

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate agreed to the motion to concur in the amendment of the House of Representatives to S. 1605, National Defense Authorization Act.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S9167–S9218

Measures Introduced: Fifteen bills were introduced, as follows: S. 3396–3410. Page S9213

Measures Passed:

Enrollment Correction: Senate agreed to H. Con. Res. 64, directing the Secretary of the Senate to make a correction in the enrollment of the bill S. 1605. Page S9216

REMOTE Act: Senate passed H.R. 5545, to extend certain expiring provisions of law relating to benefits provided under Department of Veterans Affairs educational assistance programs during COVID–19 pandemic. Pages S9216–17

Ghost Army Congressional Gold Medal Act: Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs was discharged from further consideration of S. 1404, to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the 23d Headquarters Special Troops and the 3133d Signal Service Company, popularly known as the 'Ghost Army', in recognition of their unique and highly distinguished service in conducting deception operations in Europe during World War II, and the bill was then passed, after taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto: Pages S9217–18

Adopted:

Schumer (for Markey) Amendment No. 4894, in the nature of a substitute. Page S9217

Schumer (for Markey) Amendment No. 4895, to amend the title. Page S9218

House Messages:

National Defense Authorization Act: By 88 yeas to 11 nays (Vote No. 499), Senate agreed to the motion to concur in the amendment of the House of Representatives to S. 1605, to designate the National Pulse Memorial located at 1912 South Orange Avenue in Orlando, Florida, after taking action on

the following motions and amendments proposed thereto:

Page S9167

Withdrawn:

Schumer motion to concur in the amendment of the House of Representatives to the bill, with Schumer Amendment No. 4880 (to the House amendment), to add an effective date. Page S9175

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

Schumer Amendment No. 4881 (to Amendment No. 4880), to modify the effective date, fell when Schumer motion to concur in the amendment of the House of Representatives to the bill, with Schumer Amendment No. 4880 (to the House amendment) (listed above) was withdrawn. Page S9175

Gawande Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Atul Atmaram Gawande, of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development. Page S9200

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur on Friday, December, 17, 2021. Page S9200

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. Page S9200

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. Page S9200

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination at approximately 10 a.m., on Thursday, December 16, 2021. Page S9218

Lopez Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Linda Lopez, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California. Page S9200

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Atul Atmaram Gawande, of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

Page S9200

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session.

Page S9200

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination.

Page S9200

Ohta Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Jinsook Ohta, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California.

Page S9200

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Linda Lopez, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California.

Page S9200

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session.

Page S9200

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination.

Page S9200

Urias Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of David Herrera Urias, of New Mexico, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Mexico.

Page S9200

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Jinsook Ohta, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California.

Page S9200

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session.

Page S9200

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination.

Page S9200

Frimpong Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Maame Ewusi-Mensah Frimpong, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

Page S9201

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the

sions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of David Herrera Urias, of New Mexico, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Mexico.

Page S9201

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session.

Page S9200

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination.

Page S9201

Beckering Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Jane M. Beckering, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Michigan.

Page S9201

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Maame Ewusi-Mensah Frimpong, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

Page S9201

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session.

Page S9201

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination.

Page S9201

Kumar Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Shalina D. Kumar, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan.

Page S9201

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Jane M. Beckering, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Michigan.

Page S9201

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session.

Page S9201

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination.

Page S9201

Thurston Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Jennifer L. Thurston, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of California.

Page S9201

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the

Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Shalina D. Kumar, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan. **Page S9201**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S9201**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S9201**

Menendez Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Katherine Marie Menendez, of Minnesota, to be United States District Judge for the District of Minnesota. **Page S9201**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Jennifer L. Thurston, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of California. **Pages S9201–02**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S9201**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S9201**

Dimke Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Mary Katherine Dimke, of Washington, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Washington. **Page S9202**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Katherine Marie Menendez, of Minnesota, to be United States District Judge for the District of Minnesota. **Page S9202**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S9202**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S9202**

Pantaleon Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Julissa Reynoso Pantaleon, of New York, to be Ambassador of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Spain, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador of the United States of America to the Principality of Andorra. **Page S9202**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the

Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Mary Katherine Dimke, of Washington, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Washington. **Page S9202**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S9202**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S9202**

Emanuel Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Rahm Emanuel, of Illinois, to be Ambassador of the United States of America to Japan. **Page S9202**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Julissa Reynoso Pantaleon, of New York, to be Ambassador of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Spain, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador of the United States of America to the Principality of Andorra. **Page S9202**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S9202**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S9202**

Markell Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Jack A. Markell, of Delaware, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, with the rank of Ambassador. **Page S9202**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Rahm Emanuel, of Illinois, to be Ambassador of the United States of America to Japan. **Pages S9202–03**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S9202**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S9202**

Crocker Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Bathsheba Nell Crocker, of the District of Columbia, to be Representative of the United States of America to the

Office of the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva, with the rank of Ambassador. Page S9203

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Jack A. Markell, of Delaware, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, with the rank of Ambassador. Page S9203

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. Page S9203

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. Page S9203

Gitenstein Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Mark Gitenstein, of Washington, to be Representative of the United States of America to the European Union, with the rank and status of Ambassador. Page S9203

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Bathsheba Nell Crocker, of the District of Columbia, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Office of the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva, with the rank of Ambassador. Page S9203

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. Page S9203

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. Page S9203

Bauer Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Denise Campbell Bauer, of California, to be Ambassador of the United States of America to the French Republic, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador of the United States of America to the Principality of Monaco. Page S9203

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Mark Gitenstein, of Washington, to be Representative of the United States of America to the European Union, with the rank and status of Ambassador. Page S9203

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. Page S9203

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. Page S9203

Burns Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of R. Nicholas Burns, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador of the United States of America to the People's Republic of China. Page S9203

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Denise Campbell Bauer, of California, to be Ambassador of the United States of America to the French Republic, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador of the United States of America to the Principality of Monaco. Pages S9203–04

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. Page S9203

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. Page S9203

Cronin Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Claire D. Cronin, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador of the United States of America to Ireland. Page S9204

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of R. Nicholas Burns, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador of the United States of America to the People's Republic of China. Page S9204

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. Page S9204

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. Page S9204

Escobari Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Marcela Escobari, of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development. Page S9204

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Claire D. Cronin, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador of the United States of America to Ireland. Page S9204

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S9204**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S9204**

Knapper Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Marc Evans Knapper, of California, to be Ambassador of the United States of America to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Page S9204

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Marcela Escobari, of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

Page S9204

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S9204**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S9204**

Gifford Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Rufus Gifford, of Massachusetts, to be Chief of Protocol, and to have the rank of Ambassador. **Page S9204**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Marc Evans Knapper, of California, to be Ambassador of the United States of America to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Page S9204

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S9204**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S9204**

Sanchez Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Gabriel P. Sanchez, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit. **Page S9205**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Rufus Gifford, of Massachusetts, to be Chief of Protocol, and to have the rank of Ambassador.

Page S9205

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S9205**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S9205**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 50 yeas to 49 nays (Vote No. EX. 500), Jennifer Sung, of Oregon, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit. **Page S9175**

By 62 yeas to 37 nays (Vote No. EX. 501), Samantha D. Elliott, of New Hampshire, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Hampshire. **Pages S9181–82**

Rostin Behnam, of Maryland, to be Chairman of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

Rostin Behnam, of Maryland, to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission for a term expiring June 19, 2026. **Page S9205**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Errol Rajesh Arthur, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

Leslie A. Meek, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

Carl Ezekiel Ross, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

Jessica G. L. Clarke, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York.

Sherilyn Peace Garnett, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

Hector Gonzalez, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York.

Kenly Kiya Kato, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

Nina Morrison, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York.

Evelyn Padin, of New Jersey, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey.

William S. Pocan, of Wisconsin, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Wisconsin.

Jennifer Louise Rochon, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York.

Fred W. Slaughter, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

Sunshine Suzanne Sykes, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

1 Air Force nomination in the rank of general.

1 Army nomination in the rank of general.

A routine list in the Army.

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Messages from the House:

Page S9209

Measures Referred:

Page S9209

Enrolled Bills Presented:

Page S9209

Executive Communications:

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Executive Reports of Committees: **Pages S9209–13**

Additional Cosponsors:

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Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:

Pages S9214–15

Additional Statements:

Page S9209

Amendments Submitted:

Pages S9215–16

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S9216**

Privileges of the Floor:

Page S9216

Record Votes: Three record votes were taken today. (Total—501) **Pages S9175, S9181–82**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 8:15 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Thursday, December 16, 2021. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S9218.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

DISASTER RECOVERY ASSISTANCE

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine disaster recovery assistance, focusing on authorization of the Community Development Block Grant—Disaster Recovery Program, including S. 2471, to establish a community disaster assistance fund for housing and community development and to authorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to provide, from the fund, assistance through a community development block grant disaster recovery program, and S. 2404, to improve Federal activities relating to wildfires, after receiving testimony from Michael Sprayberry, Hagerty Consulting, Inc., Raleigh, North Carolina; Matt A. Mayer, Opportunity Ohio, Columbus; and Carlos E. Martin, Brookings Institution, Washington, D.C.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 46, to reauthorize the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 and to establish the United States Coral Reef Task Force, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 3196, to enhance the policies, procedures, and training for midshipmen at the United States Merchant Marine Academy, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 3309, to require SelectUSA to coordinate with State-level economic development organizations to increase foreign direct investment in semiconductor-related manufacturing and production, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 3375, to promote travel and tourism in the United States, to improve the health safety and security of international flights entering the United States, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute; and

The nominations of Alan Davidson, of Maryland, to be Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information, Jed David Kolko, of California, to be Under Secretary for Economic Affairs, and Viqar Ahmad, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary, and to be Chief Financial Officer, all of the Department of Commerce.

U.S. AIRLINE INDUSTRY

Committee on Commerce: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the United States airline industry, after receiving testimony from Doug Parker, American Airlines Group, Inc., Fort Worth, Texas; Gary C. Kelly, Southwest Airlines Co., Dallas, Texas; Scott Kirby, United Airlines Holdings, Inc., Chicago, Illinois; John Laughter, Delta Air Lines, Atlanta, Georgia; Sara Nelson, Association of Flight Attendants—CWA, AFL-CIO, and Mike Tretheway, InterVISTAS Consulting Inc., both of Washington, D.C.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Marc R. Stanley, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Argentine Republic, Rashad Hussain, of Virginia, to be Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom, Ramin Toloui, of Iowa, to be an Assistant Secretary (Economic and Business Affairs), Thomas Barrett, of Wisconsin, to be Ambassador to the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, Erik D. Ramanathan, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Sweden, Scott Miller, of Colorado, to be Ambassador to the Swiss Confederation, and to serve concurrently and

without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Principality of Liechtenstein, Jamie L. Harpootlian, of South Carolina, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Slovenia, John R. Bass, of New York, to be an Under Secretary (Management), Mark Brzezinski, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Poland, and Michael M. Adler, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Belgium, all of the Department of State, Adriana Debora Kugler, of Maryland, to be United States Executive Director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Scott A. Nathan, of Massachusetts, to be Chief Executive Officer of the United States International Development Finance Corporation, Chantale Yokmin Wong, of the District of Columbia, to be United States Director of the Asian Development Bank, with the rank of Ambassador, and routine lists in the Foreign Service.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 3099, to amend title 44, United States Code, to establish the Federal Risk and Authorization Management Program within the General Services Administration, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 2932, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 430 South Knowles Avenue in New Richmond, Wisconsin, as the “Captain Robert C. Harmon and Private John R. Peirson Post Office Building”;

H.R. 767, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 40 Fulton Street in Middletown, New York, as the “Benjamin A. Gilman Post Office Building”;

H.R. 1170, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1 League in Irvine, California, as the “Tuskegee Airman Lieutenant Colonel Robert J. Friend Memorial Post Office Building”;

H.R. 1444, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 132 North Loudoun Street, Suite 1 in Winchester, Virginia, as the “Patsy Cline Post Office”;

H.R. 3210, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1905 15th Street in Boulder, Colorado, as the “Officer Eric H. Talley Post Office Building”; and

The nominations of Loren L. AliKhan, and John P. Howard III, both to be an Associate Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, and Adrienne Jennings Noti, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Alison J. Nathan, of New York, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit, who was introduced by Senator Schumer, Georgette Castner, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey, who was introduced by Senators Booker and Menendez, Ruth Bermudez Montenegro, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California, who was introduced by Senator Padilla, Julie Rebecca Rubin, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland, who was introduced by Senator Cardin, and Cristina D. Silva, and Anne Rachel Traum, both to be a United States District Judge for the District of Nevada, who were introduced by Senators Rosen and Cortez Masto, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

AMERICAN INNOVATION

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Competition Policy, Antitrust, and Consumer Rights concluded a hearing to examine the impact of consolidation and monopoly power on American innovation, after receiving testimony from Diana Moss, American Antitrust Institute, Denver, Colorado; Alex Harman, Public Citizen, Washington, D.C.; Eric Migicovsky, Beeper Inc., Palo Alto, California; Bettina Hein, Juli, Boston, Massachusetts; and Roger P. Alford, Notre Dame Law School, Notre Dame, Indiana.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 731, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the management of information technology projects and investments of the Department of Veterans Affairs;

S. 1607, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to improve how the Department of Veterans Affairs discloses to individuals entitled to educational assistance from the Department risks associated with using such assistance at particular educational institutions and to restore entitlement of students to such assistance who are pursuing programs of education at educational institutions that are subject to Federal or State civil enforcement action;

S. 1664, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to take certain actions to improve the processing by the Department of Veterans Affairs of claims for disability compensation for post-traumatic stress disorder;

S. 1850, to preserve the memorials to chaplains at Arlington National Cemetery;

S. 1936, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for extensions of the time limitations for use of entitlement under Department of Veterans Affairs educational assistance programs by reason of school closures due to emergency and other situations;

S. 1944, to improve Vet Centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs;

S. 2089, to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that grants provided by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for State veterans' cemeteries do not restrict States from authorizing the interment of certain deceased members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces in such cemeteries;

S. 2431, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to require the employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs to receive training developed by the Inspector General of the Department on reporting wrongdoing to, responding to requests from, and cooperating with the Office of Inspector General;

S. 2513, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the application and review process of the Department of Veterans Affairs for clothing allowance claims submitted by veterans;

S. 2514, to rename the Provo Veterans Center in Orem, Utah, as the “Col. Gail S. Halvorsen ‘Candy Bomber’ Veterans Center”;

S. 2533, to improve mammography services furnished by the Department of Veterans Affairs;

S. 2624, to authorize major medical facility projects for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2022;

S. 2627, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve assistance for veterans with travel necessary for counseling, mental health services, health care, and others services furnished by the Department of Veterans Affairs;

S. 2644, to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility for Post-9/11 Educational Assistance to members of the National Guard who perform certain full-time duty;

S. 2687, to provide the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs testimonial subpoena authority;

S. 2720, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a national clinical pathway for prostate cancer;

S. 2761, to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to maintain demographic information regarding veterans and publish such information on a website of the Department of Veterans Affairs;

S. 2787, to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the role of doctors of podiatric medicine in the Department of Veterans Affairs;

S. 2794, to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase automatic maximum coverage under the Servicemembers’ Group Life Insurance program and the Veterans’ Group Life Insurance program;

S. 2852, to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into contracts and agreements for the payment of care in non-Department of Veterans Affairs medical foster homes for certain veterans who are unable to live independently;

S. 3025, to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand health care and benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs for military sexual trauma;

S. 3094, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve homeless veterans reintegration programs;

S. 3163, to improve access to medical examinations required by veterans to obtain disability compensation or pension under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs;

S. 3293, to expand access of veterans to mental health care from the Department of Veterans Affairs;

An original bill entitled, “Veterans Benefits Improvement Act”; and

The nomination of Kurt D. DelBene, of Washington, to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Information and Technology).

BUSINESS MEETING

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee ordered favorably reported the nomination of Shannon Corless, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis, Department of the Treasury.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

The House was not in session today. The House is scheduled to meet in Pro Forma session at 11 a.m. on Thursday, December 16, 2021.

Committee Meetings

No hearings were held.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2021

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Ann Claire Phillips, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Maritime Administration, Steven Scott Cliff, of California, to be Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and John Edward Putnam, of Colorado,

to be General Counsel, all of the Department of Transportation, 10 a.m., SR-253.

Committee on Finance: business meeting to consider the nomination of Neil Harvey MacBride, of Virginia, to be General Counsel for the Department of the Treasury, 10 a.m., SD-215.

Committee on the Judiciary: business meeting to consider the nominations of Bridget Meehan Brennan, Charles Esque Fleming, and David Augustin Ruiz, each to be a United States District Judge for the Northern District of Ohio, John H. Chun, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Washington, and Katherine Vidal, of California, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, 9 a.m., SH-216.

House

Committee on House Administration, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Oversight of the Smithsonian Institution: Protecting Smithsonian Facilities and Collections Against Climate Change”, 12:30 p.m., Webex.

Joint Meetings

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: to receive a briefing on defending Ukraine and deterring Putin, 10 a.m., VTC.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Thursday, December 16

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Atul Atmaram Gawande, of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

(Senate will recess from 1 p.m. until 2 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

11 a.m., Thursday, December 16

House Chamber

Program for Thursday: House will meet in Pro Forma session at 11 a.m.



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