserting “\$26.84”;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “50.33 cents” and inserting “\$10.74”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) SMOKELESS TOBACCO SOLD IN DISCRETE SINGLE-USE UNITS.—On discrete single-use units, \$100.66 per thousand.”.

(2) Section 5702(m) of such Code is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “or chewing tobacco” and inserting “, chewing tobacco, or discrete single-use unit”;

(B) in paragraphs (2) and (3), by inserting “that is not a discrete single-use unit” before the period in each such paragraph; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) DISCRETE SINGLE-USE UNIT.—The term ‘discrete single-use unit’ means any product containing tobacco that—

“(A) is not intended to be smoked; and

“(B) is in the form of a lozenge, tablet, pill, pouch, dissolvable strip, or other discrete single-use or single-dose unit.”.

(d) TAX PARITY FOR SMALL CIGARS.—Paragraph (1) of section 5701(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “\$50.33” and inserting “\$100.66”.

(e) TAX PARITY FOR LARGE CIGARS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (2) of section 5701(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986

is amended by striking “52.75 percent” and all that follows through the period and inserting the following: “\$49.56 per pound and a proportionate tax at the like rate on all fractional parts of a pound but not less than 10.066 cents per cigar.”.

(2) GUIDANCE.—The Secretary of the Treasury, or the Secretary’s delegate, may issue guidance regarding the appropriate method for determining the weight of large cigars for purposes of calculating the applicable tax under section 5701(a)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(f) TAX PARITY FOR ROLL-YOUR-OWN TOBACCO AND CERTAIN PROCESSED TOBACCO.—Subsection (o) of section 5702 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by inserting “, and includes processed tobacco that is removed for delivery or delivered to a person other than a person with a permit provided under section 5713, but does not include removals of processed tobacco for exportation” after “wrappers thereof”.

(g) CLARIFYING TAX RATE FOR OTHER TOBACCO PRODUCTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 5701 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(1) OTHER TOBACCO PRODUCTS.—Any product not otherwise described under this section that has been determined to be a tobacco product by the Food and Drug Administration through its authorities under the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act shall be taxed at a level of tax equivalent to the tax rate for cigarettes on an estimated per use basis as determined by the Secretary.”.

(2) ESTABLISHING PER USE BASIS.—For purposes of section 5701(i) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, not later than 12 months after the later of the date of the enactment of this Act or the date that a product has been determined to be a tobacco product by the Food and Drug Administration, the Secretary of the Treasury (or the Secretary of the Treasury’s delegate) shall issue final regulations establishing the level of tax for such product that is equivalent to the tax rate for cigarettes on an estimated per use basis.

(h) CLARIFYING DEFINITION OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (c) of section 5702 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

“(c) TOBACCO PRODUCTS.—The term ‘tobacco products’ means—

“(1) cigars, cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, pipe tobacco, and roll-your-own tobacco, and

“(2) any other product subject to tax pursuant to section 5701(i).”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Subsection (d) of section 5702 of such Code is amended by striking “cigars, cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, pipe tobacco, or roll-your-own tobacco” each place it appears and inserting “tobacco products”.

(i) INCREASING TAX ON CIGARETTES.—

(1) SMALL CIGARETTES.—Section 5701(b)(1) of such Code is amended by striking “\$50.33” and inserting “\$100.66”.

(2) LARGE CIGARETTES.—Section 5701(b)(2) of such Code is amended by striking “\$105.69” and inserting “\$211.38”.

(j) TAX RATES ADJUSTED FOR INFLATION.—Section 5701 of such Code, as amended by subsection (g), is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(j) INFLATION ADJUSTMENT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any calendar year beginning after 2019, the dollar amounts provided under this chapter shall each be increased by an amount equal to—

“(A) such dollar amount, multiplied by

“(B) the cost-of-living adjustment determined under section 1(f)(3) for the calendar year, determined by substituting ‘calendar year 2018’ for ‘calendar year 2016’ in subparagraph (A)(ii) thereof.

“(2) ROUNDING.—If any amount as adjusted under paragraph (1) is not a multiple of \$0.01, such amount shall be rounded to the next highest multiple of \$0.01.”.

(k) FLOOR STOCKS TAXES.—

(1) IMPOSITION OF TAX.—On tobacco products manufactured in or imported into the United States which are removed before any tax increase date and held on such date for sale by any person, there is hereby imposed a tax in an amount equal to the excess of—

(A) the tax which would be imposed under section 5701 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 on the article if the article had been removed on such date, over

(B) the prior tax (if any) imposed under section 5701 of such Code on such article.

(2) CREDIT AGAINST TAX.—Each person shall be allowed as a credit against the taxes imposed by paragraph (1) an amount equal to \$500. Such credit shall not exceed the amount of taxes imposed by paragraph (1) on such date for which such person is liable.

(3) LIABILITY FOR TAX AND METHOD OF PAYMENT.—

(A) LIABILITY FOR TAX.—A person holding tobacco products on any tax increase date to which any tax imposed by paragraph (1) applies shall be liable for such tax.

(B) METHOD OF PAYMENT.—The tax imposed by paragraph (1) shall be paid in such manner as the Secretary shall prescribe by regulations.

(C) TIME FOR PAYMENT.—The tax imposed by paragraph (1) shall be paid on or before the date that is 120 days after the effective date of the tax rate increase.

(4) ARTICLES IN FOREIGN TRADE ZONES.—Notwithstanding the Act of June 18, 1934 (commonly known as the Foreign Trade Zone Act, 48 Stat. 998, 19 U.S.C. 81a et seq.), or any other provision of law, any article which is located in a foreign trade zone on any tax increase date shall be subject to the tax imposed by paragraph (1) if—

(A) internal revenue taxes have been determined, or customs duties liquidated, with respect to such article before such date pursuant to a request made under the 1st proviso of section 3(a) of such Act, or

(B) such article is held on such date under the supervision of an officer of the United States Customs and Border Protection of the Department of Homeland Security pursuant to the 2d proviso of such section 3(a).

(5) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this subsection—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Any term used in this subsection which is also used in section 5702 of such Code shall have the same meaning as such term has in such section.

(B) TAX INCREASE DATE.—The term “tax increase date” means the effective date of any increase in any tobacco product excise tax rate pursuant to the amendments made by this section (other than subsection (j) thereof).

(C) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Treasury or the Secretary’s delegate.

(6) CONTROLLED GROUPS.—Rules similar to the rules of section 5061(e)(3) of such Code shall apply for purposes of this subsection.

(7) OTHER LAWS APPLICABLE.—All provisions of law, including penalties, applicable with respect to the taxes imposed by section 5701 of such Code shall, insofar as applicable and not inconsistent with the provisions of this subsection, apply to the floor stocks taxes imposed by paragraph (1), to the same extent as if such taxes were imposed by such section 5701. The Secretary may treat any person who bore the ultimate burden of the tax imposed by paragraph (1) as the person to whom a credit or refund under such provisions may be allowed or made.

(1) EFFECTIVE DATES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraphs (2) through (4), the amendments made by this section shall apply to articles removed (as defined in section 5702(j) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) after the last day of the month which includes the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) DISCRETE SINGLE-USE UNITS AND PROCESSED TOBACCO.—The amendments made by subsections (c)(1)(C), (c)(2), and (f) shall apply to articles removed (as defined in section 5702(j) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) after the date that is 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(3) LARGE CIGARS.—The amendments made by subsection (e) shall apply to articles removed after December 31, 2019.

(4) OTHER TOBACCO PRODUCTS.—The amendments made by subsection (g)(1) shall apply to products removed after the last day of the month which includes the date that the Secretary of the Treasury (or the Secretary of the Treasury's delegate) issues final regulations establishing the level of tax for such product.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 2518. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to establish an Assistant Secretary for Rural Economic Investment and an Office of Rural Economic Investment, to ensure that rural communities are adequately represented in Federal decisionmaking for transportation policy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2518

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Rural Economic Infrastructure Equity Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. RURAL ECONOMIC INVESTMENT.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) DEPARTMENT.—The term “Department” means the Department of Transportation.

(2) RELEVANT CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term “relevant congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives;

(B) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives;

(C) the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate;

(D) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate;

(E) the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate;

(F) the Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

(G) the Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Transportation.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 102 of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in subsection (a), by inserting “(referred to in this section as the ‘Depart-

ment’)” after “Department of Transportation”;

(B) in subsection (e)(1)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “6” and inserting “7”;

(ii) in subparagraph (C), by striking “and” at the end;

(iii) by redesignating subparagraph (D) as subparagraph (E); and

(iv) by inserting after subparagraph (C) the following:

“(D) an Assistant Secretary for Rural Economic Investment, who shall be appointed by the Secretary; and”;

(C) in subsection (f)(1), by striking “Department of Transportation” each place it appears and inserting “Department”;

(D) by redesignating subsection (h) as subsection (i); and

(E) by inserting after subsection (g) the following:

“(h) OFFICE OF RURAL ECONOMIC INVESTMENT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—There is established in the Department an Office of Rural Economic Investment (referred to in this subsection as the ‘Office’).

“(2) LEADERSHIP.—The head of the Office shall be the Assistant Secretary for Rural Economic Investment (referred to in this subsection as the ‘Assistant Secretary’), who shall report directly to the Secretary.

“(3) MISSION AND GOALS.—The mission and goals of the Office shall be to coordinate with other offices and agencies within the Department and with other Federal agen-

cies—

“(A) to ensure that the unique needs and attributes of rural transportation, involving all modes, are fully addressed and prioritized during the development and implementation of transportation policies, programs, and activities within the Department;

“(B) to improve coordination of Federal transportation policies, programs, and activities within the Department in a manner that expands economic development in rural communities and regions, and to provide recommendations for improvement, including additional reorganization and realignments;

“(C) to expand Federal transportation infrastructure investment in rural communities, including by providing recommendations for changes in formula funds or other existing funding distribution patterns;

“(D) to use innovation to resolve local and regional transportation challenges faced by rural communities;

“(E) to promote and improve planning and coordination among rural areas to maximize the unique competitive advantage in those areas while avoiding duplicative Federal, State and local investments; and

“(F) to ensure that all rural communities lacking resources receive proactive outreach, education, and technical assistance to improve access to Federal transportation programs.

“(4) DUTIES OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—The Assistant Secretary shall—

“(A) provide information and outreach to rural communities concerning the availability and eligibility requirements of participating in programs of the Department;

“(B) help rural communities identify competitive economic advantages and avoid duplicative transportation investments in order to ensure continued economic growth;

“(C) serve as a resource for assisting rural communities with respect to Federal transportation programs;

“(D) ensure and coordinate a routine rural consultation on the development of policies, programs, and activities of the Department;

“(E) serve as an advocate within the Department on behalf of rural communities; and

“(F) work in coordination with the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Commerce, the Federal Communications Commission, and other Federal agencies, as the Secretary determines to be appropriate, in carrying out the responsibilities of the Assistant Secretary.

“(5) CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS.—For the purpose of carrying out the mission and goals of the Office under paragraph (3) and the duties of the Assistant Secretary under paragraph (4), the Assistant Secretary may enter into contracts, cooperative agreements, and other agreements as necessary, including with research centers, institutions of higher education, States, units of local government, nonprofit organizations, or a combination of any of those entities—

“(A) to conduct research on transportation investments that promote rural economic development;

“(B) to solicit information in the development of policy, programs, and activities of the Department that can improve infrastructure investment and economic development in rural areas;

“(C) to develop educational and outreach materials, including the conduct of workshops, courses, and certified training for rural communities and regions that can further the mission and goals of the Office and the Department; and

“(D) to carry out any other activities, as determined by the Secretary to be appropriate.

“(6) EMPLOYEES.—The Secretary shall ensure that not more than 4 full-time equivalent employees are assigned to the Office.

“(7) APPLICABILITY.—In carrying out the mission and goals of the Office under paragraph (3) and the duties of the Assistant Secretary under paragraph (4), the Assistant Secretary shall consider as rural any area considered to be a rural area under a Federal transportation program of the Department.”.

(2) COUNCIL ON CREDIT AND FINANCE.—Section 117(b)(1) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(I) The Assistant Secretary for Rural Economic Investment.”.

(c) REORGANIZATION PROPOSAL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation with the relevant congressional committees, shall develop a proposed reorganization of the functions of the Department to ensure improved coordination and prioritization of programs and services that promote rural infrastructure investment, expansion, equity, and economic development.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the relevant congressional committees a report that describes the proposed reorganization plan under paragraph (1).

(d) RURAL CONSULTATION.—

(1) REQUIREMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, each office and agency within the Department shall develop and implement a process to ensure meaningful and timely input from rural stakeholders during the development of any regulation, guidance, or policy that would have substantial direct effects on 1 or more rural areas.

(B) CONSULTATION.—To the maximum extent practicable and in accordance with applicable Federal law, an office or agency of the Department shall not promulgate a regulation, issue guidance, or implement a policy

described in subparagraph (A) unless the office or agency—

(i) consults with rural stakeholders before developing the proposed regulation;

(ii) publishes in the Federal Register a summary rural impact statement, which shall consist of—

(I) a description of the consultation with rural stakeholders on the regulation, guidance, or policy;

(II) a summary of any concerns raised by the rural stakeholders;

(III) a description of the extent to which concerns referred to in subclause (II) have been alleviated; and

(IV) a description of why the regulation, guidance, or policy is needed; and

(iii) submits to the Director of the Office of Management and Budget—

(I) the summary rural impact statement described in clause (ii); and

(II) on request of the Director, any written communications submitted to the office or agency from rural stakeholders.

(2) DESIGNATION.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, each office and agency within the Department shall designate an official within that office or agency to serve as the official with principal responsibility for the implementation of this subsection.

(e) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a rural transportation advisory council (referred to in this subsection as the “advisory council”) to consult with and advise the Office of Rural Economic Investment.

(2) MEMBERSHIP.—The Secretary shall appoint members to the advisory council in a manner that ensures that the geographic and economic diversity of rural regions of the United States are represented.

(3) MEETINGS.—The advisory council shall meet not less than twice per year, as determined by the Secretary.

(4) DUTIES.—The advisory council shall—

(A) advise the Office of Rural Economic Investment on issues related to rural needs relating to Federal transportation programs;

(B) develop recommendations for any changes to Federal law, regulations, internal Department guidance, or other measures that would eliminate barriers for rural access or improve rural equity in transportation investments;

(C) examine methods of maximizing the number of opportunities for assistance for rural areas under Federal transportation programs, including expanded outreach and technical assistance;

(D) examine methods of encouraging intergovernmental and local resource cooperation to mitigate duplicative investments in key regions and improve the efficiencies in the delivery of Federal transportation programs;

(E) evaluate other methods of creating new opportunities for rural regions; and

(F) address any other relevant issues as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

By Mr. KAINE (for himself and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 2521. A bill to award grants for the recruitment, retention, and advancement of direct care workers; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President. As our Nation ages, we face a growing need for direct care professionals to care for older adults and people with disabilities. The U.S. Census Bureau projects the number of people aged 65 and older to more than double between 2015 and 2060, from nearly 48 million to 98 million. Approximately 61 million Ameri-

cans are currently living with a disability. By 2024, 5.2 million direct care workers will be needed across all care settings.

Direct care workers, such as home health aides and nursing assistants, are the backbone of the long-term care workforce, providing daily assistance to millions of older Americans, people with disabilities, and others with chronic care needs. Direct care workers help ensure that older Americans and people with disabilities receive the critical care they need while remaining active members of their communities. However, direct care workers are often paid low wages and may face poor working conditions and economic insecurity. The majority of direct care workers are women and people of color. Some direct care workers do not have education beyond high school and lack access to a career pathway or advanced training. Twenty-four percent of home care workers live below the Federal poverty level and 52 percent of direct care workers rely on some form of public assistance to support themselves and their families.

Today, I am pleased to introduce the Direct Creation, Advancement, and Retention of Employment Opportunity Act, or Direct CARE Opportunity Act, with Senator HASSAN. I am proud to have partnered with my friend and colleague in the Virginia delegation Chairman Bobby Scott on this bill, who has also introduced the bill today in the House of Representatives. The Direct CARE Opportunity Act provides support for strategies to recruit, retain, and advance the direct care workforce pipeline. Our legislation would support the implementation of models and strategies to train more people in the direct care field, while allowing for local and regional innovation to address workforce shortages. We encourage retention and career advancement in a high-demand field where workers carry a large emotional burden and face barriers to economic mobility. Our legislation responds to the needs of our growing aging population, allowing older Americans, people with disabilities, and those with chronic illnesses to remain in their communities while receiving critical care and support, helping prevent costlier institutional care.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to see the Direct CARE Opportunity Act as a chance to invest in the professionals who care for millions of vulnerable Americans every day, ensuring they live with dignity and independence.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BOOKER, and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 2523. A bill to amend section 455(m) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 in order to allow adjunct faculty members to qualify for public service loan forgiveness; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2523

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Adjunct Faculty Loan Fairness Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. LOAN FORGIVENESS FOR ADJUNCT FACULTY.

Section 455(m)(3)(B)(ii) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087e(m)(3)(B)(ii)) is amended—

(1) by striking “teaching as” and inserting the following: “teaching—
“(I) as”;

(2) by striking “, foreign language faculty, and part-time faculty at community colleges, as determined by the Secretary.” and inserting “and foreign language faculty), as determined by the Secretary; or”;

(3) by adding at the end the following: “(II) as a part-time faculty member or instructor who—

“(a) teaches not less than 1 course at an institution of higher education (as defined in section 101(a)), a postsecondary vocational institution (as defined in section 102(c)), or a Tribal College or University (as defined in section 316(b)); and

“(b) is not employed on a full-time basis by any other employer.”.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 319—DESIGNATING THE WEEK BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 16, 2019, AS NATIONAL HISPANIC-SERVING INSTITUTIONS WEEK

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CASEY, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. KAINE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. UDALL, Mr. GARDNER, and Mr. BRAUN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 319

Whereas Hispanic-Serving Institutions are degree-granting institutions that have a full-time equivalent undergraduate enrollment of at least 25 percent Hispanic students;

Whereas Hispanic-Serving Institutions play an important role in educating many underprivileged students and helping those students attain their full potential through higher education;

Whereas 523 Hispanic-Serving Institutions operate in the United States;

Whereas Hispanic-Serving Institutions represent just over 15 percent of all nonprofit institutions of higher education, yet serve 26.8 percent of all students and 66 percent of all Hispanic students, enrolling 2,066,468 Hispanics;

Whereas, in September 2019, the number of “emerging Hispanic-Serving Institutions”, defined as institutions that do not yet meet the threshold of 25 percent Hispanic full-time equivalent enrollment but serve a Hispanic student population of between 15 and 24 percent, stands at 328 institutions operating in 35 States;

Whereas Hispanic-Serving Institutions are located in 25 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, and emerging Hispanic-Serving Institutions are located in 35 States;

Whereas Hispanic-Serving Institutions are actively involved in stabilizing and improving the communities in which the institutions are located;

Whereas Hispanic-Serving Institutions are leading efforts to increase Hispanic participation in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM);

Whereas celebrating the vast contributions of Hispanic-Serving Institutions to the United States strengthens the culture of the United States; and

Whereas the achievements and goals of Hispanic-Serving Institutions deserve national recognition: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the achievements and goals of Hispanic-Serving Institutions across the United States and in Puerto Rico;

(2) designates the week beginning September 16, 2019, as “National Hispanic-Serving Institutions Week”; and

(3) calls on the people of the United States and interested groups to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs to demonstrate support for Hispanic-Serving Institutions.

SENATE RESOLUTION 320—RECOGNIZING AND SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL FORENSIC SCIENCE WEEK

Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Mr. RISCH, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 320

Whereas the Senate is committed to the use of forensic science in the investigation of crimes, the prosecution and conviction of the correct perpetrators of crimes, and the exoneration of innocent individuals falsely accused of crimes in the United States;

Whereas forensic science service providers address critical criminal and civil questions in the United States, including by providing scientific conclusions relating to forensic evidence;

Whereas forensic science service providers partner with—

(1) Federal agencies to build and maintain criminal databases relating to latent prints, DNA, and other information relevant to criminal cases; and

(2) Federal, State, and local agencies to ensure public safety;

Whereas forensic science service providers serve a vital role in the criminal justice system by providing scientific information to investigators and officers of the court; and

Whereas the third week in September is recognized as “National Forensic Science Week”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) it is the sense of the Senate that National Forensic Science Week provides a special opportunity for—

(A) forensic service providers to—

(i) recognize the contributions of forensic scientists in the laboratories in which those individuals work;

(ii) organize community events to encourage a better understanding of forensic science;

(iii) provide tours to Federal, State, and local policymakers to assist those individuals in gaining better insight into the current capabilities of forensic service providers and future demands that forensic service providers will face; and

(iv) contact local media outlets and invite those groups to cover events hosted during National Forensic Science Week;

(B) local policymakers to—

(i) recognize, through formal commendation or resolution, the contributions of local forensic science laboratories to the communities of those policymakers;

(ii) formally declare the third week of September to be “Forensic Science Week” by proclamation;

(iii) visit local forensic science laboratories to gain an understanding of the capabilities and needs of those laboratories; and

(iv) discuss the operational needs of State and local forensic science laboratories;

(C) members of communities in the United States, including members of the media, to—

(i) attend community events sponsored by local forensic science laboratories;

(ii) take tours of local forensic science laboratories; and

(iii) ask local forensic science laboratories about the operational and legislative needs of those laboratories;

(D) members of the media to highlight local news stories that focus on the work of local forensic science laboratories in the communities that those laboratories serve; and

(E) public safety officers, law enforcement officers, and officers of the court to—

(i) attend community events sponsored by local forensic science laboratories;

(ii) take tours of local forensic science laboratories;

(iii) discuss the operational needs of State and local forensic science laboratories; and

(iv) engage local forensic science laboratories regarding working together more effectively; and

(2) the Senate supports the goals and ideals of National Forensic Science Week.

SENATE RESOLUTION 321—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2019 AS “NATIONAL PROSTATE CANCER AWARENESS MONTH”

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. COONS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 321

Whereas more than 2,900,000 men in the United States live with prostate cancer;

Whereas 1 in 9 men in the United States will be diagnosed with prostate cancer in their lifetimes and 1 in 41 men in the United States will die from prostate cancer;

Whereas prostate cancer is the most commonly diagnosed non-skin cancer and the second-leading cause of cancer-related deaths among men in the United States;

Whereas the American Cancer Society estimates that, in 2019, 174,650 men will be diagnosed with, and more than 31,620 men will die of, prostate cancer;

Whereas 41.9 percent of newly diagnosed prostate cancer cases occur in men under the age of 65;

Whereas the odds of developing prostate cancer rise rapidly after age 50;

Whereas African-American men suffer from a prostate cancer incidence rate that is significantly higher than that of White men and have more than double the prostate cancer mortality rate than that of White men;

Whereas having a father or brother with prostate cancer more than doubles the risk of a man developing prostate cancer, with a higher risk for men who have a brother with

the disease and the highest risk for men with several affected relatives;

Whereas screening by a digital rectal examination and a prostate-specific antigen blood test can detect the disease at the earlier, more treatable stages, which could increase the chances of survival for more than 5 years to nearly 100 percent;

Whereas only 30 percent of men survive more than 5 years if diagnosed with prostate cancer after the cancer has metastasized;

Whereas there are no noticeable symptoms of prostate cancer in the early stages, making appropriate screening critical;

Whereas, in fiscal year 2019, the Director of the National Institutes of Health supported approximately \$271,000,000 in research projects focused specifically on prostate cancer;

Whereas ongoing research promises further improvements in prostate cancer prevention, early detection, and treatment; and

Whereas educating people in the United States, including health care providers, about prostate cancer and early detection strategies is crucial to saving the lives of men and preserving and protecting families: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 2019 as “National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month”;

(2) declares that steps should be taken—

(A) to raise awareness about the importance of screening methods for, and treatment of, prostate cancer;

(B) to encourage research—

(i) to improve screening and treatment for prostate cancer;

(ii) to discover the causes of prostate cancer; and

(iii) to develop a cure for prostate cancer; and

(C) to continue to consider ways to improve access to, and the quality of, health care services for detecting and treating prostate cancer; and

(3) calls on the people of the United States, interest groups, and affected persons—

(A) to promote awareness of prostate cancer;

(B) to take an active role in the fight to end the devastating effects of prostate cancer on individuals, families, and the economy; and

(C) to observe National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I have 3 requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, September 19, 2019, at 9 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, September 19, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the following nominations:

Marshall Billingslea of Virginia, to be an Under Secretary of State Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights, Mr. Adam Seth Boehler of Louisiana, to be Chief Executive Officer of the United States International Development Finance Corporation, Mr. Michael Pack of Maryland, to be Chief Executive Officer of the Broadcasting Board of Governors.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, September 19, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a business meeting and hearing on the following nominations: Halil Suleyman Ozerden, of Mississippi, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit, David B. Barlow, to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah, John Fitzgerald Kness, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, R. Austin Huffaker, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Alabama, Lee Philip Rudofsky, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Arkansas, Justin Reed Walker, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Kentucky, Eleni Maria Roumel, of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims, and Kenneth Charles Canterbury, Jr., of South Carolina, to be Director, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, W. Stephen Muldrow, to be United States Attorney for the District of Puerto Rico, Michael D. Baughman, to be United States Marshal for the Western District of Pennsylvania, Kerry Lee Pettingill, to be United States Marshal for the Eastern District of Oklahoma, and Fernando L. G. Sablan, to be United States Marshal for the District of Guam and concurrently United States Marshal for the District of the Northern Mariana Islands, all of the Department of Justice.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Ariel Hasse, an intern in my office, be granted floor privileges through September 27, 2019.

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

EXPRESSING THE GRATITUDE OF THE SENATE FOR THE PEOPLE WHO OPERATE OR SUPPORT DIAPER BANKS AND DIAPER DISTRIBUTION PROGRAMS IN THEIR LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 205 and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 205) expressing the gratitude of the Senate for the people who operate or support diaper banks and diaper distribution programs in their local communities.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. McCONNELL. I further ask that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 205) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of May 14, 2019, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

AUTISM COLLABORATION, ACCOUNTABILITY, RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND SUPPORT ACT OF 2019

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 1058, which was received from the House.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1058) to amend the Public Health Service Act to enhance activities of the National Institutes of Health with respect to research on autism spectrum disorder and enhance programs relating to autism, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time.

The bill was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. McCONNELL. I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing none, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (H.R. 1058) was passed.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions which were submitted earlier today: S. Res. 319, S. Res. 320, and S. Res. 321.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

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

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 2486 AND H.R. 4378

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand that there are two bills at the desk, and I ask for their first reading en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bills by title for the first time en bloc.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2486) to reauthorize mandatory funding programs for historically Black colleges and universities and other minority-serving institutions.

A bill (H.R. 4378) making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2020, and for other purposes.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I now ask for a second reading, and I object to my own request, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bills will receive their second reading on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2019

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 3 p.m., Monday, September 23; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, morning business be closed, and the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the McGuire nomination; and that finally, notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXII, the cloture motions filed during today's and yesterday's sessions of the Senate ripen at 5:30 p.m., Monday, September 23.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2019, AT 3 P.M.

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

There being no objection, the Senate, at 4:24 p.m., adjourned until Monday, September 23, 2019, at 3 p.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

MITCHELL A. SILK, OF NEW YORK, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY, VICE HEATH P. TARBERT, RESIGNED.

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

ROBERT JOSEPH KRUCKEMEYER, OF TEXAS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2022, VICE DOROTHY KOSINSKI, TERM EXPIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ROBERT ANTHONY DIXON, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE MICHAEL A. HUGHES, TERM EXPIRED.

THE JUDICIARY

DANIELLE J. HUNSAKER, OF OREGON, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT, VICE DIARMUID F. O'SCANNLAIN, RETIRED.

WILLIAM JOSEPH NARDINI, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE SECOND CIRCUIT, VICE CHRISTOPHER DRONEY, RETIRED.

DANIEL MACK TRAYNOR, OF NORTH DAKOTA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF NORTH DAKOTA, VICE DANIEL L. HOVLAND, RETIRING.

GRANT C. JAQUITH, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS, VICE ROBERT N. DAVIS, RETIRING.

SCOTT J. LAURER, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS, VICE MARY J. SCHOELEN, RETIRING.

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. MARK C. SCHWARTZ

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 716:

To be lieutenant colonel

DAVID B. MARTIN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 716:

To be lieutenant colonel

MATTHEW W. STYLES

To be major

LINDSEY P. DAVIS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

SHAYLA A. CANTY-SMITH

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be colonel

JEFFREY J. AUTREY

JOHN D. CATOE

TAM T. DINH

JOEL R. DIXON

MICHAEL G. HAINES

TIMOTHY A. LOOMIS

KENDRA J. MARNELL

ERIC L. PHILLIPS

SOO A. SOHN

JENNIFER T. VECCHIONE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

TRAVIS M. ALLEN

JASON R. BARKER

KARL N. BLANCAFLO

ROBERT D. BOHNSACK

DANIEL S. CALL

RACHEL E. DAVID

CRAIG M. FORSYTHE

KEVIN M. HUDSON

KEVIN L. HUMPHREY

JASON T. KLONICKI

DAVID R. LEONARD

DAVID S. MERRIFIELD

JONATHAN T. RUNNELS

DAVID Y. SUH

CHRISTOPHER D. UNDERWOOD II

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

ANNA M. ADKINS

STEPHANIE C. ANDERSON

KELLIE S. ANDREWS

EDUARDO E. ARTIGA

REBEKAH H. AULD

MICHELE N. BALIHE

MICHELLE A. R. BELL

TRISHA M. BENISH

JAMIE L. BLESSINGCALCARONE

LAUREN E. BRENDEL

AMESSIA S. BROWN

JACQUELINE D. BROWN

JENELL N. BROWN

BETH A. BRUSTUEN

ERICA L. BUCKLEY

DANIEL D. BUHLER

RICHARD P. BUI

JESSICA A. CARPENTER

EVAN B. CARSON

JAMES W. CAVINESS

WYATT B. CHERRY

KATHERINE A. COFFMAN

JENNIFER A. COLEMAN

JESSICA Y. COMBS

LAUREN J. COOPER

RYAN M. CROSSMAN

MICHAEL J. D'AMICO

MEGAN L. DAVIS

SHIRLEY DE LA ROSA

JONATHAN J. DOHANICH

SIMON R. DOMENECH

MARY A. M. DUEITT

BRIAN M. EDICK

RACHEL L. ELDER

ASHLEY M. ERTEL

LISA FERNANDEZ

ZACHARY J. FETTERMAN

ALEXIS N. FLETCHER

PAULINE M. FLORES

ELIZABETH H. FOLEY

AUBRIE H. FRAZIER

JASON M. FREEMAN

SARAH E. FRY

MARTIN G. GAKURIA

SARAH P. GANZ

ALLISON H. GARCIA

KASSIA O. GARFIELD

CASEY V. GLEW

KEVIN R. GRAHAM

MICHELL A. GREENIDGE

BRIDGETTE D. GRIFFITHS

JESSE GRONSKY

SAMANTHA L. GUY

NATHAN W. HAMILTON

JEFFREY R. HARTZELL

MARLA R. HARVEY

LINDSEY J. HATCHER

GRIFFIN M. HOLAUCHOCK

DANIEL J. HUBBARD

BAKARY B. JALLOW

CRAIG B. JENSEN

MATTHEW R. JIMENEZ

LATASHA J. JOHNSON

LINDSAY A. JOHNSTON

ISALAH D. JONES

JOSEPH J. JONES

FRANCIS M. KATUMBA

DANYELLE KAVAKCIOGLU ANDERSON

RACHEL R. KEENER

KRISTIN M. KING

LERON B. KING

ANNE H. LEE

SAMMY J. LEOS

EMILY P. LUCAS

PHILLIP D. MAILLOUX

MICHAEL D. MARX

BENJAMIN A. MCCOMB

SARA J. MCDOWELL

BARBARA A. MCLEOD

BROCK A. MCNABB

VALENTINA M. MEROLA

DEVIN L. MERRITT

JACQUELINE MILLS

JENNIFER L. MINARCIK

RYAN G. MONTANARI

GABRIELLE B. MOORE

SYBELLA V. MORERE

REBECCA A. MORRISDAVIS

TIMOTHY W. NAILL

DREW R. OEN

JAMES T. S. ONEAL II

REGINA M. ORTEGA

JAMIE R. OWSIANY

ALEXIS M. PASCHAL

LAURENCE L. PASS

MARISSA R. PENA

CARISAR R. PEREIRA

JANICE R. PERIDO

JEFFERY B. S. PERRY

TERESSA M. PETOSKY

JAMES R. PHILLIPS

MARIA A. PITTS

MATTHEW P. POLSTER

JEREMY T. POWELL

BRYAN L. PRESLER

PAUL J. RICHARDSON

PEDRO D. RIVERA

JESSICA L. ROBBINS

NATHAN R. ROCHA

THEODORE J. SCHNESKI

BRITTANY K. SCHOTT

MIRIAM C. SEVILLE

TYRONE A. SIMON

DEBBIE P. SITHCALICA

TREY J. SLAUTER

JESSICA L. O. STANLEY

MILLARD STORMS, JR.

MILES A. STUTES

ANDREA M. TIDD

SARAH F. TORRES

ANN L. TROMBLY

NATASHA M. TROZZOLO

JASON W. WEBB

ANDREA F. WEISS

EMILY J. WIELERT

BENJAMIN C. WIER

JOSHUA E. WISER

TIKIA U. WRIGHT

VICTORIA P. WU

MARY E. ZANDER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

BRANDON R. BURDEN

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

TIMOTHY M. DONELSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

CESAR A. PATINO

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

JOHN J. VOGEL

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

LANCE A. BROWN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be colonel

GREGORY J. HIRSCHHEY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

MICHAEL C. HAITH

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

CHRISTOPHER O. DORSEY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

GALEN CIPPERLY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

WAYNE J. HARSHA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be colonel

PAULA A. BOICE

NATHANIEL H. CARPER

PAUL M. FRANKEN

ANTHONY C. HAMILTON

CHARLES T. HILLS

GUNNAR D. KIERSLEY

LESLEY E. KIRLING

WESLEY A. PARMER

ERIC W. SOULTS

BENJAMIN J. SPROUSE

ANDREW B. STONE

CHUNAE ZOH

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be commander

MICHAEL J. TAGALOA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be captain

PATCHO N. SANTIAGO

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 605:

To be lieutenant commander

BRYAN A. BOLDON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

MICHAEL D. CRIBBS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

BRACKERY L. BATTLE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUAL FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be lieutenant commander

JOEL D. MYERS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

BRYAN M. ALLRED
JERMAINE ARMSTRONG
PERCY M. ATANGCHO
GEORGE B. BARBOUR III
ROBERTA S. BECKER
DANIELLE M. BEIER
KELLY L. BISCHOFF
MEGAN C. BITTNER
ALEXANDER S. BOGART
AARON B. BULES
BRIAN G. BULES
NICHOLAS J. CANNELLA
DENNIS V. CARTER, JR.
RACHEL O. CARTER
JUSTIN B. CECIL
MICHAELDAVID R. CHERRY
STEPHEN D. CONNER
TIMOTHY T. COOK
NATHAN H. COOLEY
SAMSON J. COVERT
TYLER A. DARR
TIYA E. DEGHEITTO
AMANDA C. DENO
ANTHONY J. DIBLASI
ADAM P. DUTIL
KEVIN S. EDSALL
GEOFFREY A. ELLIS
DAVID A. FELBER
MARY M. FORMANEK
JASON W. FRANKS
EDWARD J. GALLIGAN
ALEXANDRA M. GLORIA
SEAN D. GRUBE
STEVEN L. HALL
ANDREW B. HANSON
DARNELL T. HARRIS
LUCAS A. HAUCK
DARRIN L. HAYES, JR.
CLEMENT W. J. HERRON
BETHANY W. J. INADHL
LESLIE A. JACKSON
ADONIGA M. JOHNSON
JOSHUA R. JOHNSON
RITA M. JOHNSON
LAKAYSHA L. JONES
CHRISTOPHER R. JORDAN
MATTHEW J. KAISERSKI
JOHN B. KEENER
WAYNE W. KILGORE
BRYAN P. KUHN
VLADISLAVA D. KUKUY
KAITLIN M. KWIAKOWSKI
DAVID N. LEBHAR
ALEXANDER LEVY
ANTHONY J. LICHI
ROGER W. LONG
SEAN B. MARGOT
JOSEPH A. MARINELLI
JAMES E. MARTIN
ERIC W. MCANELLY
JOSHUA C. MCCAULEY
KENDRA K. MCCLAIN
JOHN R. MCDUFFIE
MICHAEL G. MCCLAUGHLIN
BRENDAN J. MCMONAGLE
BROCK A. MCQUEEN
COLLIN A. MEADOR
JR. MEEHAN
ANDREW P. MELTON
CARL A. MURDOCK
WILLIAM N. MURRAY
DIRK A. B. MYERS
MICHAEL R. NYLAND
LOUIS J. OCCAMPO
CHRISTOPHER G. OLSEN
ANDREW F. PAYNTER
AARON A. PENNINGTON
ALESSANDRA R. PETTY
MICHAEL R. PHILLIPS
HUNTER D. POMEROY
ADAM H. REIFFEN
JOSHUA M. ROE
CAMERON N. ROSS
KELLY A. RYAN

JENNIFER G. RYKACZEWSKI
FRANK E. SACCO III
PAULMARVIN M. SANTOS
RICHARD W. SCHMERMUND
ALLISON C. D. SCOTT
JAMES C. SHAW
RYAN R. SHERWOOD
LUCIAN H. SMITH
JOSHUA H. SNOKE
BRADLEY M. STINEHART
TIMOTHY J. SUMMERS
JOY L. TAPAJCIK
MICHAEL P. TAYLOR
TIMOTHY TRAN
KEITH B. TRAPP, JR.
PHILLIP URIBE, JR.
ALICIA A. VISSCHER
JASON A. WADDELL
NICHOLAS W. WADOWSKI
JACQUELINE N. WELLS
CAMERON J. WOODS
COURTNEY K. WRIGHT
ANDREW C. WYMAN
KENDRA M. YATES

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

MARIO D. ADAME
SCOTT K. ARMSTRONG
KRISTOPHER W. BAIR
JASON D. BAKER
TRENT A. BARNES
WILSON T. BASILIO
RANDALL W. BEAL
JABBAR D. BEAL
JEAN P. D. BERTRAM
GILBERT L. BISHOP II
DAVID P. BLACK
GLORIA F. BOYKIN
MAGUEL L. BROOKS
MATTHEW N. BROPHY
ALEXANDER Q. BROWN
DANIEL J. BROWN
MICHAEL E. BUCK
ROBERT BUCKNER
EDWARD S. BUTLER
JOHN C. BUTLER, JR.
JOHN J. CAIGEDO
ROBERT J. CAMPBELLMARTIN
KELLY L. CATWRIGHT
MILTON G. CASASOLA
BRIAN S. CHAPLOW
HOWARD R. CHASE
COREY B. CHEEK
LARRY J. CHESTER, JR.
WILLIAM E. CONE
RICHARD B. CORNFORTH
DAVID A. COX
JEFFREY S. CRABTREE
DAVID E. CRAIG
FALANDA D. CULP
ROBIN G. CUNNINGHAM
CEDRIC J. DANIELS
KENNETH M. DAVIS, JR.
VLEKA S. DAVIS
BRENT E. DEERING
AGUSTIN DELAROSATORO
RUSSELL DICKERT
JAMES R. DIGNAN
ANTON S. DRAKE
KENNETH E. A. DULEY
ERIC A. EHLE
KENNETH E. EKHART, JR.
JACOB M. ENGLANDER
ERIC A. ERIKSEN, JR.
IAN D. ERSHEEN
CARLOS F. FLORES
ERIC S. FOSTER
JASON L. FOUTS
JOSE J. GALVEZ, JR.
BRIAN J. GARCIA
ADRIAN W. GRAY
WHITTAKER GREEN
LATASHA D. GRIFFIN
ERIC B. GUNTHER
JAMES E. GUTHRIE, JR.
JOSHUA T. HAIN
DOUGLAS M. HAMPTON
MICHAEL M. HARRIS
SAMUEL F. HAROLD
PAULA R. HARVILLE
LUQMAN HASKETT
ERIN L. HAYDN
MARK D. HODD
ERIC M. HOLLNBECK
MARTIN G. HOWARD
JOE A. HUTTON
ISRAEL V. ISIP
DAVID D. JEFFERSON
GREGORY T. JOHNSON, JR.
QUINTINO L. JOHNSON
JASON M. JONES
RYAN W. KELLY
MICHAEL A. KENNEDY
KENNETH E. KESSINGER
LASHONDA I. LARA
ERIC M. LARVA
BRIAN M. LEWIS
CHARLES V. LYNN, JR.
SHAWN P. MADSEN
BRUCE P. MANSFIELD
ROBERT A. MANZUETA
KEITH P. MARINO
ANTONIO R. MARTIN

TRAVIS M. MAUPIN
MATTHEW S. MCCAULEY
MICHAEL S. MCNEAL
ISSAC MEDINA
TERRY E. MENGES, JR.
RANDY S. MENN
CAMERON D. MITCHELL
MARK A. MORRIS
RICHARD NAJAR, JR.
RONALD L. NEAL
NHAN V. NGUYEN, JR.
KAFAYAT O. OLANIRAN
JASON Z. ONEAL
PETUNIA ORR
STEPHEN E. PAKOLA
STEVEN C. PALMER
DANIEL J. POKELWALDT
EDWARD R. POLK
JASON M. PRICE
SEAN P. PUGH
JAMES H. RACE
MOSTAFAMOHAMED I. RASHED
JAMES N. REVELL
MATTHEW W. ROBERTSON
ANTHONY U. ROBINSON
NATHAN J. RODRIGUEZ
JASON B. ROUSE
MATTHEW E. RUMPKER
PATRICK M. RZESZUT
BRYAN D. SCOTT
CHANDRAKA SINGH
CHARLES R. SMITH
SCOTT C. SPILMAN
JOHN J. STEWART
ROBERT M. STRICKLAND
EDWARD W. SUDERS III
PATRICIA A. TAYLOR
JEFFERY L. THERRIEN
EDWIN C. THOMAS III
BRIDGETTE A. TOREM
JAMES E. TROGDEN III
CHRISTOPHER W. TUCKER
CEDRIC L. TURNER
JOHNNY B. TURNER, JR.
JOSEPH E. WALTMAN
TRACY L. WASHINGTON
CARLOS A. WATKINS
MARK C. WILKINSON
COURTNEY D. WILLIAMS
JAMES R. WILSON
ANTHONY M. YOUNG

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

WILLIAM H. ABBETT
NICHOLAS H. ABELEIN
ALANA M. ABERNETHY
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ZACHARY J. PREFONTAINE
EDWARD M. PRENDERGAST
NICHOLAS E. PRESLEY
MICHAEL J. PROCELLI
CHRISTOPHER F. PRYBELLA
ADAM R. QUINTANA
ERIC S. QUIRK
LAURA G. RADSPINNER
WILLIAM S. RAJNAY
JETHRO L. RAMOS
ADAM J. REDDICK
JUSTIN L. REECE
BENJAMIN P. REED
TIMOTHY A. REEVES II
PATRICK K. REGAN
WILLIAM P. REGAN
BRANDON G. REICHMANN
GRACE E. REILLY
MAX J. REITELATT
EMILY H. E. REITER
SAMUEL H. RENO
WILLIAM G. RESAVY
WERNER R. RESCHMEIER
MICHAEL P. REYNDERS
DAVID R. REYNOLDS
JASON R. RICARD
MARK S. RICE
SAMUEL D. RICHARDSON
WILLIAM M. RICHARDSON
TAYLOR L. RICHMOND
KYLE A. RICKERT
VANESSA C. RISEDORPH
WILLIAM M. RIVERS, JR.
MATTHEW R. ROA
JASON M. ROBERSON
KRISTAL M. ROBERTS
SCOTT B. ROBERTSON
JAMES J. ROBILLARD
DANIEL J. ROCHA
MATHEW R. ROCKWELL
LIAM T. RODDY
KEVIN P. RODRIGO
LUIS M. RODRIGUEZ
ANDREW D. ROEMHILD
ADAM J. ROGELSTAD
PATRICK C. ROMERO
CHRISTIAN R. RONCKETTI
SEAN D. ROOKS
WILLIAM D. ROUDEBUSH
THERESA L. ROUSE
ANGELA M. ROUSH
MARTHA L. ROWE
DANIEL I. RUFFIN
PATRICK A. RUPE
JUSTIN D. RUSSELL
JAMES T. RUSSO
EVAN S. RUTHERFORD
MARY L. RUTTUM
SEAN M. RYAN
ROBERT W. RYERSON
MANTAS RYSEVAS
SCOTT H. SACKREITER
BENJAMIN P. SACKSEN
NICHOLAS C. SADIA
FRANCISCO SAMALOTROQUE
GREGORY C. SANDNESS
JAMES E. SANTELLI III
JORGE A. SANTAGOFIGUEROA
KYLE J. SARACENI
JAMES D. SAYERS
ANTHONY M. SCALETTI
JOHN R. SCHAEFFER II
BENJAMIN A. SCHAFER
KARL SCHEINREIF
ANDREW J. SCHERER
MICHAEL A. SCHILLACI
DOUGLAS C. J. SCHLAEPFER
SCOTT M. SCHMALE

DOUGLAS J. SCHMIDT
ALEX D. SCHNEIDER
JAMISON C. SCHROCK
JOHN V. SCHULTZ
MATTHEW J. SCHWAB
MICHAEL J. SCHWARTZ
NICHOLAS A. SCHWARTZ
NICHOLAS D. SCHWOB
IAN K. SCIFORD
BARRY S. SCOTT
KAYLEE A. SCOTT
KENDALL S. SCOTT
EMIL W. SCOWN
ANN M. SCROGGS
ROBERT D. SEADER
SCOTT M. SEAGO
DAVID C. SEIBEL
GERALD C. SELLARS
KRISTIN R. SELLERS
MATTHEW J. SEYMOUR
ANNA M. T. SHAFER
DAVID G. SHAFFER
JACOB A. SHAFFER
LUKAS W. SHANE
CURTIS W. SHARP
KRISTIN L. SHAW
MARTIN J. SHEEHAN
COREY J. SHEERON
CURTIS L. SHELTON III
GREGORY M. SHINEGO
JOEL M. SHOLAR
TAYLOR N. SHOPE
JAMES B. SHOWANES
JARED A. SHRADER
EVAN M. SIEGRIST
SCOTT A. SIMPSON
SEAN M. SISK
EVAN S. SISUNG
DAMON A. D. SITGRAVES
CASEY A. SMITH
KYLE W. SMITH
MATTHEW B. SMITH
ZACHARY T. SMITH
ANTHONY J. SMITS
STEVEN P. SOARES
CORY L. SOLIS
DOUGLAS F. SPENCE, JR.
ANDREW SPILSBURY
TAMMY L. SPITZER
BRENT R. SPOHRER
ROSEMARIE F. SPUHLER
SEAN M. STANDEN
CALVIN A. STARK
MEGAN J. STATELER
ALEXI K. STATON
DANIEL F. STAYTON
BRIER P. STEENBERGE
DELANO A. STEINACKER III
ROBERT G. STEINER
TIMOTHY C. STEINER
MATTHEW J. STEPKO
NATHAN T. STEPP
JUSTIN B. STEVENS
AARON L. STEWARD
ERETT G. STEWART
GREGORY S. STEWART
KYLE R. STEWART
CORY J. STICKLEY
STEVEN C. STILES
DEREK J. STOFFER
RICHARD T. STOLWORTHY
ALEX C. STONE
SHANE T. STONE
BRIAN E. STONG
LAWRENCE W. STOULIG III
JAMES W. STRANGES
LUCAS A. STRASSER
JUSTIN C. STRAUSSER
CHASE T. STRICKLAND
JASON J. STRINGFIELD
KRISTAL B. STRONG
AARON B. STROUD
MATTHEW D. STRUHS
JOSEPH S. STURGES
BRIAN E. SULLIVAN, JR.
EVAN SULLIVAN
LOGAN W. SULLIVAN
NAOMI C. SULLIVAN
MICHAEL J. SWAN
JOSEPH D. SWINDEL
RAFE E. TACKES
RUBEN M. TAPIA
MICHAEL A. TARESCAVAGE
ARNOLD P. TAYLOR
IAN H. R. TAYLOR
LEONARD R. TAYLOR
ROBERT A. TAYLOR
AARON D. TERRELL
SCOTT W. TERRY
JONATHAN C. THAI
RICHARD T. THIEL
ALEXANDER C. THIESS
GARTH T. THOMAS
AUSTIN N. THOMPSON
GEORGE T. THOMPSON III
PHILIP A. THOMPSON
ANTHONY L. THOMSEN
WILLIAM L. V. THORNLEY
BRIAN G. THORPE
AARON C. THURBER
JEREMY S. THURMAN
RICHARD A. TIBERIO
ALEX J. TIDI
TROY A. TILLSON
PRESTON T. TILUS
BRADLEY J. TOMAN
JOSEPH E. TOMPKINS

JEREMY C. TOPP
IAN L. TOPPING
JOHANNA T. TORGESEN
THEODORE W. TORGESEN
TRAVIS R. TORLONE
EVAN M. TRANT
TRAVIS T. TRAVIS
DANIEL R. TRAYLOR
BRAD J. E. TRIBLEY
MATTHEW D. TRYON
WILLIAM L. TSCHUMY, JR.
JAMES A. TUCKER
JASON M. TUCKER
ALEXANDER W. TYNDALL
TIMOTHY H. UCHIDA
JASON M. ULBRICH
JOHN D. ULETT
JOHN F. UNDERHILL
IAN C. URBAS
ERIC M. VALDEZ
RICHARD A. VALENTA, JR.
DOMINIC A. VALENTINI
PATRICK W. VAMOSY
JEFFREY D. VANCUREN
THOMAS E. VANDECASTLE
CURTIS J. VANHOOSER
AUSTIN R. VANOLST
MARK J. VANORDEN, JR.
ASHTON J. VAUGHAN
MICHAEL W. VAUGHN
AARON G. VENTURINI
EDSEL C. V. VIERRA
ADAM T. VIEUX
SHAWN S. VILLAR
ANGELINA R. VIOLANTE
DAVID L. VISSER
ANDREW F. VOSS
JOHN A. WAKE, JR.
GERHARD A. WALD
BRANDON S. WALKER
DANIEL K. WALKER
EMILY T. WALLIS
JAMES R. WALLS
COLEMAN A. WARD
SETH E. WARNER
MICHAEL K. C. WATKIS
AMANDA D. WEAST
ZACHARY T. WEATHERINGTON
JACOB H. WEBB
ANDREW R. WEBSTER
CHARLOTTE S. WEBSTER
KEVIN J. WEEKS
JEREMIAH K. WEERHEIM
KELLY A. WEHLE
ANDREW R. WEINER
JON K. WEISSBERG
BRIER P. WELLEN'S
PHILIP C. WESTBROOK
GREGORY R. WESTIN
GAYLE D. WHEELER, JR.
JOSHUA T. WHITE
REBECCA C. WHITE
SHUN T. WHITE
NATHAN A. WHITELAW
JONATHAN D. WHITNEY
TIMOTHY F. WHITNEY
PARKER A. WHITWORTH
PHILIP M. WICKER
VICTORIA L. WIEDMEIER
RYAN W. WIELOUS
CHADWICK C. WILCOX
JESSICA L. WILCOX
MICHAEL R. WILCOX
BRANDON A. WILDER
JUSTIN B. WILEY
DOUGLAS C. WILKINS
AUSTIN M. WILKINSON
ANDREW D. WILL
NATHAN J. WILLARD
ADAM R. WILLIAMS
CAMERON M. WILLIAMS
GREGORY C. WILLIAMS
JOSHUA N. WILLIAMS
LUCAS A. WILLOUGHBY
STEPHEN E. WILLOUGHBY
DUSTIN E. WILMOTH
AVERY B. WILSON
DAVID A. WILSON
JAMES T. WILSON
STEVEN R. WILSON
RACHEL E. WINTERS
PHILIP E. WISE
JESSICA A. WITTNER
TIMOTHY A. WITTNER
MONCONJAY T. WOEWIYU, SR.
MARK A. WOHLGAMUTH III
MICHAEL F. WOLFF
MICHAEL L. WOOD
MICHAEL J. WOODWARD
KENNETH G. WORTHINGTON
TIMOTHY WOYMA
STEVEN W. WRIGHT
STEVEN W. WRIGHT
ROBERT D. YAGER
HARRISON O. YELVERTON IV
SHANNON M. YINGLING
AARON T. YOUNG
GRAYSON S. YOUNG III
BRET A. YOUNT
NICHOLAS J. ZACHMAN
CHELSEA L. ZAKRISKI
TIMOTHY J. ZAKRISKI
CORY ZEBIAN
JOHN F. ZENDT
DAVID L. ZICARELLI
MATTHEW D. ZIOMKOWSKI
MARK P. ZITO, JR.

BRANDON M. ZOSS
OLIVER C. ZUFELT
BRENNAN L. ZWAK
RUBEN B. ZWEIBAN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

KELLY W. AGHA
JOHN C. ALLEN
NICHOLAS R. ALLEN
VERONICA Y. BAKER
SOPHIA M. BAY
JUSTIN M. BERGMAN
CHRISTINE M. CAIROLI
SIMON S. DAVIES
RYAN S. DECKER
REGINAL A. FISHER
LUKE D. FREEMAN
DANIEL S. GILLER
ADAM H. GODFREY
WILLIAM L. HARBER
HEATHER L. HUTCHISON
JACQUELINE N. KYZER
CHRISTOPHER L. LAIRD
STEPHANIE M. MAENZA
KATHERINE G. MARTINEZALVAREZ
ASHLEY C. MORRISON
THOMAS J. PAUSCHE
DAVID A. PETERSEN
JAMES R. PHILLIPS
BENJAMIN F. PITZEL
THERESA M. RAMSEY
CHERIE M. SANGSTER
JONATHAN U. TIBBETTS
CHRISTOPHER B. VEENHUIS
MARK T. WILSON
AMY L. YOUNGER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

KWADWO S. AGYEPONG
ROBERT L. ALLEN
NICHOLAS B. ARTABAZON
ROBERT B. CARELLI
TIFFANY A. CLARK
JOSEPH C. COLLINS
TODD E. COURSEY
CHARLIEAN DOMINGUEZ
JORDAN W. FOUQUETTE
KEVIN M. GARLINGTON
BRANDI L. GILBERT
MATTHEW T. HAMILTON
CHAZ R. HENDERSON
LEE T. JOHNSON
LAUREN N. KADLEC
SEAN M. KENNEDY
MIGUEL K. LEWIS
STEVEN M. LOMBARDO
JOHN A. LUHN
DANIEL F. LUKASZEWSKI
RENE J. MARTIN
LELAND E. MCCARTY
MARK C. MUELLER
MATTHEW G. MURDOCK
JESSICA J. OLENA
CHRISTINA S. PRYNE
ELIZABETH T. RAJCHEL
STEPHANIE M. ROCKFORD
JOSE J. SAYANS
JONATHAN P. SCHEUERMANN
PATRICK D. SMITH
MITCHELL C. STEWART
CHARLES SUNG
MIKE A. TANO
JOSEPH B. TESTA III
JACOB D. THOMPSON
JASON H. VALIANI
JOSHUA H. VALIANI
SHAUN E. WILLIAMS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

BRADLEY E. CHERRY
KORY L. KEYMER
MICHAEL W. MARSCHALL
ANTHONY R. PETERS
KEVIN W. SNYDER
NEIL W. WHITESELL

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

HERNAN R. BORJA
JONATHAN D. BROWN
DWIGHT T. COONS
ERIC W. DELSISO
BRADLEY J. HAMILTON
RUSSELL J. HUFF, JR.
KENNETH B. MILLER
JOEL R. NELSON
ANDREUS R. RITTENHOUSE
EDWIN R. RODRIGUEZ
JEREMY A. SASKO
LUCAS D. SPINAZZOLA
KHALID TRADY
JOHN T. WALTERS
BRIAN E. YEE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

BENJAMIN T. ANDERSON
DAVID J. CARTER
PHILLIP A. CHITTY
ADAM M. DEMETER
CHRISTINA M. GIBSON
DERRICK M. INGLE
CHELSEA K. IRISH
PATRICIA A. KREUZBERGER
MICHAEL L. LARSON
PETER S. PAGANO
CLINTON E. RAMSDEN III
ROCHELLE A. RIEGER
CHRISTINA H. SEARS
LAUREN M. SPAZIANO
MATTHEW A. STROUP

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

NICK AVILA
MOLLY G. CARRIGAN
JACOB T. COUTRE
TIMOTHY D. CREEN
SEAN C. CROGHAN
RYAN K. EVANS
LAUREL E. FERNANDES
RONIEL A. MAGTANONG
RAYMOND J. MCGRATH
MIGUEL A. MONTALVO
JORDAN T. PENLAND
IDA T. QUIGLEY
TYJEBECK H. RUUN
NICOLAS SEGOVIA
JACOB J. TORBA
ATHANASIOS R. VARVOUTIS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

MICHAEL ADAMSKI, JR.
BRANDON T. ANTHONY
SCOTT C. BRITTON
VINCENT D. CHAMBERLAIN
STEPHANIE M. DRESSEL
TARA R. ELLIOTT
JEFFREY S. GRABON
MATTHEW D. HAKES
JOEL D. C. HARDING
ANNA M. HOOK
DENIE R. KIGER
MEREDITH A. MCKAIG
KIERSTIN L. PASTRANA
DAVID M. PRICE
ANDREW E. SWEENEY
BENJAMIN B. WELLS
AUSTIN C. WEST

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

JASON C. ABELL
BRIAN ASHLEY
BRANDON M. BECKLER
HOUSTON E. BENSON
JAMES A. BERG
JOHN R. BURNGASSER, JR.
TRAVIS L. CARTER
BRANNON W. CHAPMAN
JOSHUA D. CIOCCO
DAVID R. CONRADY
CHRISTOPHER J. CRABTREE
BRIAN P. CRAWFORD
NICHOLAS J. DAVIS
JOHN P. DEES
MARK J. V. DEGUZMAN
BO S. DORAN
DORAN N. DUHART
SHENEQUA S. DUNN
PRESTON L. EDWARDS
JONATHAN P. ERWERT
SUZANNE M. GAY
DAVID R. GIBBONS
CARISSA G. Y. HALL
ANDREW M. HARBISON
AMBER M. HOLLAND
JERMAINE D. JACKSON
MATTHEW D. JACKSON
CHUNNEY C. JOHNSON
JONATHAN D. KASEL
BRYAN J. KAUFFMAN
BRENT W. KIMMEY
KRYSTINA I. LANDRY
KEITH J. LASHOMB
KEVIN M. LEES
ERIC T. LENSIMIRE
OLGA V. LEVKOVICH
NICHOLAS A. LEYBA
JAMES W. MCCARTY
ISMAIL M. MCCOWIN
PAUL S. MOE
PATRICK C. MURRAY
JUSTIN NOVAK
GERIE W. PALANCA
ZACHARY D. PARMENTAR
JASON A. PAWLAK
BRIAN A. PICKLER

EMILY J. T. RACKLEY
LAUREN A. REINKE
NATASHA N. RILEY
DANIEL L. ROBEY
JOSHUA B. ROBISHAW
CASSANDRA L. SCHRIBER
MICHAEL D. SCHWARTZ
JOSEPH E. STANLEY
DAVID D. TUMAN
MARCO A. TZORIN
JOSEPH D. VANBRUAENE
ADAM J. WAYMOUTH
STEPHEN J. WORKMAN
JAMES M. ZWEIFEL

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

GARRETT L. ADAMS
KEHINDE A. ADESANYA
NATALIE A. ALBERTSON
CHRISTOPHER P. ANDERSON
BRUCE A. ANDREWS
DANIEL M. BALLANCE
ADRIA N. BARB
JOSEPH A. BERRIOS
JASON E. BROWN
EVITA M. BURKS
JENNIFER R. CHAPMAN
ULRICK C. CODRINGTON, JR.
DANIEL G. DEMELEW
ANN M. DIXONLEACH
KYLE J. FRANCIS
LYNNE A. HATTON
RASHAUNDA L. HOLLOWAY
MICHAEL K. HUGHES
CHRISTOPHER R. JENNINGS
COLLEEN M. JOHNSON
DENISE Y. JONES
BRIAN J. KUZARA
RICHARD P. LAFFOON
MICHAEL J. LAWS
IAN A. LEATHERMAN
ASHLEY I. LEWIS
LOVMIKA L. LONG
RAYMOND E. MENDEZ
JOSEPH R. MILLER
EDWARD B. MONTGOMERY
LAWRENCE L. MORGAN, JR.
JOSHUA D. PAULAITIS
CHRISTOPHER C. H. RUGILE
PABLO R. SCHWILCH
RYAN L. SEEBA
COEY J. SIPES
RYAN D. SMITH
STEPHEN SOMUAH, JR.
INNA STUKOVA
SHAREF H. TALBERT
CHRISTOPHER M. TAYLOR
LUKE O. TINGLER
BRANDON C. URICK
DAVID G. VALENCIA
MARK W. VEAZEY
WILLIAM VUE
JOHN C. WELLS, JR.
DESMOND L. WILSON
IRIS P. WOOD

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be major

JAMES M. STEPHENS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be colonel

CARLOS T. JACKSON

WITHDRAWALS

Executive Message transmitted by the President to the Senate on September 19, 2019 withdrawing from further Senate consideration the following nominations:

HEIDI R. KING, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION, VICE MARK R. ROSEKIND, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON JANUARY 16, 2019.

THOMAS MARCELLE, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK, VICE GARY L. SHARPE, RETIRED, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON JANUARY 23, 2019.

JEFFREY BYARD, OF ALABAMA, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, VICE BROCK LONG, RESIGNED, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON MAY 13, 2019.