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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Friday, September 8, 2023, at 1 p.m.

Senate

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2023

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable PETER WELCH, a Senator from the State of Vermont.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Lord, this is the day that You have made, and we will rejoice and be glad in it. Thank You for the beauty of the Earth and for the glory of the skies. Thank You for the love which from our birth over and around us lies.

Be near today to our Senators. Infuse them with reverence for You. May this reverential awe manifest itself through their civility, humility, integrity, and faithfulness.

Lord, give them a respect and forbearance in all they think, say, and do, as they are energized by Your divine presence. Bless them and keep them and give them Your peace.

We pray in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer 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.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication

to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, September 6, 2023.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable PETER WELCH, a Senator from the State of Vermont, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WELCH thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination.

The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Philip Nathan

Jefferson, of North Carolina, to be Vice Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for a term of four years.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

BUDGET

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now, over the past few months, the Senate appropriations process has been a shining example of how things should work in Washington.

These are divided times, in a closely divided Chamber, but, nevertheless, we can summarize the Senate's work of funding the government down to one word, bipartisan—one word, bipartisan.

Thanks to the outstanding work of Appropriations Chair PATTY MURRAY and Vice Chair SUSAN COLLINS and many other colleagues from both sides, all 12 appropriations bills have been reported out of the committee with bipartisan support.

Some of them—many of them were with unanimous bipartisan support. That doesn't mean everyone agreed on everything. It means something more important. It means that disagreements haven't paralyzed the process.

This month, one of the Senate's top priorities will be to keep the government open beyond the September 30 deadline. Both parties in both Chambers will have to work together if we are to avoid a shutdown. So when the House returns next week, I implore—I implore—my Republican colleagues in the House to recognize that time is short to keep the government open and

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



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the only way to avoid a shutdown is through bipartisanship. House Republicans should follow the Senate's example and work with Democrats to pass strong, bipartisan appropriations bills. They will have their first chance to show their commitment to bipartisanship when they return next week.

The last thing Americans need right now is a pointless government shutdown. Our economy has come a very long way since the darkest days of the COVID pandemic. Inflation is slowing down, job growth remains strong, the investments we have made through the infrastructure law, the CHIPS and Science Act, and the Inflation Reduction Act are paying off with new projects and new good-paying jobs. We shouldn't squander all of that now.

A shutdown is unnecessary and would harm so many American families and businesses. But if both sides work in good faith, embrace bipartisanship as we have done in the Senate, and avoid all-or-nothing tactics, then there will be no shutdown, and that will be very good news for the American people because it is the American people who suffer most when there is a shutdown.

AI INSIGHT FORUMS

Mr. President, now on our AI insight forums, next week, the Senate will host a gathering unlike any we have seen before here in Washington when we kick off our inaugural AI Insight Forum on September 13—a gathering unlike any seen before to debate a topic unlike any other.

Our world is already changing in dramatic ways because of artificial intelligence, but we are likely just at the start. So to meet the challenge of this moment, our AI Insight Forums will convene some of America's leading voices in AI from different walks of life and many different viewpoints—executives and civil rights leaders, researchers, advocates, voices from labor and defense and business and the arts.

I am proud to say next week's AI Insight Forum—the first of a whole series we will host this fall—will be high-powered, diverse, but above all, balanced. That is precisely what Congress needs right now. Our committees have already done great bipartisan work on this topic, and ultimately they will be the ones tasked with drafting legislation. But these insight forums will supercharge the committee process by getting to the root of AI—where to start, what questions to ask, how to move forward. They will provide the nutrient agar to help committees do their work.

Let me stress something else. There is truly bipartisan interest to work on AI here in the Senate. I want to thank my colleagues, Senators ROUNDS, YOUNG, and HEINRICH, for working with me to organize these forums, as well as all my colleagues on both sides who recognize that we must move quickly on this issue.

Legislating AI is certainly not going to be easy. In fact, it will be one of the most difficult things we have ever un-

dertaken. But we cannot behave like ostriches sticking our heads in the sand when it comes to AI. Both parties must work together and treat AI with the same level of seriousness as national security, job creation, or civil liberties because very soon, if not already, AI will impact all these issues and more.

STUDENT DEBT RELIEF

Finally, on student debt relief, last month, President Biden announced his new SAVE plan for student loan borrowers, calling it the most affordable student loan repayment plan ever created, and not 1 day into this work period, Senate Republicans are already trying to torpedo this new lifeline for millions of American borrowers.

In the wake of the Supreme Court's horrendous decision earlier this year, President Biden has unrolled a student debt plan that already is helping millions. It is targeted relief for those who need it most—working-class families, middle-class families, borrowers of color. Remarkably, 4 million—4 million—borrowers have already enrolled. Those with undergraduate loans will pay no more than 5 percent of their income. Many borrowers with lower incomes will see their monthly student loan payments cut in half. Some will see it drop to zero, and many more will save up to \$1,000 a year on payments.

Think about what these savings will empower people to do—save for a down-payment on a home, start a family, create a business, contribute to the economy. Isn't that something we should all get behind? Well, apparently and unfortunately, Senate Republicans think not. On the very same day the administration announced that 4 million borrowers have enrolled in the SAVE plan, Senate Republicans announced their plan to eliminate this lifeline. It is becoming a trend—Democrats work hard to find new ways to provide relief for borrowers in need, and then Republicans, instead of working with us to find a fix to our broken student loan system, immediately shoot them down.

My colleagues on the other side like to talk about lowering costs, but then they turn around and oppose any attempt to give student loan borrowers the help they need, and for them, that is one of the biggest costs they have.

The Republicans use the same old tired excuse—that student loan relief only helps the few, the wealthy. That is utter nonsense. President Biden's SAVE plan will benefit the Americans who need it most—working and middle-class families, students of color, community college students, and borrowers working in public service.

Senate Democrats will strongly oppose this Republican measure should it come to the floor for a vote, and we will stand with student loan borrowers as we continue to push for as much relief as possible.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER
The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

UKRAINE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I would like to begin today by quoting a concise assessment of threats facing the United States and our interests.

A central continuity in history is the contest for power. . . . Three main sets of challengers—the revisionist powers of China and Russia, the rogue states of Iran and North Korea, and transnational threat organizations, particularly jihadist terrorist groups—are actively competing against the United States and our allies and partners. . . . China and Russia want to shape a world antithetical to U.S. values and interests. China seeks to displace the United States in the Indo-Pacific region, expand the reaches of its state-driven economic model, and reorder the region in its favor. Russia seeks to restore its great power status and establish spheres of influence near its borders.

That was the previous administration's national security strategy back in 2017. If anything, the threats it warned about at the end of its first year in office are even greater today.

Russia and China have both become more repressive at home and more aggressive abroad. Just before Russia's escalation of its war against Ukraine, our two most significant revisionist adversaries announced a "friendship without limits." In the past year and a half, Putin has aligned Russia even more openly with rogue regimes hostile to the United States, like Iran and North Korea. We must not ignore this contest for power.

Here is another passage from the 2017 strategy:

To prevail, we must integrate all elements of America's national power—political, economic, and military. Our allies and partners must also contribute [to] the capabilities, and demonstrate the will, to confront shared threats. Experience suggests that the willingness of rivals to abandon or forgo aggression depends on their perception of U.S. strength and the vitality of our alliances.

In my view, the lessons are clear.

Under the previous administration, we began to rebuild America's strength with defense budget increases. Under the current administration, that strength has been undermined by a disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan, desperate diplomacy towards Tehran, and a head-in-the-sand approach to North Korea.

Our enemies have been encouraged by meager defense budgets across NATO, including repeated budget requests by this administration that failed to even keep up with inflation.

Since Putin's escalation in Ukraine, President Biden has not been as decisive as many of us would have preferred, but this is no excuse for Congress to compound his administration's failures with failures of our own.

Now, with NATO unified and Europe awakened from its defense holiday and starting to spend real money on our collective defense, is certainly not the time to go wobbly. Now, with Ukraine bravely defending its sovereignty and

eroding Russia's capacity to threaten NATO, is not the time to ease up. Now, with Russia and China's "friendship without limits" and Putin's embrace of Iran and North Korea, is not the time for America to step back.

I will have more to say on the conflict in Ukraine, how the President hasn't been decisive enough, how our assistance is being used to good effect, and how additional appropriations are critical for our defense industrial base and competition with China, but for now, let's just be absolutely clear about a few things.

Helping Ukraine retake its territory means weakening—means weakening—one of America's biggest strategic adversaries without firing a shot and deterring another one in the process. It means investing directly in American strength, both military and economic. Our colleagues will have the opportunity to do all of these when we pass supplemental appropriations before the month is out.

NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD

Mr. President, on another matter, this week, Senate Democrats are attempting to tip the partisan scales and weaponize a regulatory authority that impacts millions of American workers and businesses.

The Senate's longstanding practice is to fill Democratic and Republican vacancies on important Boards and Commissions in tandem. But instead of pairing Gwynne Wilcox, President Biden's choice for a Democratic seat on the National Labor Relations Board, with a Republican counterpart, our colleagues would like to create an artificial liberal supermajority.

Washington Democrats' runaway inflation continues to send headwinds through the American economy. Credit card debt is at an alltime high.

In historic numbers, workers are concluding that Democrats' Big Labor allies are not in their corner. Fewer and fewer employees want to hand their hard-earned money over to union bosses. Last year, just 6 percent—6 percent—of the private sector workforce belonged to a union.

Just this year, one major union had to fire its president for misusing workers' dues, and officials from at least two other organizations are facing lengthy prison terms for embezzlement. All the while, committed partisans like Ms. Wilcox and liberals at the NLRB have made it their mission to run roughshod over American employers, stack the deck for Democrats' Big Labor allies, and keep corrupt and failing unions on life support with a tangled mess of regulations.

The last thing our country needs is an emboldened partisan majority at the helm of the NLRB; but, unfortunately, that is exactly what we will get if Democrats confirm Ms. Wilcox's nomination all by itself. So I would strongly urge my colleagues to join me in voting no later today.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

INFLATION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, we recently passed the first anniversary of the so-called Inflation Reduction Act, and despite the White House's showy anniversary celebration, this legislation is not aging well, and that is not exactly a surprise.

It was clear from the beginning that this bill had problems. It was called the Inflation Reduction Act. Yet before the bill had been signed into law, the nonpartisan Penn Wharton Budget Model was noting that the bill's impact on inflation was "statistically indistinguishable from zero." In other words, the Inflation Reduction Act would do nothing to reduce inflation. Even President Biden has essentially admitted that the bill's name was misleading.

It was also clear from the outset that the bill's claims of deficit reduction were extremely shaky, relying on accounting gimmicks and fuzzy math. Then, of course, there were the hundreds of billions of dollars in tax hikes on American businesses—rarely, I might add, a strategy that produces economic growth or benefits for working Americans. There was a massive funding infusion to the IRS focused not on improving taxpayer services, interestingly enough, but on increasing audits to help fund the Democrats' Green New Deal agenda—and more.

The best that could be said for the Inflation Reduction Act when it passed, which isn't much, was that it was less damaging than the staggering multitrillion-dollar spending spree Democrats had originally tried to implement, their so-called Build Back Better Act.

So it is not exactly a surprise that the Inflation Reduction Act isn't aging well, but it has become clear over the past year that the bill is even worse than it appeared originally. It was already an expensive piece of legislation, but the bill's costs have ballooned alarmingly.

The bill's Green New Deal provisions, which were originally projected to cost around \$400 billion, are now expected to cost somewhere in the range of \$660 billion to more than \$1 trillion. Let me repeat that. The bill's Green New Deal provisions, which were originally projected to cost around \$400 billion, are now expected to cost somewhere in the range of \$660 billion to more than \$1 trillion.

If Democrats' deficit reduction plans for this bill were shaky before, they are really, really shaky now. It is not hard to imagine that the steep increase in the bill's costs could mean that it ends up adding to the deficit instead of reducing it, and now it has emerged that

some of the biggest beneficiaries of the bill's green energy subsidies are not American companies but foreign companies. Not only that, but billion-dollar companies are expected to receive the lion's share of the bill's green energy tax subsidies—ironic for a President who claims he wants to make big companies "pay their fair share." It also turns out that the bill's provisions are actually driving up the cost of green energy projects and inflating the cost of project materials and labor. It is no wonder that President Biden recently said of the Inflation Reduction Act:

I wish I hadn't called it that.

And I haven't even mentioned other aspects of this legislation like the bill's price controls for prescription drugs, which will curtail medical innovation and the development of new medications. When the Biden administration originally proposed this policy, research from the University of Chicago projected that price controls on prescription drugs in Medicare would result in 135 fewer new drugs available to patients. Now, we are seeing those projections come to fruition as multiple drug companies have indicated that they are halting research into new treatments for cancer and other diseases as a result of the Inflation Reduction Act.

President Biden has been spending a lot of time recently talking about his economic philosophy, or lack thereof, which he has taken to calling Bidenomics. According to the White House, it is a philosophy based on "growing the economy from the middle out and the bottom up," while also spending responsibly. It is a nice-sounding vision, but it has little to do with the economic reality in the Biden administration.

The so-called American Rescue Plan Act—the massive Democrat spending spree that helped plunge our economy into a 2-year-plus inflation crisis—is proof enough that "spending responsibly" is not exactly the modus operandi for Democrats and President Biden. And as for "growing the economy from the middle out and the bottom up," well, if the President really thinks he is doing that, I have a nice piece of oceanfront property in South Dakota to sell him.

In fact, it is lower and middle-income Americans who have suffered the most in the Biden economy. Prices have increased by more than 16 percent since the President took office, by more than 20 percent for groceries, and inflation is costing the average household more than \$900 per month—\$900 per month. Show me a working family who finds that affordable.

Bidenomics, according to the President, is supposed to be about lifting up working families, but, in reality, working families in the Biden economy are struggling just to get by.

A grim line in a news story the other day noted:

With 60% of people in the United States living paycheck to paycheck, households are

turning to credit cards and retirement savings as lifelines.

With 60% of people in the United States living paycheck to paycheck, households are turning to credit cards and retirement savings as lifelines.

That is the reality of life under Bidenomics. But you only need to listen to one of the President's speeches to know that the President isn't overly troubled by economic reality. Lately, the President has been taking credit for the recent moderation in the inflation rate. Well, that takes a lot of gall. It is a little bit like punching a hole in a boat and then taking credit for rescuing the occupants from drowning—except, in this case, the President isn't even doing the rescuing.

The rate of inflation has slowed in spite of the White House, not because of it. In fact, if the President had his way, Congress would have passed a lot more reckless spending, and inflation would likely have gotten even worse.

As it is, Americans are having to deal not only with the ongoing effects of Democrats' self-inflicted inflation crisis but with the steep rate hikes the Federal Reserve has imposed to dig us out of the Democrats' inflation mess. These rate hikes have made borrowing more expensive, putting the dream of homeownership or necessities like replacing an aging car out of reach for many Americans.

And there may be more economic pain on the way if Democrats have their way. The Democratic leader recently promised—or perhaps I should say threatened—to pass an even bigger Green New Deal bill than the Inflation Reduction Act if Democrats regain full control of Washington in the next election. I don't even want to think about how much that kind of legislation could cost taxpayers or what damage that kind of legislation could do to our economy.

The President can talk all he wants about Bidenomics as building the economy from the bottom up and the middle out. To Americans who have lived under the Biden economy, Bidenomics means something very different. Perhaps the President should check in with the 58 percent of workers who say the economy has gotten worse over the past 2 years before he gives his next celebratory speech.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

MILITARY PROMOTIONS

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise this morning to discuss the promotions of our military leaders.

During the past month, I had the opportunity, as many of my colleagues

did, to visit our troops overseas and around the country. As always, I was moved by their selflessness and courage, and I was impressed by the knowledge and skill of our military leaders.

We ask much of our servicemembers and their families, and they deserve our gratitude and support. So although I was proud to spend time with our troops and their families this past month, I was appalled by the hardship and disrespect many of them are experiencing.

While Congress had a month of recess, hundreds of military officers were denied their promotions, hundreds of military families were played as political pawns, and our national security was undermined—all because one Senator disagrees with a legal healthcare policy.

For more than 6 months, the senior Senator from Alabama has blocked every senior military promotion—now totaling nearly 300 officers—in his bid to extort the Pentagon to overturn its reproductive healthcare policy.

The Senator claims that he is not harming military readiness, but he is dangerously wrong. The Secretary of Defense and every member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff have condemned his hold and described the damage he is inflicting on U.S. military leadership. Seven retired Secretaries of Defense—both Republican and Democratic—have condemned the Senator's actions and urged him to drop his hold.

Just yesterday, the Secretaries of the Army, Navy, and Air Force rebuked the Alabama Senator and the damage he is causing to our military readiness. As they wrote, the Senator “has prevented the Defense Department from placing almost 300 of our most experienced and battle-tested leaders into critical posts around the world.”

Many of our most important officers are being blocked. Indeed, if you look at the photo behind me, you will see what visitors to the Pentagon encounter. Instead of a consistent group of leaders, there are notable absences. And eventually, if the Senator persists, this whole board will be full of blank spaces. We will have no effective military leadership. Three of these faces, as you noticed, are blank because of the Senator's hold. For the first time in history, the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps are without top leaders.

He is blocking the confirmation of Gen. Eric Smith, the next Commandant of the Marine Corps, and GEN Randy George, the next Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army. Next week we will hold confirmation hearings for ADM Lisa Franchetti—the first female officer to be the Chief of Naval Operations—and Gen. David Allvin, the next Chief of Staff of the Air Force. The Senator has indicated he will block both of these nominations.

At the end of September, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Milley, is legally required to retire. The Joint Chiefs consists of eight officers: the Chairman, the Vice Chair-

man, and the Service Chiefs of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Space Force, and the Chief of the National Guard Bureau. If the Senator does not come to his senses before General Milley retires, fully half of the Joint Chiefs of Staff—our Nation's most vital military leaders—will be empty.

I am concerned that the Senator does not appreciate the gravity of this situation. These positions cannot simply be filled by other officers. They can only be temporarily covered by their Vice Chiefs, who must also continue to cover their own jobs, and at this level, those jobs are 24/7. Having two 24/7 jobs is quite demanding.

These are extraordinary, challenging times, and the jobs of our Vice Chiefs are just as important and challenging as those of Chief of Staff or the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The Senator is flirting with disaster to force these officers to fill two enormous jobs simultaneously.

Dozens of key commanders are also being held. The Senator is blocking the nomination of the commander of Cyber Command, who also serves as the Director of the National Security Agency. We all know how much cyber has become an integral and perhaps decisive part of our military strategy. And to leave that position blank is to leave ourselves vulnerable to the cyber operations of multiple adversaries and criminal gangs and to leave us in a void when it comes to improving and looking forward for years ahead with vision to what we must do to be not only competitive but to be dominant in the cyber space.

He is blocking the nomination of the next commander of the Navy's 7th Fleet, the largest of the Navy's forward-deployed fleets, which has responsibility for the Indo-Pacific. And, again, I hear so many times my colleagues from both sides of the aisle, but particularly from the other side, arguing about how we have to do more to protect Taiwan; we have to do more to resist Chinese incursions. One thing you don't want to do is have an ad hoc arrangement in command of this fleet, and that is exactly what we have.

He is blocking the nomination of the next commander of the Navy's 5th Fleet, responsible for our naval forces in the Indian Ocean, Persian Gulf, and Arabian Sea—critical, critical points.

And particularly, again, with my colleagues railing with good cause against the Iranians, if we do not have competent, consistent, confirmed leadership in that area of the world, then we are running the risk of giving an advantage to the Iranians and a disadvantage to the United States and its allies.

He is blocking the nomination of the next U.S. Military Representative to NATO, who is the senior uniformed representative to NATO, during a time when NATO continues to provide critical support to Ukraine in its war against Russia and as NATO itself is expanding to counter the threats posed by Russia.

When I traveled to Europe last month, I met with the leaders of the Security Assistance Group-Ukraine, or SAG-U, a newly established command dedicated to coordinating, tracking, and expediting security assistance to Ukraine. During my visit, I saw firsthand the tremendous job our forces are doing to train and equip the Ukrainians. However, I was disappointed to learn that the deputy commander of the SAG-U is being blocked from promotion by the Senator from Alabama. Not having a confirmed deputy for SAG-U during this highly complex and consequential situation is simply unacceptable. We are trying to assist the Ukrainians in defending their freedom but, more importantly, to send a signal throughout the entire world that autocracies will be defeated by democracies. And if that message is not successful, then you will see problems not just in Europe, which will become increasingly more dominated by Putin, but you will see it across the globe. In China, particularly, their lesson will be, if you just last long enough and let the divisions within the United States take hold, you will succeed.

Of the 852 general and flag officers in our military, we expect that 650 of them will need to pass through the Senate for promotion or reassignment by the end of this year. An additional 110 officers will be forced to perform two jobs simultaneously or will be assigned to a temporary position as a result of the Senator's holds. Thus, nearly 90 percent of our general and flag officers—our most senior military leaders—will be affected by the Senator from Alabama's holds.

He has achieved what America's enemies could only dream of: instability in the ranks of our military leadership.

The U.S. military is one of the finest meritocracies in the world. Our servicemembers swear an oath to the Constitution rather than a party or leader, and they can be confident that with hard work, skill, and character, they will be successful in their military careers.

Rising to the top of this meritocracy—to the rank of general or admiral—demands remarkable talent and leadership and a dedication to the military ethos of “service above self.” America's senior officers place faith in Congress to do its job to approve their promotions, based on merit, in a timely manner.

For the Senator from Alabama to deny these officers their hard-won, merit-based promotions for his own political gain is simply disgraceful.

After 6 months, it seems that neither reason nor any factor will sway him. Indeed, some of my colleagues, I believe, on the other side have offered him compromises and off-ramps, but he has rejected each one.

The Senate Armed Services Committee even considered legislation to repeal the Department's policy. That legislation was rejected by the committee. Right here on the floor, the

Senator had the opportunity to vote on an amendment to the NDAA that would have repealed the policy. He rejected that choice. Instead, he continues to change his demands.

At this point, one has to wonder if the Senator actually wants to achieve his demands or if he just wants to stay in the spotlight. Indeed, as he recently admitted to a rightwing podcaster, “I don't care if they promote anybody to be honest with you.”

In the same way that military officers are expected to hold each other to account, my Republican colleagues must challenge their colleague to do what they know is right. They must say publicly what they admit in private: His behavior is damaging to our national security.

Many Senate Republicans know what it means to serve in uniform. I have traveled to combat zones around the world with them, and I know they understand what our servicemembers need from Congress to achieve the missions we ask of them. It is now time for Republicans to do what is right and necessary and end this blockade.

Specifically, the Senator claims that the Pentagon's reproductive healthcare policy is illegal. He is wrong.

The Department of Justice examined the Pentagon's policy and found it to be entirely legal, consistent with 40 years of precedent through both Republican and Democratic administrations. No lawsuits have been filed against the Department because no lawyer seriously believes the policy is illegal.

Further, the Secretary of Defense and every uniformed, apolitical member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff have endorsed the policy as appropriate and necessary, particularly in regard to readiness. Every institution in this country that is responsible for overseeing the Pentagon has reviewed its policy, upheld its legality, and disproved arguments to the contrary.

Finally, and most disturbing, the Senator claims that he is not harming military families. He knows that isn't true. Hundreds of military families, children, and spouses cannot move to new duty stations, enroll in new schools, or seek new jobs. Hundreds of officers are facing genuine financial stress because they have had to relocate their families or unexpectedly maintain two residences.

The Armed Services Committee has heard from many of these families. Like most other American families, August is the month when many military families move, begin new schools, and join sports teams. Regrettably, because of the Senator's hold, we know of many military students who have been disenrolled from their current schools in anticipation of a move but now cannot be enrolled in new schools. We know of many children who have already missed out on the fall sports season. We know of families who paid out of pocket to move duty stations in hopes of reuniting with their service-member whenever the Senator sees rea-

son. We know families who are losing literally thousands of dollars a month because the officers are assuming the duties of higher positions without holding higher ranks.

Every single day the Senator continues his hold, military families suffer. He is punishing those who least deserve it. Their sacrifice and service to the Nation should be rewarded, not punished.

As the retired Secretaries of Defense wrote—and again, these are seven Secretaries of Defense from Republican and Democratic administrations—“We can think of few things as irresponsible and uncaring as harming the families of those who serve our Nation in uniform.”

The Senator from Alabama knows that he has lost his argument on the merits. He knows the policy he disagrees with is legal. He knows he has legislative tools available to try and change the policy, but he also knows he likely does not have the votes to prevail. And so he has targeted the men and women of the military itself and their families. He knows the damage he is causing to our military families and our national security. It appears he simply does not care.

The question for the Senate—really, for my colleagues on the other side of the aisle—is: How long will a single Senator be allowed to cause such damage to our military? When will my colleagues on the other side of the aisle speak out and act? Republicans must call out their colleague and end this shameful charade.

Mr. President, if this continues, most of these pictures will be blank. General Brown might remain as Chief of Staff of the Air Force, but he will not be Chairman. General Milley will depart. We can't tolerate this. Again, we all have to come together for the men and women who serve and their families.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

REMEMBERING KEITH STOKES

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Keith Stokes, a dear friend, a beloved Arkansan, and a trusted aide.

On August 18, Keith tragically passed away from a heart attack at age 59. He is in our prayers, along with the entire Stokes family, especially his wife Julie and his children Chip and Abbey.

Keith wasn't only a colleague, though; he was a close family friend. The Cottons lived just up the road from the Stokeses in Yell County. Julie and my mother worked together in middle school for years. Keith was a pillar of the Dardanelle community, from the

school board to the hospital board, to mentoring young athletes, to cooking meals for teachers, charities, and even the Sand Lizard football press box, my father included.

A year into my term in the Senate, I heard that Keith was looking for a new job. I jumped at the opportunity to hire him as an agricultural adviser. I knew how much Keith cared about Arkansas farmers, foresters, and ranchers. It was one of the best decisions I made as a Senator.

Keith understood the Arkansans who lace up their boots in the morning and work with their hands, who aren't afraid to get dirty to get the job done—the men and women who shower at the end of the day, not at the beginning of it. He understood them because he was one of them. He lived on a farm. He worked in the pork and forestry industry for years, and he cultivated an encyclopedic knowledge of everything, from the crops in the fields to the beetles in the forest, to animals in the hunting season. He knew everything about Arkansas, from the soil to the people.

Keith could go into a town and within hours learn what was worrying the farmers at the feed store and exciting the cattlemen at the sale barn.

He had a way of making everyone he met feel important. Even if he was just getting a quick breakfast in a diner, he made sure to say something nice to the waitress and make the person behind the counter laugh. Keith knew kindness cost nothing, but its value is priceless.

He was often the smartest man in the room, even if he didn't admit it and usually tried to conceal it. He never bragged or drew attention from others. He was always eager to listen and give credit.

Ronald Reagan had a famous small plaque on his desk in the Oval Office that read:

There is no limit to what a man can do or where he can go if he doesn't mind who gets the credit.

Few live by that creed. Keith embodied it.

Keith was a trusted adviser and a steady hand during difficult times. At 59, he was a bit older than most congressional aides, but his extra years of experience were on full display when it was needed most. He navigated the high-stress situations with poise, humor, and calmness.

When a tornado devastated the town of Wynne this spring, Keith was among the first people on the ground. He remained in constant communication with the mayor and other State and local officials. Anytime someone had a question about whom to contact or what was going on or what the locals needed, we knew that we could just ask Keith.

He was great at his job. But that wasn't the most important thing about Keith or the people who worked with him. To work with Keith was like being adopted into the Stokes family.

Some aides got a second father while others got a fifth grandparent.

Keith's coworkers would often get a text message in the morning from Keith just checking in, saying hello. If you didn't reply, you could be sure that he would follow up quickly, and the same thing if you were traveling overseas.

Each year, my aides crossed the State to have a Christmas party, and each year Keith would insist on barbecuing for the whole office, and each year he would cook too much and end up feeding much of the rest of the building too.

During COVID, one of Keith's coworkers had to cancel a planned wedding shower. As he drove across the State, he stopped for what he thought was an impromptu visit, only to find Keith organized a surprise wedding shower.

And for every parent in our office, Keith would get their kids' sizes and begin a one-man recruitment campaign to make them fans of the University of Arkansas. Many Razorback onesies, hats, and shirts made their way through our offices.

When one coworker lost her father and mentioned that she would miss talking to him on the phone each day, Keith began to call her every day, even on weekends. He only missed one call in 3 years. And when she was stuck in an ice storm without water and couldn't drive her car, Keith drove over 2 hours at night in the bad weather to deliver water and a smile.

When another coworker tragically lost a child, Keith was there in that time of loss to provide comfort and prayers.

When asked to describe Keith, his coworkers used words like "humble," "honest," "loving," "caring," "professional," "God-fearing," and "gentleman." One put it well when she said:

They don't make them like Keith anymore.

There is a reason that, when Senate staffers came to Arkansas to visit, they fought over who would get to ride in the car with Keith.

While his coworkers knew Keith as a beloved friend and colleague, most Arkansans knew Keith as the guy who raised Tusk. For those who don't know—and you all should; let's be honest—Tusk is the live mascot of the University of Arkansas. Other universities have easy, safe, cuddly mascots to raise, like the Oregon Beavers or the Georgia Bulldogs or the Minnesota Gophers—not Arkansas and not Keith. We have a razorback, a 300-pound wild boar with giant tusks and a well-deserved reputation for a bad attitude.

For that reason, the University of Arkansas had long settled for a, frankly, embarrassing little pig as a live mascot, which traveled to games on a small trailer with little fanfare. But about 25 years ago, some former University of Arkansas football players decided to get a real live razorback mascot. They turned to Keith, who had ex-

perience working hogs. They also asked for his help designing a large and impressive trailer so the new mascot could travel in style.

Keith took on the challenge with his usual enthusiasm, determination, and positive attitude. Ever since, Keith and his family have raised Tusk I through Tusk V, and I doubt any animals have ever been better treated or trained.

Keith devoted thousands of hours of his time to domesticate the Tusks so they could travel and safely interact with fans. Keith would have Tusk follow him around everywhere on the farm and even raised a baby razorback in his home to acclimate it to human company.

Keith was such a good handler that young fans could safely feed grapes to these giant boars. Risk takers could put an apple in their teeth, and Tusk would gently take it from their mouth—at risk, though, of getting some slobber on them.

Keith and Tusk became celebrities in our State. Arkansans from every walk of life enjoyed seeing Keith's truck and giant trailer with the Razorback logo and Tusk riding in the back.

The Stokes family saw it as their responsibility to the State to take care of Arkansas' prized mascot. Keith selflessly gave his time to Razorback fans, patiently answering their questions about Tusk, letting them play with Tusk, even handing out Tusk autographs.

If Keith heard you hadn't attended a Razorback game, well, he got you tickets. If he heard your kid had outgrown the last Razorback shirt he sent, a replacement would soon be on the way.

He showed the same kindness and generosity to strangers. When he heard that a young fan with Down syndrome was also a fan of Tusk, Keith went out of his way to be sure that he got to pet and feed Tusk.

One former Arkansas football player said "Keith Stokes was Tusk" and that Keith gave as much to the Razorbacks as any player or coach.

But as much as Keith loved his friends, our State, and the Arkansas Razorbacks, he loved his family most of all. Keith and Julie were inseparable and brightened each other's lives for 39 wonderful years of marriage. He was always so proud of his son Chip and his daughter Abbey. He joyfully welcomed his daughter-in-law Lori and son-in-law Tanner to the Stokes family. He walked Abbey down the aisle just this summer. And, of course, he adored his grandchildren Colt and Caroline, who called him George. He loved them all dearly, and they all loved him.

Keith was a truly extraordinary man. It is hard to believe that he had time to do all the things he did. Few people who lead full and long lives do as much good and spread as much joy as Keith Stokes did in his too-short 59 years with us.

I do have to say that Keith wasn't always right. One of his common jokes was that only six people would show up

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Gwynne A. Wilcox, of New York, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board for the term of five years expiring August 27, 2028 (Reappointment), shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) is necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 49, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 215 Ex.]

YEAS—50

Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Bennet	Hirono	Sanders
Blumenthal	Kaine	Schatz
Brown	Kelly	Schumer
Cantwell	King	Shaheen
Cardin	Klobuchar	Sinema
Carper	Luján	Smith
Casey	Markey	Stabenow
Coons	Menendez	Tester
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Murkowski	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Feinstein	Murray	Warren
Fetterman	Ossoff	Warren
Gillibrand	Padilla	Welch
Hassan	Peters	Whitehouse
Heinrich	Reed	Wyden

NAYS—49

Barrasso	Graham	Ricketts
Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Boozman	Hagerty	Romney
Braun	Hawley	Rounds
Britt	Hoeven	Rubio
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Capito	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Collins	Lankford	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lee	Thune
Cotton	Lummis	Tillis
Cramer	Manchin	Tuberville
Crapo	Marshall	
Cruz	McConnell	Vance
Daines	Moran	Wicker
Ernst	Mullin	Young
Fischer	Paul	

NOT VOTING—1

Booker

(Ms. CORTEZ MASTO assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. ROSEN). The motion is agreed to. On this vote, the yeas are 50, and the nays are 49.

The motion was agreed to.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 2:02 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Ms. ROSEN).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Gwynne A.

Wilcox, of New York, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board for the term of five years expiring August 27, 2028. (Reappointment)

VOTE ON WILCOX NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Wilcox nomination?

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) is necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50,

nays 49, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 216 Ex.]

YEAS—51

Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Bennet	Hirono	Sanders
Blumenthal	Kaine	Schatz
Brown	Kelly	Schumer
Cantwell	King	Shaheen
Cardin	Klobuchar	Sinema
Carper	Luján	Smith
Casey	Markey	Stabenow
Coons	Menendez	Tester
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Murkowski	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Feinstein	Murray	Warren
Fetterman	Ossoff	Warren
Gillibrand	Padilla	Welch
Hassan	Peters	Whitehouse
Heinrich	Reed	Wyden

NAYS—48

Duckworth	Murkowski	Van Hollen
Durbin	Murphy	Warner
Feinstein	Murray	Warnock
Fetterman	Ossoff	Warren
Gillibrand	Padilla	Welch
Hassan	Peters	Whitehouse
Heinrich	Reed	Wyden

NOT VOTING—1

Booker

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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 Executive Calendar No. 255, Lisa DeNell Cook, of Michigan, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for a term of fourteen years from February 1, 2024. (Reappointment)

Charles E. Schumer, Sherrod Brown, Margaret Wood Hassan, Mark Kelly, Jack Reed, John W. Hickenlooper, Elizabeth Warren, Tammy Duckworth, Jeff Merkley, Richard J. Durbin, Jeanne Shaheen, Benjamin L. Cardin, Mazie K. Hirono, Tina Smith, Edward J. Markey, Tim Kaine, Tammy Baldwin.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Lisa DeNell Cook, of Michigan, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for a term of fourteen years from February 1, 2024. (Reappointment), shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) is necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 217 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Baldwin	Hirono	Rounds
Bennet	Kaine	Sanders
Blumenthal	Kelly	Schatz
Brown	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cardin	Luján	Sinema
Carper	Manchin	Smith
Casey	Markey	Stabenow
Coons	Menendez	Tester
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Murkowski	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Feinstein	Murray	Warren
Fetterman	Ossoff	Welch
Gillibrand	Padilla	Whitehouse
Hassan	Peters	
Heinrich	Reed	Wyden
Cornyn	Roman	

NAYS—47

Cotton	Fischer	Paul
Crapo	Blackburn	Ricketts
Cruz	Graham	Risch
Daines	Boozman	Romney
Ernst	Hagerty	Rounds
Fischer	Braun	Rubio
Collins	Manchin	Schmitt
Cornyn	Tillis	Scott (FL)
Cotton	Lummis	Scott (SC)
Cramer	Marshall	Tuberville
Crapo	Vance	
Cruz	McConnell	Wicker
Daines	Moran	Young
Ernst		

NOT VOTING—1

Booker

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MURPHY). On this vote, the yeas are 52; the nays are 47. The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Lisa DeNell Cook, of Michigan, to be a

Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for a term of 14 years from February 1, 2024. (Re-appointment)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

AUGUST STATE WORK PERIOD

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, just yesterday, all of us returned to the U.S. Capitol following a 5-week stretch where we exercised the opportunity to meet with our constituents in our homes, visit updated projects and attend events in our respective States; and some of us traveled across the country and around the world to expand our understanding and gather lessons so that we can apply that to our work here in Washington.

I was able to accomplish this at home by attending my State's annual economic development summit, where I met business leaders from all across West Virginia on a variety of issues from a variety of fields.

Through meetings with individuals in specific industries, I was able to share the landscape that I currently see in Washington and hear about the specific policies that are impacting West Virginia most directly. I was also able to attend a really great event, a ribbon-cutting ceremony for a brandnew high school in Kanawha County. This school, Herbert Hoover High School, had been decimated—the former school—in 2016 by floods, and we all gathered there and celebrated something that was really awful into something very joyful. And our own home State Brad Paisley came and gave us a concert to celebrate with.

During the ceremony, the West Virginia spirit was really palpable as the community worked hard to remedy the scars from that horrible flood. It was a special occasion, and I think it proved to me and to all of us the resiliency that defines the people of my State, and I would say Connecticut as well.

The August work period also provided the opportunity for me to lead an all-women Congressional delegation of bipartisan, bicameral members to the Indo-Pacific region. The trip kind of had a dual mission. The first was to discuss national and global security and energy in the Indo-Pacific region. The second was to explore issues related to the empowerment of women and girls—the status of women in sports—and building on current momentum in that space.

To do both in a week is certainly a tall order, as the two are seemingly disconnected. We went hoping, originally, obviously, to see the U.S. women's soccer team play in the World Cup. We didn't quite get to see them, but we did see all of the excitement around the Women's World Cup, and we did get to see a great match between Japan and Sweden.

But the experience we gained proved that these topics are really more related than what meets the eye. The center focus that binds these two missions that we had together are our U.S.

values. These values have tangible power, and our ability to lead by our values displays the influence that our Nation has in both of these areas.

When Congress passed title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, sex discrimination and education programs and activities offered by any entity that receives Federal financial assistance was barred. It was monumental legislation for women and women's sports.

This forever changed the way that women participate in our society and has paved the way for life-changing scholarships, a dramatic change in women's participation in our economy, and the consequent rise of U.S. women's sports.

The ascension of women's involvement in sports has created a ripple effect that is not just felt in our country—we certainly saw it halfway around the world—but around the entire globe. American coaches and former players have traveled globally to inspire and encourage the next generation of female athletes. Businesses have funded and broadcast women's games, as they didn't in the past. And in America, girls' participation in high school sports continues to rise, with 3.3 million girls competing in high school sports in the 2022 school year.

The truth is, the growth of women's sports, both domestically and internationally, is a result of that increased role that women now embody. Communities and countries around the world, including our own country, are more likely to be peaceful and successful when women fully participate in society.

The world has begun to realize that this kind of support is simply the right thing to do and is now embracing the values that the United States has led with.

Our codel saw this directly through our travel in Australia and New Zealand and our meeting with leaders from the Women's World Cup. We met with the U.S. leaders, and we met with the international leaders. And while the United States didn't take home that title this year, our presence alone continues to have an impact in every tournament where the Stars and Stripes are represented.

Now, the question remains, how is women's empowerment a metaphor—sports I am talking about too—a metaphor for global security? Well, here in Congress we have supported Ukraine not just in defense of democratic values and territorial sovereignty, but also because it advances U.S. security interests and deterrence.

The United States has led the push to bring together allies from Europe and across the world to not just understand the threat created by Putin, but to respond to it with strength.

We have made that progress by leading with our values and with our interests to stop aggression in its tracks, whether it is in Europe or elsewhere.

The United States has shown the way through significant bipartisan military

support. Our global leadership against aggression and autocratic land grabs has built a formidable opposition that Russia simply did not anticipate and that China can see clearly every single day.

For example, our codel witnessed joint exercises in the Australian seas that were the first of their kind between India, New Zealand, Australia, and the United States. Japan has, for the first time, committed more than 2 percent of its gross domestic product to defense. Sweden and Finland have just recently joined NATO. The EU is buying more crude oil from the United States as they divest from Russia. And new economic partnerships are cropping up globally as a result of our U.S. leadership.

The tie between women's empowerment and global security is an American values-based leadership. The members of our bipartisan and bicameral codel—we saw that firsthand. As our leadership and values inspire nations across the globe, we must respect, encourage, and celebrate those that exemplify it.

You know, you don't have power if you don't use it; but by working together, our strong leadership here in the United States can continue to change the world.

I really cherished the opportunity to gain experience, knowledge, and perspective from our leaders at the headquarters of the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, as well as leaders throughout the region, when it comes to domestic and international security matters and energy issues in the Indo-Pacific.

I am also thankful for the company and counsel from the other members of our codel: Senators CINDY HYDE-SMITH from Mississippi, Representative CRISSY HOULAHAN from Pennsylvania, Representative KATHY CASTOR from Florida, and Representative NICOLE MALLIOTAKIS from New York, as well as their steadfast desire that we all share together to engage on these topics and issues.

There is no doubt that Congress has an extensive list of challenges facing us in the coming month, but I am really confident in our ability to meet the needs of our country—both domestically and abroad—and to exemplify that value-based leadership that was evident throughout our trip.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

AUGUST STATE WORK PERIOD

Mr. RICKETTS. Mr. President, boys and men should not be allowed to participate in girls' and women's sports. This used to be common sense, but today, apparently, it is controversial.

When I was back home in Nebraska for the August recess, two events highlighted this. The first was Volleyball Day.

Volleyball Day in Nebraska saw four of our women's volleyball teams showcase their talent. Over 92,000 fans crammed into Lincoln's Memorial Stadium to watch the event. It was a

world-record event, the most attendees for a women's sports event in history, and it was a great day for title IX to demonstrate how much success that has had over the last 50 years. In fact, Omaha World-Herald columnist Tom Shatel wrote, "Volleyball Day in Nebraska may be the biggest Title IX statement of all time." Certainly, it demonstrated the progress we have seen, creating equal opportunity for our daughters, granddaughters, and sisters. And it is not just about athletics; it is about scholarships, about educational opportunities and, of course, those career opportunities as well.

But sadly, today, title IX is under attack from bad policies that are undermining what has been so successful for half a century.

That brings me to my second event. I, along with 1,100 other Nebraskans, had the honor to listen to Riley Gaines. Riley was a women's swimmer for the University of Kentucky, and she described her experience competing against Lia Thomas.

Lia Thomas was William Thomas, a man who competed against other men for 3 years of his college career, and at that time, he was mediocre at best. He came in ranked 462nd in the Nation. But after a year of testosterone suppression therapy, under NCAA rules, Thomas was allowed to compete against women, and he went from being ranked 462nd nationally to being top-ranked. Riley described how unfair this experience was.

We also heard from Dr. Greg Brown. He is a physiologist and professor at the University of Nebraska at Kearney. He described the differences between men and women. It is crazy that we need to have somebody talk about the differences between men and women. He described that men produce 10 to 20 times more testosterone than women on average and that this testosterone suppression therapy that I mentioned—well, it reduces it, but according to NCAA rules and IOC rules, you only have to get below the "normal" range, and that level is still 5 to 10 times more testosterone than what women produce.

Here is the kicker: There is no research—none whatsoever—that shows that by reducing testosterone, you eliminate the male sex-based athletic advantages. None. It is bogus. It is arbitrary. That is part of the unfairness.

When we support policies that undermine title IX, we are potentially robbing women of the opportunity to be able to have those sports careers and to have the opportunity to get those scholarships.

As school starts back up again, let's celebrate the differences between boys and girls, between men and women. Let's not support policies that are driving them off the court or the playing field or out of the pool.

I am a proud cosponsor of the Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act. It would require title IX to be interpreted based upon your biological sex.

This will preserve title IX and those opportunities for young women all across this country. Let's make sure bad policy is not undermining title IX.

I urge all my Senate colleagues to support this commonsense act. It is pro-science, it is pro-women, and it is pro-common sense. We need to push back against these bad policies that are undermining the important title IX work over the last 50 years. That way, we can ensure that our daughters, granddaughters, and sisters have that equal opportunity that they have had over all these years.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. SCHMITT. Mr. President, I am here today to talk about my time back in the State in August. It was a great recess in the "Show-Me" State. To paraphrase one of our most famous Missourians, Mark Twain, when Congress is in session, no American is safe. So Americans and Missourians could feel safe that their pocketbooks were not at risk for at least a month.

But I was able to get all around the State, the four corners of our State, and tour a couple of really critical military installations we have. Of course, we have Fort Leonard Wood. I was there a couple months ago. It is a critical Army installation. We have Whiteman Air Force Base. Whiteman, of course, is home to the B-2 stealth bomber. I spent some time there visiting with leadership, talking to them, and also getting up to the Rosecrans Air National Guard Base up in the northwest corner of the State, which plays a critical role not just in natural disasters but in wartime. They are in desperate need of the new C-130J aircraft. They give training on all the aircraft, including aircraft they don't have there. So we are certainly advocating for that in addition to some of the big wins we got in the NDAA.

It also reaffirmed—one of my great passions right now is to root out this divisive DEI training we have in our military. The U.S. military has been one of the great meritocracies in the history of the planet. People can rise from the lowest rung of the socio-economic ladder to ticker-tape parades. There is a reason why there are uniforms, and there is a reason why there are haircuts, but what we don't need to be doing is separating people by race. This divisive ideology is hurting recruitment, and we have real recruitment challenges when we should be focusing on readiness and the threat China poses.

So we were able to get around and focus on some of those issues as well, along with getting around and talking to some of the business leaders. We talked to job producers in Springfield and in Kansas City about how they are dealing with some of the challenges they have in the labor market and also making sure we have great jobs in the "Show-Me" State and a ready workforce.

I had the opportunity also, on a lighter note, to have some ribs and burnt ends at the world-famous Arthur Bryant's in Kansas City. And to all those who may think they have better barbecue in Texas or Tennessee or the Carolinas, I got news for you: In Missouri, we have the best barbecue, no doubt. Arthur Bryant's—if you have a Mount Rushmore of barbecue, Arthur Bryant's is the Mount Rushmore. I got to the Sikeston Rodeo, one of the bigger rodeos in the country. I got to the State fair in Sedalia.

One thing that was abundantly clear with everybody I talked to is that Bidenomics isn't working. Regardless of how this administration tries to sell this, Missourians understand what the truth is, and that is that everything has gotten way more expensive. The spending spree has made it tougher for American families to make ends meet—working families—and that is continually reflected in some of the more recent economic reports. For example, rapidly rising inflation has hollowed out savings. Skyrocketing interest rates have made it more difficult for people to afford things.

Since Biden took office, overall prices have increased 16.8 percent. Grocery prices have risen over 20 percent. Electricity prices have risen over 24 percent. Gasoline prices have risen a staggering 54 percent. Auto loan rates are at a 17-year high. Credit card interest rates are at alltime highs. Thirty-year interest rates are at a 23-year high.

Bidenomics isn't working, but it is making working families put in more overtime.

Lastly, I had a chance to catch up with some of the great farmers and ranchers and agricultural leaders at the Missouri State Fair. It is a great State fair. I spent time at the Cattlemen's Beef House, the Pork Place, and the dairy center. I saw the butter cow. I met with folks from the Missouri Soybean Association, Missouri Corn, and the Farm Bureau. Everybody was there—the co-ops.

The farmers and ranchers in our State are essential to the Nation's food supply, and times have been immensely tough for them as they deal with rising inflation that has raised the prices on everything from diesel to basic operating costs. Most of this is due to overreach from regulators who have never stepped foot on a farm. These officials are implementing harsher regulations on farmers and doing so in the name of climate alarmism, telling these farmers, who know how to care for their land—they are great stewards of the land—things they have no business telling them.

By the way, Congress never voted on any of this stuff. It is some Deputy Secretary in some Department you have never heard of.

The best thing the government can do is get out of their way and let these folks provide the food our country needs.

It is always great to get around the State. It is one of the great joys of being in office—just visiting with people, real people, listening to what their concerns are. I had a chance to do that. I promised them I would always come and fight for them. Visiting for that month in particular—as we always do but certainly that amount, that block of time—only inspires me to fight even harder.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

BIDENOMICS

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, 22 years ago, Apple released the first desktop version of its macOS operating system. The first Harry Potter movie and the first Lord of the Rings movie both came out. Alicia Keys and Destiny's Child were topping the charts, and Bill Clinton left office.

Twenty-two years ago was also the last time that mortgage rates were as high as they are now. Yes, they are higher now than they were during the 2008 financial crisis. Mortgage rates were the lowest in American history in January of 2021. Then Joe Biden became President. Over the past 2½ years, mortgage rates have almost tripled. In the meantime, inflation rates are still climbing higher.

This past month, as I traveled Nebraska during the Senate's State work period, I visited with dozens and dozens of middle-class Americans. It is truly the best part of my job—meeting with small business owners, ag producers, schoolteachers, nurses, students, and employees all across my home State, but this year it was so frustrating to hear about the economic struggles that Nebraskans are facing.

Middle-class Nebraskans are scraping by financially, and what is ironic is that they are doing it on the watch of a President who calls himself "Middle-Class Joe." President Biden's line recently has been, "When the middle class does well, everyone does well."

You know, I agree with him. I would just add that, right now, everyone is not doing well. That is especially true for the middle class, and it is because this administration's ill-advised policies keep pumping air into an economy that is already bloated. The so-called Bidenomics agenda is poison, described as a "cure-all" for middle-class Americans. That is not an exaggeration. Last month, I saw Bidenomics up close in Nebraska so let me tell you how it is going.

One Saturday this August, I visited a small town in Western Nebraska. That afternoon, a small business owner told me that his electricity bills had shot up over the past couple of years both for his home and for his business. Electricity, groceries, gas—you name it—these essentials are tough to afford, if not impossible to afford, for the average middle-class American. That is Bidenomics in Nebraska.

Business owners and families alike shared that they can hardly pay in-

creasingly high rents and mortgage rates. In fact, all year, an increasing number of middle-class Nebraskans has resorted to asking the Salvation Army for money so that they can pay their utilities. That is Bidenomics in Nebraska.

As I traveled the State, the issue of childcare affordability came up over and over and over again. Childcare costs have skyrocketed, and dads and moms are at a loss as to how to afford these rising rates. That is Bidenomics in Nebraska.

The Bidenomics agenda has made many promises, but I haven't seen the administration keep a single one. Remember the President's American Families Plan? Almost 2½ years ago, the President promised that low- and middle-income families would spend no more than 7 percent of their income on childcare.

In leading up to the fourth year of Biden's Presidency, here is what family life looks like: Nebraska's families are already struggling due to inflation. They have seen price increases on bills, groceries, and almost everything else. In many cases, both parents need to work so they can make enough so that they can pay off debt or afford those high mortgage rates. When childcare costs are through the roof, it is impossible for both parents to work. According to the Economic Policy Institute, childcare costs rose 24.4 percent more per year than the average rent and 53.5 percent more than in-state college tuition—53.5 percent per year. That is Bidenomics in Nebraska.

From the American Families Plan to the Inflation Reduction Act, this administration's efforts to grow our economy from the middle class out have totally failed.

My message to the President is this: When the middle class does badly, everyone does badly.

We need to undo the harmful, excessive regulations that are making middle-class Americans suffer. We need to put the priority on reducing costs for everyday Americans. We need to unleash American energy to lower our gas prices. We need to support an economic plan that will lower inflation, and we need to pull the plug on wasteful policies that don't help anyone.

So stop with the slogans, Mr. President, and spend more time listening to real Americans' concerns.

Bidenomics is not working in Nebraska, and let's be honest, it is not working in the other 49 States either. This administration needs to hear this. It is 2½ years past time to make a change.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

ENERGY

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the high cost of energy and the high cost of gasoline prices that are the direct result of the Biden administration's harmful energy policies.

As Americans hit the road over the recent holiday weekend, many noticed something that has become all too familiar under the Biden administration, and that is continued high prices at the gas pump. The average cost of a gallon of gas was about \$2.40 on January 20, 2021. Today, consumers are paying at the pump about \$3.80 a gallon for gasoline, on average. That is 60 percent higher than when President Biden took office. That hits every one of them right in the pocketbook, particularly those who can afford it the least.

Now, gasoline is like any commodity, wherein prices are high because demand exceeds supply. President Biden's energy policy is the problem. There can be no doubt about that. The main problem is that President Biden's Green New Deal policies are stifling domestic energy production—that is the main problem—but President Biden has literally taken action to put America behind the barrel. It is not just that he is restricting domestic supply; he has also increased our dependence on foreign oil, and our adversaries know it. Let me tell you what I mean.

Since the Biden administration started, it has released 260 million barrels from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, bringing our Reserve to its lowest level since 1983. Approximately, 350 million barrels remain in the Reserve—350 million barrels. That is down from the all-time high of more than 700 million barrels. So our Reserve, our Strategic Petroleum Reserve, is at less than half of its capacity.

You might have noticed that on Tuesday, September 5, Saudi Arabia and Russia extended a 1.3-million-barrel-a-day cut through December. So they extended a reduction through the end of the year. Saudi Arabia is voluntarily cutting 1 million barrels per day of production while Russia is reducing 300,000 barrels per day of exports. Following that announcement, the price of Brent crude rose to over \$90 a barrel, and the price of WTI—West Texas Intermediate—crude rose to almost \$87 a barrel. Today, they are up again.

Basically, President Biden has weakened our ability to respond just when we need to. As I say, our adversaries are well aware of it. That is why they are reducing supply—to push the price up.

The real problem is that he has put handcuffs on our producers and is restricting supply here at home, which is the real solution. To add insult to injury, he has also depleted the Reserve because he was trying to keep prices down earlier. Our adversaries know it, and now they are taking advantage of it. Unbelievable. Unbelievable.

Every successful economy depends on having access to low-cost, dependable sources of energy, and our vast supply of Federal oil, gas, and coal resources is one of our Nation's most strategic assets. Yet, instead of harnessing our abundant, taxpayer-owned energy reserves, the Biden administration is taking every imaginable step to curtail new production.

The Interior Department is failing to hold quarterly lease sales onshore and is reducing available acreage both onshore and offshore for leasing. Just today, it was reported that the Biden administration is canceling a congressionally mandated lease sale in Alaska that was awarded in 2021.

Alongside restricting lands available for leasing, the Biden administration is imposing new costs and burdens on Federal energy leases. Maximizing access to new leasing today is directly tied to growing production and supply not only for today but for the long term. Otherwise, production will continue to fail to meet demand, and that means higher prices for American consumers.

Also, our Nation's refining capacity has fallen from 19 million barrels per day in 2020 to about 18 million barrels a day now. We have not built a new refinery in the United States since 1977, and the Biden administration's regulatory onslaught and rush to electric vehicle mandates only drives those gas prices higher.

Instead of empowering more U.S. energy production and encouraging much needed new investment, President Biden drained our strategic petroleum reserve to its lowest level in 40 years, while begging countries like Venezuela and Saudi Arabia to produce more. And as I just said, Russia and OPEC know it, and they are restricting their production to push oil prices higher.

It makes no sense to increase our reliance on Russia and OPEC for energy. These are foreign producers that have little or no regard for environmental stewardship. So think about it. The Biden administration is doing this in the name of environmental stewardship? So they want oil produced in a way that is not environmentally friendly rather than the best environmental standards, which we have here in the United States?

Again, it defies common sense, and it hurts every American consumer. The United States is a global energy powerhouse, and it is time we act like one. Simply put, increasing U.S. energy production and refining capacity is the ultimate solution to bringing more supply, thereby lowering prices at the pump and providing hard-working families and businesses the relief from high energy prices they need and they deserve. That is why President Biden needs to take the handcuffs off and unleash the full potential of America's vast energy reserves.

With that, Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

FENTANYL

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I recall the first time I sat down with the late great Senator Bob Dole after I had been elected to Congress. And the purpose of that meeting was to get to know the Senator, but I had a big issue I was getting ready to vote on, and I wanted to get his advice. As I pre-

sented to him the legislation I was going to be voting on the next day, he stopped and looked at me, and he said: Roger, what you need to do is just go back to Kansas and listen to the people of Kansas. They will tell you the answer to that question.

So this August was no different than any break I have had. Like many of my colleagues, we went back to our home States. I went from Wathena to Wichita, from small towns to big cities, from the inner city to rural America; and we listened. We sat down with unions, small businesses, big businesses, folks from financial services, and farmers and ranchers. We sat down with leaders from public schools and private schools.

We had roundtables. We did multiple roundtables on childcare, homelessness. We sat down with multiple minority business owners, and we talked about the challenges they had, specifically about access to capital. We did roundtables on nutrition and healthcare.

In Abilene, KS, we celebrated the 70th anniversary of the Small Business Administration, founded by our 34th President of the United States, Kansas' own Dwight David Eisenhower; we participated in a DHS human trafficking event and in history. I thought I had seen all the history from Kansas, but we found two more locations that were underground railroads where they particularly housed freedom seekers—one in the Quindaro Ruins of Kansas City, KS, and the John Brown cabin in Osawatomie.

But of all the things we did that I think is important was our fentanyl awareness campaign: One Pill Can Kill.

I am often asked about going from being a physician to a Senator and what is the difference. And I would describe that as a physician, I could impact maybe 30, 40, 50 people in one day; but as a U.S. Senator, I have the opportunity to impact thousands of people and to save lives. In this case, that is exactly what the goal of this One Pill Can Kill campaign was.

We thought that as kids return to school would be an ideal time to get out that message that, indeed, one pill—one fake pill laced with fentanyl—can kill. Our entire Kansas delegation participated, and I am grateful for their support. We had over 100 Kansas organizations actively participate as well, reaching out to their own networks. From law enforcement, the KBI was outstanding, the sheriffs; our community health centers; colleges; high schools; health departments—anyone we could get to, to get that message out that one pill can kill.

Every day, our staff did an incredible job of arming every one of the organizations with information to help get that word out. It resulted in thousands of social media posts across the State, and I am grateful for the local media—the newspapers, the radios, the television stations—that resulted in hundreds of articles that, indeed, one pill can kill.

And I think the story is easy to tell, and that is what we tried to do was just tell the story of fentanyl, how the cartel is alive and well across the State of Kansas; that they are lacing Xanax, Adderall, and Percocet with fentanyl, and even marijuana they are lacing with it; that this is now the No. 1 killer of young adults.

I am sad to say that most every day, we lose a Kansan to fentanyl poisoning. In fact, we are using Narcan 10, 15, 20 times a day. I talked to a fireman in Kansas City who said every day they are making runs because of fentanyl.

And again, we just wanted to share the story of where fentanyl is being sold, how its sold, its deceptiveness, and the efforts required to combat it.

I will just close with this: It is easier to get a fentanyl tablet and cheaper to get a fentanyl tablet delivered to your home than it is to order a piece of pizza. For a dollar a pill, you can now get fentanyl delivered to your home. And all it takes is just one of those pills to kill.

For the sake of our children, I pray that we can secure our borders, that we would stop the influx of fentanyl into Kansas and the rest of this country. And in doing so, we can save literally hundreds, if not thousands, of lives. Our weeklong campaign pushed us closer to that goal.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

FEDERAL AGENCIES

Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, while I was home in Iowa this past month, I wrapped up my annual River to River tour, where I hear directly from Iowans in all 99 counties every single year.

Our government is designed to be of the people, by the people, and for the people; and that is why I am committed to hearing from Iowans in every corner of our State and every county. It is my job to bring their voices loud and clear to Washington, where I have the honor and privilege of representing them in this great body.

Now that the Senate is back in session, we have lots of unfinished business that impacts Iowans' lives, from funding the government to renewing the farm bill. It is here in the Nation's Capital that we gather to complete this work on behalf of our fellow Americans.

While the Senate is once again bustling with activity, I see we even have a new class of Senate pages representing us, and they are here for duty.

You have reported for duty, right?

Welcome to all of our new pages. Thank you for your service as well.

And the halls of Washington's bureaucracies as we look about this city, they remain largely empty and hollow; and that, folks, is a top issue for Iowa taxpayers and folks across the country.

Thousands of calls to the Department of Veterans Affairs from veterans seeking mental health services are going unanswered. Desperate travelers are

waiting hours on the phone or in line hoping to speak with someone at the State Department about passport delays that are causing vacation cancelations.

Our seniors are calling the Social Security Administration and are increasingly being greeted with busy messages, waiting longer to speak to a representative, or having their calls go unanswered altogether as the Agency shifts toward remote work. Frustrated Americans are being put on hold while too many Federal employees are phoning it in.

A manager of a VA medical center responsible for overseeing the scheduling of veterans' care appointments actually—get this, folks. This is no joke. This is no joke. An overseer for scheduling of veterans' care appointments called into a meeting from a bubble bath and even posted a selfie of it on social media with the caption “my office for the next hour.”

Another VA staffer lamented: It is almost as if this employee is making a mockery of all veterans. I can sit here in my bathtub and relax, and you just have to wait.

And that is exactly what is happening. The VA is still providing misleading wait times to hide the problem, but the heartbreaking stories of veterans continuing to go without urgent, medically necessary care—sometimes for months—tells the whole story.

Taxpayers are also picking up the cost of maintaining mostly empty buildings in Washington, as 75 percent or more of the office space at the headquarters of most of our Federal Agencies is not being used. The vacant offices beg the question: Where are all of the Federal employees? Only one out of every three bureaucrats is fully back in the office—one out of every three—according to a recent Office of Personnel Management survey. Some said they never report to a physical office.

The work locations of over 281,000 employees were redacted from data provided in response to a Freedom of Information request filed by the non-profit group Open the Books—281,000 employees.

Well, I have some questions. Who are these folks, and what exactly are they doing? Has the Biden administration been bamboozled into thinking these bureaucrats are operating out of some secret cave like Batman? I am working to find these secret locations, which are more likely to turn out to be man caves than bat caves.

In his 2022 State of the Union Address, President Biden pledged that “the vast majority of Federal workers will once again work in person.”

Well, here we are a year and a half later, and the Nation's Capital remains a ghost town, and government employee unions are fighting efforts to bring bureaucrats back.

Folks, I am all for moving Federal Agencies out of Washington. That is exactly what my bill, the SWAMP Act, would do. The intent is to make those

creating the rules more accountable to the hard-working Iowans and Americans who have to live under them. But letting Federal employees work when and where and even if they want to is having the exact opposite effect.

Consider, as many as 30 percent of Department of Health and Human Services remote employees did not appear to be working on any given day during the pandemic. And, again, these are Health and Human Services remote employees. During a pandemic, you would think they would be working. They did not appear to be working, according to an internal review of employee logins to the Agency's email and file systems. So hello, Federal employees, we actually can see when you are working and when you are not.

Folks, remote work should not be confused with flipping through channels with a TV remote. This, folks, is not remote work.

Growing up on a farm, I know what working from home really means. And it ain't easy. It is not fair to let the responsibilities of running a Federal Agency—and the country—fall on the shoulders of hard-working public servants who are showing up while others are out golfing on the taxpayers' dime.

That is why I have asked the inspector general of every single Federal Department and Agency to determine, first, the impact of telework on the delivery and response times of services and, second, how much taxpayer money could be saved by consolidating unused office space and adjusting government salaries for those who have relocated and chosen to remain out of the office.

Most of America is back to work, and it is time for burrowed bureaucrats in Washington to answer the call of duty on behalf of taxpayers, veterans, senators, and our great Nation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). The Senator from Iowa.

IOWA

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, ladies and gentlemen of the Senate, I come to report to you on some of the activities I did during the August break and what Iowans were telling me.

On August 29, I completed my annual 99 county meetings for the 43rd year in a row. My decades-long practice is a part of my commitment to the people of Iowa to keep in touch with them because representative government is a two-way street. Those of us elected to the Senate and the House are one-half of the process, and my constituents are the other half of that process.

Holding at least one Q&A in every county every year is one way that I foster dialogue. No matter the setting, the format is the same: My Iowa constituents set the agenda.

I have spent the last 5 weeks, while the Senate was not in session, convening with Iowans in every corner of the State with nearly 40 Q&As that I had with those constituents in those counties. From factory floors and rural

hospitals to town meetings, Iowans shared their point of view with me. Now, I am bringing their concerns to my colleagues here in the Congress. Even though you don't represent Iowans, you need to know what they are telling me.

One consistent theme that I gathered from my meetings: Iowans are fed up with soaring inflation and high interest rates. The Biden economy is not working for Iowans. Contrary to the sales pitch parroted by this administration, Iowans aren't buying the Biden economy.

From the feedback I got at my county meetings, the so-called Bidenomics “rebuilding our economy from the bottom up and the middle out” is not working as Iowans see it. Iowans are emptying their pocketbooks just to make ends meet.

I heard from Iowa families about the high cost of groceries at their supermarkets and the pain that they are feeling each time they fill up their gas tank.

The administration's assault on fossil fuels and lackluster support for homegrown biofuels isn't helping. Young Americans, as well as young Iowans, in particular, are concerned about the record high mortgage rates hindering homeownership. Iowans work hard, but the Biden economy is hardly working for them.

Another issue that Iowans are especially attuned to, as you would expect because we are a great agricultural State, is the timing of the upcoming farm bill. I held a meeting with Lamoni Food Pantry to learn about their nutrition services there in Decatur County. And they were also concerned about the SNAP program within the farm bill.

I also met with egg producers, pork producers, dairy producers, and cattlemen at the Iowa State Fair, and their message was very clear: Farmers need certainty and a farm bill should be passed as soon as possible.

I look forward to working in a bipartisan way to deliver a farm bill to the American people. After my 99th county meeting, I celebrated, as usually I do, with a Snickers Blizzard at the Dairy Queen in Onawa, IA. All this doesn't mean that my work is over because I am going to continue, between now and the end of the year, to hold more Q&As throughout this period of time. And I hope to see my fellow Iowans soon at football games, businesses large and small, or a Dairy Queen near any one of them.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic whip.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, what is the Senator from Iowa going to do when they close the Dairy Queens?

Mr. GRASSLEY. What am I doing?

Mr. DURBIN. When they close the Dairy Queens.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Well, so far I have been lucky enough to keep them open. As far as I know, there is only one that closed in the last 12 months in Iowa.

Mr. DURBIN. Thank you for filling me in on that. I appreciate it very much.

STUDENT LOANS

Madam President, it is that time of year again when students come back from their summer vacations to go to school. This year, some students are breathing easier. They were the victims of a for-profit university—so-called university—Ashford University.

I have come to the floor so many times to state the obvious: These for-profit universities are generally a terrific waste of taxpayers' dollars and students' time.

There are going to be two questions on the final, and the answers I am going to give you ahead of time are: 8 and 30. And the first question is: What percentage of high school kids go to for-profit universities? Eight percent. That is one of the questions.

The second is: What percentage of student loan defaults involves students who went to for-profit colleges and universities? The answer is 30 percent. Eight percent of the students, 30 percent of the defaults. Why? Because they overcharge these students; they lie to them; pile them up with debt and turn them loose.

Now, there comes a point when the students, burdened with debt, petition the government and say: We were defrauded and deceived. In Ashford University's case, that is exactly what happened.

Last week, the Department of Education announced it is canceling \$72 million in student loan debt for more than 2,300 victims of Ashford University.

Ashford is a prime example of the pervasive rot and abuse that exists in the for-profit college industry. An industry that enrolls 8 percent of the students, with 30 percent of the defaults tells the story. In investigating it, the Department of Education found that Ashford just lied to students about the cost of attendance by promising they wouldn't have any out-of-pocket costs when they graduate. Not only was this a lie, but many students reached their lifetime loan limits attending Ashford. And some students were forced to drop out, leaving them with debt and no degree.

Ashford consistently misrepresented the ability to transfer credits from their worthless university to any other school. They misled students about accreditation and licensure status and lied about the length of its bachelor's degree program. It was all a disaster from start to finish for these kids fresh out of high school who thought they were going to college—a real college.

Now listen to this. Ashford isn't disappearing. This is great. Despite Ashford's record of deceitful behavior, the University of Arizona acquired it in 2020, renamed it as the University of Arizona's Global Campus. But even with its shiny new name, this Global Campus was still the same predatory, low-life Ashford that focused on stu-

dent recruitment and enrollment over students' success and outcome. In fact, Ashford brought over the same key staffers who perpetrated their deceit on these students for so many years.

I urge the Department to do its job: discharge the student loans and recoup the funds from Ashford. For-profit colleges have been taking advantage of vulnerable students for far too long. It is time that these fraudulent institutions, not the taxpayers, be financially on the hook.

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. 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. I ask unanimous consent that the vote begin.

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

VOTE ON COOK NOMINATION

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Cook nomination?

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON).

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 218 Ex.]

YEAS—51

Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Bennet	Hirono	Rounds
Blumenthal	Kaine	Sanders
Brown	Kelly	Schatz
Cantwell	King	Schumer
Cardin	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Carper	Luján	Sinema
Casey	Manchin	Smith
Coons	Markey	Stabenow
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Tester
Duckworth	Merkley	Van Hollen
Durbin	Murphy	Warner
Feinstein	Murray	Warnock
Fetterman	Ossoff	Warren
Gillibrand	Padilla	Welch
Hassan	Peters	Whitehouse
Heinrich	Reed	Wyden

NAYS—47

Barrasso	Ernst	McConnell
Blackburn	Fischer	Moran
Boozman	Graham	Mullin
Braun	Grassley	Murkowski
Britt	Hagerty	Paul
Budd	Hawley	Ricketts
Capito	Hooven	Risch
Cassidy	Hyde-Smith	Romney
Collins	Johnson	Rubio
Cornyn	Kennedy	Schmitt
Cramer	Lankford	Scott (FL)
Crapo	Lee	Scott (SC)
Cruz	Lummis	Sullivan
Daines	Marshall	

Thune
Tillis

Tuberville
Vance

Wicker
Young

NOT VOTING—2

Booker
Cotton

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. OSSOFF). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 257, Adriana Debora Kugler, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for the unexpired term of fourteen years from February 1, 2012.

Charles E. Schumer, Sherrod Brown, Margaret Wood Hassan, Mark Kelly, Jack Reed, John W. Hickenlooper, Elizabeth Warren, Tammy Duckworth, Jeff Merkley, Richard J. Durbin, Jeanne Shaheen, Benjamin L. Cardin, Mazie K. Hirono, Tina Smith, Edward J. Markey, Tim Kaine, Tammy Baldwin.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Adriana Debora Kugler, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for the unexpired term of fourteen years from February 1, 2012, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 219 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Baldwin	Hirono	Rounds
Bennet	Kaine	Sanders
Blumenthal	Kelly	Schatz
Brown	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Carper	Luján	Sinema
Casey	Manchin	Smith
Coons	Markey	Stabenow
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Tester
Duckworth	Merkley	Van Hollen
Durbin	Murphy	Warner
Feinstein	Murray	Warnock
Fetterman	Ossoff	Warren
Gillibrand	Padilla	Welch
Hassan	Peters	Whitehouse
Heinrich	Reed	Wyden

NAYS—45

Barrasso	Graham	Paul
Blackburn	Grassley	Ricketts
Boozman	Hagerty	Risch
Braun	Hawley	Romney
Britt	Hoeven	Rubio
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Capito	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Lankford	Sullivan
Cramer	Lee	Thune
Crapo	Lummis	Tillis
Cruz	Marshall	Tuberville
Daines	McConnell	Vance
Ernst	Moran	Wicker
Fischer	Mullin	Young

NOT VOTING—3

Booker	Cardin	Cotton
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The PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas are 52, the nays 45.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Adriana Debora Kugler, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for the unexpired term of fourteen years from February 1, 2012.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for 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.

NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, in honor of America's prisoners of war, POWs, and missing in action, MIA, I join in acknowledging National POW/MIA Recognition Day this September 15, 2023.

Each year before POW/MIA Recognition Day, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, DPAA, the Agency primarily responsible for recovering America's servicemembers, creates a poster commemorating the lives of U.S. servicemembers still unaccounted for from past conflicts. This year's poster features the words: "Though not here, their sacrifice is not forgotten."

The sacrifice of America's unaccounted-for servicemembers is not forgotten thanks in large part to the POW/MIA families and veterans who have remained committed to keeping the pursuit of facts at the forefront of our national conscience. The sacrifice is not forgotten due to the hard work of those who work for and assist the DPAA and related efforts to get needed answers and bring all American servicemembers home. And the sacrifice is

not forgotten due to the commitment of the members of the POW*MIA Awareness Rally Corp. of Pocatello, ID, and others across our country who keep a spotlight on the need to keep pressing forward until every American servicemember is brought home.

As I thank all involved in this effort, I urge the enactment of the Bring Our Heroes Home Act, which I joined Senator JEANNE SHAHEEN, in re-introducing this Congress, to help eliminate obstacles preventing families and case-workers from accessing the records needed for recovering America's POWs and MIA. America's heroes and their families deserve this reduction in bureaucratic redtape as we make a strong effort to identify and recover those who have not yet made it back home.

On National POW/MIA Day, we honor those Americans who have thankfully returned home, the families and loved ones who stood by awaiting their return, and we remain committed to finding answers for the families who continue to await the return of their missing and unaccounted-for loved ones. Thank you to America's servicemembers, veterans and their families for their extraordinary commitment to our country and to all those who work to ensure their return home.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO DR. CHERYL A. McCONNELL

• Mr. FETTERMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Cheryl A. McConnell on her historic inauguration as the 29th and first female president of Saint Joseph's University. She is to be inaugurated on September 8, 2023.

Since joining Saint Joseph's University 3 years ago, Dr. McConnell has served in integral roles as provost and senior vice president for academic affairs. Her presidential inauguration is the result of an exceptional 35-year career in higher education.

As a first-generation college graduate and dedicated leader of Jesuit higher education, Dr. McConnell has demonstrated her commitment to learning and uplifting the next generation. Among her many accomplishments, she has created new, in-demand academic programs to expand Saint Joseph's University's impact throughout the greater Philadelphia community and has focused on diversity, equity, and inclusion to create a more robust and productive learning environment. Further, in the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. McConnell's leadership was essential to the university's response to keep students, faculty, and staff healthy and safe.

I am proud that Saint Joseph's University has selected Dr. McConnell as its next president and know she will continue the university's commitment to academic excellence and service to generations of students.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. Cheryl A. McConnell on her historic inauguration and continuing her career in public service to students in Pennsylvania.●

TRIBUTE TO SCOTT AZBELL

• Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, if you travel to Fort Payne, you would be stretched to find someone who doesn't know U.S. Air Force MSgt Scott Azbell. Scott joined the military just about as soon as he could, right after high school. He quickly became a skilled aircraft mechanic and training instructor.

He spent his entire 23-year enlistment during times of conflict, serving multiple deployments around the globe. His efforts ensured our aircraft were up to speed on the latest technology and on the advancements necessary for a strong defense.

Scott continues to serve this country, even in his retirement. After he retired, he retrained as a diesel mechanic for Fort Payne City Schools and also is actively involved in its JROTC Program, inspiring a spirit of service in the next generation.

He has used his skills as a mechanic to help countless folks in the community with car repairs throughout the years—not for attention, but because he wants to use his talents to be a blessing to others. Scott is also an active member of Fort Payne Church of Christ and serves as quartermaster for VFW Post 3128. He dedicates his time to supporting other veterans and their families. He has served as a regional spokesperson and coordinator for Wreaths Across America for the past 2 years. His work has helped ensure that we do not forget those who made the ultimate sacrifice for freedom.

We are thankful for veterans like Scott who are committed to making Alabama a better place. I am proud to recognize him as the September Veteran of the Month.●

TRIBUTE TO CHUCK MAGLOTHIN

• Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, our servicemembers put their lives on the line to preserve this Nation for generations to come. Many of them also hand down that ethic of service to their own children. That is certainly true of CW4 Chuck Maglothin of Foley.

Chuck channeled his love of flying to serve in various aviation roles during his 25 years in the U.S. Army. He specialized in Blackhawk and Kiowa warrior helicopters, climbing the ranks to become an instructor pilot and maintenance examiner.

Chuck's bravery and expertise provided critical war support in the aftermath of 9/11. He was in one of the first groups to be deployed to Iraq. He went on to do three more combat tours to Iraq and Afghanistan. In 2016, Chuck finished his time in the Army with more than 3,200 flight hours, most of which were in combat.

Chuck says one of his greatest honors during his time in the military was swearing his son Jarrod into the U.S. Army in 2013. Jarrod carries on Chuck's love of flying as a UH-60 Blackhawk crew chief.

Chuck continues to use his aviation skills as a mechanical assembler for Collins Aerospace. He works on Boeing 787 inlets to keep our military and commercial planes safe and efficient. Chuck also gives back to local agencies through his involvement in the Mar- shalls krewe.

We are thankful for Alabamians like Chuck who have put country ahead of self to protect our freedom. I am proud to recognize him as the August Veteran of the Month.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

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.)

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-1779. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fluxapyroxad; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 10679-01-OCSPP) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1780. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Pesticide Tolerances; Implementing Registration Review Decisions for Certain Pesticides; Aluminum tris (O-ethylphosphonate), Carbon disulfide, et al.; Technical Correction" (RIN2070-ZA16) (FRL No. 10840-02-OCSPP) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1781. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Pyraclostrobin; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 10953-01-OCSPP) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1782. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division,

Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Indaziflam; Pesticide Tolerance" (FRL No. 11131-01-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2023; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1783. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "N-(n-Octyl)-2-pyrrolidone in Pesticide Formulations; Tolerance Exemption" (FRL No. 11166-01-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2023; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1784. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Sodium Salt of Acifluorfen; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 11130-01-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2023; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1785. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of the continuation of the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13222 of August 17, 2001, in light of the expiration of the Export Administration Act of 1979; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1786. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13224 with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1787. A communication from the Chair and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a transaction involving U.S. exports to South Korea; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1788. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulatory Guide (RG) 4.27 Rev 0, 'Use Of Plant Parameter Envelope In Early Site Permit Applications for Nuclear Power Plants'" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1789. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.163 Rev 1, 'Performance-based Containment Leak-Test Program'" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1790. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.152 Rev 4, 'Criteria for Programmable Digital Devices in Safety-Related Systems of Nuclear Power Plants'" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1791. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Security Frequently Asked Question, 2022-01 HHS Lab Audits" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2023;

to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1792. A communication from the Biologist of the Branch of Domestic Listing, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Experimental Populations" (RIN1018-BF98) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1793. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; West Virginia; 2022 Amendments to West Virginia's Ambient Air Quality Standards" (FRL No. 10083-02-R3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1794. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; State of Missouri; Construction Permits by Rule" (FRL No. 10826-02-R7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1795. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approvals; California; South Coast Air Quality Management District, Imperial and Ventura County Air Pollution Control Districts; Non-attainment New Source Review; 2015 Ozone Standard" (FRL No. 9514-02-R9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1796. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Montana: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revisions and Incorporation by Reference" (FRL No. 10606-02-R8) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1797. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval of Air Quality Implementation Plans; New Jersey; New Jersey 2017 Periodic Emission Inventory SIP for the Ozone Nonattainment Area and PM2.5/ Regional Haze Areas, New Jersey Nonattainment Emission Inventory for 2008 Ozone NAAQS" (FRL No. 10785-02-R2) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1798. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Illinois; Base Year Emissions Inventory for the 2015 Ozone Standard" (FRL No. 11148-02-R5) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1799. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection

Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “New Hampshire: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revisions” (FRL No. 11231-02-R1) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1800. A communication from the Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Part D Plans Generally Include Drugs Commonly Used by Dual-Eligible Enrollees: 2023”; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1801. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Additional Guidance on the Transition from Interbank Offer Rates to Other Reference Rates with Respect to the interest Rates of a Foreign Bank” (RIN1545-BO91) (TD 9976) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1802. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Medicare Program; Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility Prospective Payment System for Federal Fiscal Year 2024 and Updates to the IRF Quality Reporting Program” (RIN0938-AV04) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 27, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1803. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Medicare Program; FY 2024 Hospice Wage Index and Payment Rate Update, Hospice Conditions of Participation Updates, Hospice Quality Reporting Program Requirements, and Hospice Certifying Physician Provider Enrollment Requirements” (RIN0938-AV10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 27, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1804. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Medicare Program; FY 2024 Inpatient Psychiatric Facilities Prospective Payment System - Rate Update” (RIN0938-AV06) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 27, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1805. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Medicare Program; Hospital Inpatient Prospective Payment Systems for Acute Care Hospitals and the Long-Term Care Hospital Prospective Payment System and Policy Changes and Fiscal Year 2024 Rates; Quality Programs and Medicare Promoting Interoperability Program Requirements for Eligible Hospitals and Critical Access Hospitals; Rural Emergency Hospital and Physician-Owned Hospital Requirements; and Provider and Supplier Disclosure of Ownership; and Medicare Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) Payments; Counting Certain Days Associated with Section 1115 Demonstration in the Medicaid Fraction” ((RIN0938-AV08) (RIN0938-AV17)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 27, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1806. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a notification of intent to provide assistance to Ukraine, including for self-defense and border security operations; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1807. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Determination Under Section 506(a) (1) and Section 614(a) (1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (FAA) to Provide Military Assistance to Ukraine”; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1808. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a notification of intent to provide assistance to Ukraine, including for self-defense and border security operations; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1809. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2023-0052 - 2023-0061); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1810. A communication from the White House Liaison, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary of Elementary and Secondary Education, Department of Education, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2023; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1811. A communication from the Director, Office of Labor-Management Standards, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Revision of the Form LM-10 Employer Report” (RIN1245-AA13) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2023; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1812. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Privacy Act; Implementation” (RIN0970-AC92) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2023; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1813. A communication from the Secretary of Labor and the Director of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation’s fiscal year 2022 Actuarial Evaluation of the Expected Operations and Status of the PBGC Funds received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1814. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to an alternative plan for pay adjustments for civilian Federal employees covered by the General Schedule and certain other pay systems in January 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1815. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-154, “Rent Stabilized Housing Inflation Protection Temporary Amendment Act of 2023”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1816. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-155, “Medical Cannabis Manufacturer Clarification Temporary Amend-

ment Act of 2023”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1817. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-156, “Law Enforcement Arrest Authority Technical Correction Temporary Amendment Act of 2023”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1818. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-157, “Special Education for young Adults in the Custody of the Department of Corrections Temporary Amendment Act of 2023”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1819. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-158, “Office of Administrative Hearings Jurisdiction Temporary Amendment Act of 2023”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1820. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-159, “Washington Wizards Motor Vehicle Identification Tags Amendment Act of 2023”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1821. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-160, “Pride Plates Amendment Act of 2023”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. SANDERS, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, without amendment:

S. 1852. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize a sickle cell disease prevention and treatment demonstration program.

By Mr. SANDERS, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2333. A bill to reauthorize certain programs under the Public Health Service Act with respect to public health security and all-hazards preparedness and response, and for other purposes.

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. CASSIDY:

S. 2727. A bill to preclude the Department of Labor from allowing the Deputy Secretary to serve as the Secretary of Labor indefinitely; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr.

PADILLA, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. WYDEN, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 2728. A bill to encourage reduction of disposable plastic products in units of the National Park System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. KAINES:

S. 2729. A bill to provide for a period of continuing appropriations in the event of a lapse in appropriations under the normal appropriations process, and to prohibit consideration of other matters in the Senate if appropriations are not enacted; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 2730. A bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish a national usury rate for consumer credit transactions; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. CASEY, Ms. SMITH, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. KING):

S. 2731. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the deduction for certain expenses of elementary and secondary school teachers; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND:

S. 2732. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the sale or other disposition of any firearm or ammunition to any person who has been convicted of a violent misdemeanor, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. 2733. A bill to address the behavioral health workforce shortages through support for peer support specialists, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 2734. A bill to amend the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 to reauthorize the emergency and transitional pet shelter and housing assistance grant program; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. TESTER:

S. 2735. A bill to clarify that section 8526(7) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 does not apply with respect to the use of funds for activities carried out under programs authorized by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 that are otherwise permissible under such programs and that provide students with educational enrichment activities and instruction, such as archery, hunter safety education, or culinary arts; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. PAUL:

S.J. Res. 44. A joint resolution directing the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities in the Republic of Niger that have not been authorized by Congress; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mr. McCONNELL):

S. Res. 329. A resolution to authorize testimony and representation in United States v. Horn; considered and agreed to.

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

S. Res. 330. A resolution expressing support for the goals and ideals of National Child Abuse Prevention Month; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. TILLIS, Mr.

TUBERVILLE, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. KENNEDY, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. COTTON, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH):

S. Res. 331. A resolution designating August 2023 as “National Catfish Month”; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 76

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) were added as cosponsors of S. 76, a bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to furnish tailored information to expecting mothers, and for other purposes.

S. 308

At the request of Mr. ROMNEY, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 308, a bill to end the treatment of the People’s Republic of China as a developing nation.

S. 359

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINES), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. 359, a bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide for a code of conduct for justices of the Supreme Court of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 380

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 380, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to punish the distribution of fentanyl resulting in death as felony murder.

S. 503

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 503, a bill to establish the Space National Guard.

S. 566

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 566, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify and extend the deduction for charitable contributions for individuals not itemizing deductions.

S. 610

At the request of Ms. SINEMA, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 610, a bill to amend the Federal Credit Union Act to modify the frequency of board of directors meetings, and for other purposes.

S. 740

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the names of the Senator from Rhode Is-

land (Mr. REED) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 740, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to reinstate criminal penalties for persons charging veterans unauthorized fees relating to claims for benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 838

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 838, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to mental health services under the Medicare program.

S. 949

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) were added as cosponsors of S. 949, a bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to transition the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico to the supplemental nutrition assistance program, and for other purposes.

S. 976

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINES) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. 976, a bill to establish and expand child care programs for parents who work nontraditional hours, and for other purposes.

S. 1110

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1110, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to rebase the calculation of payments for sole community hospitals and Medicare-dependent hospitals, and for other purposes.

S. 1128

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1128, a bill to establish special rules relating to information provided with respect to drug applications concerning method of use patents.

S. 1273

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1273, a bill to require a study on Holocaust education efforts of States, local educational agencies, and public elementary and secondary schools, and for other purposes.

S. 1307

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1307, a bill to ensure that students in schools have a right to read, and for other purposes.

S. 1367

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr.

VANCE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1367, a bill to amend XIX of the Social Security Act to cover physician services delivered by podiatric physicians to ensure access by Medicaid beneficiaries to appropriate quality foot and ankle care, to amend title XVIII of such Act to modify the requirements for diabetic shoes to be included under Medicare, and for other purposes.

S. 1401

At the request of Mr. OSSOFF, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1401, a bill to establish an inspections regime for the Bureau of Prisons, and for other purposes.

S. 1456

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1456, a bill to provide for certain energy development, permitting reforms, and for other purposes.

S. 1462

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1462, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to improve the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act of 2004 and provisions relating to the carrying of concealed weapons by law enforcement officers, and for other purposes.

S. 1478

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1478, a bill to designate United States Route 20 in the States of Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, and Massachusetts as the "National Medal of Honor Highway", and for other purposes.

S. 1502

At the request of Mr. LUJÁN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1502, a bill to direct the Secretary of Education to award grants to eligible entities to carry out teacher leadership programs, and for other purposes.

S. 1507

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1507, a bill to provide grants to State, local, territorial, and Tribal law enforcement agencies to purchase chemical screening devices and train personnel to use chemical screening devices in order to enhance law enforcement efficiency and protect law enforcement officers.

S. 1512

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1512, a bill to amend the Federal Meat Inspection Act and the Poultry Products Inspection Act to allow for the interstate internet sales of certain State-inspected meat and poultry, and for other purposes.

S. 1514

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1514, a bill to amend the National Housing Act to establish a mortgage insurance program for first responders, and for other purposes.

S. 1654

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1654, a bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to clarify Federal law with respect to reporting certain positive consumer credit information to consumer reporting agencies, and for other purposes.

S. 1701

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1701, a bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Director of the National Institutes of Health, to take certain steps to increase clinical trial diversity, and for other purposes.

S. 1706

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1706, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the deduction for qualified business income.

S. 1731

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1731, a bill to provide grants to enable nonprofit disability organizations to develop training programs that support safe interactions between law enforcement officers and individuals with disabilities and older individuals.

S. 1781

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1781, a bill to amend the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to provide a uniform 8-digit subheading number for all whiskies.

S. 1930

At the request of Mr. LUJÁN, the names of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1930, a bill to amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to support the buildup of clean school bus charging infrastructure through community facilities direct loans and grants.

S. 1932

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1932, a bill to require that certain aspects of bridge projects be carried out by certified contractors, and for other purposes.

S. 1940

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Vermont

(Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1940, a bill to prohibit the use of M-44 devices, commonly known as "cyanide bombs", on public land, and for other purposes.

S. 2004

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2004, a bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 relating to de minimis treatment under that Act.

S. 2043

At the request of Mr. RISCH, his name was withdrawn as a cosponsor of S. 2043, a bill to provide for certain authorities of the Department of State, and for other purposes.

S. 2054

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2054, a bill to ensure that the Department of Defense achieves a clean audit opinion on its financial statements.

S. 2067

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) were added as cosponsors of S. 2067, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to award grants to nonprofit organizations to assist such organizations in carrying out programs to provide service dogs to eligible veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 2210

At the request of Mr. HAGERTY, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2210, a bill to provide for congressional review of actions to terminate or waive sanctions imposed with respect to Iran.

S. 2391

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2391, a bill to reauthorize the National Flood Insurance Program.

S. 2500

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2500, a bill to amend the Commodity Exchange Act to adjust the period during which amounts transferred by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission to the account for customer education initiatives and non-awards expenses shall remain available, and for other purposes.

S. 2575

At the request of Mr. WARNOCK, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2575, a bill to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to provide increased protections for election workers and voters in elections for Federal office, and for other purposes.

S. 2577

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor

of S. 2577, a bill to amend the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to improve the Gus Schumacher nutrition incentive program, and for other purposes.

S. 2589

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2589, a bill to amend the Research Facilities Act and the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 to address deferred maintenance at agricultural research facilities, and for other purposes.

S. 2592

At the request of Mr. FETTERMAN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2592, a bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to require nationwide consumer reporting agencies, upon request, to use the current legal name of a consumer on consumer reports, and for other purposes.

S. 2608

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2608, a bill to provide for the long-term improvement of public school facilities, and for other purposes.

S. 2645

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2645, a bill to reduce the health risks of heat by establishing the National Integrated Heat Health Information System within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the National Integrated Heat Health Information System Interagency Committee to improve extreme heat preparedness, planning, and response, requiring a study, and establishing financial assistance programs to address heat effects, and for other purposes.

S. 2659

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2659, a bill to provide increased financial assistance for farmers' markets and farmers' market nutrition programs, to increase local agricultural production through food bank in-house production and local farmer contracting, and for other purposes.

S. 2710

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2710, a bill to provide for the conservation of the Chesapeake Bay, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 32

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 32, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by

the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to “Small Business Lending Under the Equal Credit Opportunity Act (Regulation B)”.
S.J. RES. 43

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD), the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 43, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Education relating to “Improving Income Driven Repayment for the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program and the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program”.

S. RES. 72

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 72, a resolution recognizing Russian actions in Ukraine as a genocide.

S. RES. 208

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 208, a resolution expressing support for the designation of November 12, 2023, as “National Warrior Call Day” and recognizing the important of connecting warriors in the United States to support structures necessary to transition from the battlefield, especially peer-to-peer connection.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. Kaine:

S. 2729. A bill to provide for a period of continuing appropriations in the event of a lapse in appropriations under the normal appropriations process, and to prohibit consideration of other matters in the Senate if appropriations are not enacted; to the Committee on Appropriations.

Mr. Kaine. Madam President, today I want to discuss legislation I am introducing, the End Shutdown Act.

When Congress is unable to come to an agreement about government funding, Federal employees, government

contractors, and Americans who depend on critical government services all suffer the consequences of using government shutdowns as a negotiating tactic. This bill prevents government shutdowns by initiating an automatic continuing resolution on October 1 if no appropriations bill is passed by that date and stops Congress from considering any nonemergency legislation until it reaches a long-term spending deal.

For Federal employees who are forced to go without a paycheck through no fault of their own during a government shutdown, furlough can mean falling behind on mortgage, rent, or student loan payments and uncertainty about how to put food on the table for their families. I am glad my colleagues and I were able to guarantee backpay for all Federal employees in 2019, but the potential for prolonged shutdowns continues to threaten families' budgets and local economies. Virginia is home to more than 170,000 Federal employees and tens of thousands of Federal contractors. They are not a bargaining chip to be played in these negotiations.

Government shutdowns disproportionately harm Virginia's economy, but over 80 percent of Federal workers live and work outside of the DC area. Shutdowns inflict pain on communities across the Nation, as they disrupt Federal contracts and loans to small businesses, complicate supply chains, and stall the release of data business owners need to make decisions.

Further, government shutdowns halt the essential services that furloughed employees are unable to provide, from food inspection services to passport renewals and Social Security card replacement. Over the past two decades, government shutdowns have put some of our most essential programs like Medicare, SNAP, TANF, and WIC in jeopardy. Using government shutdowns as a negotiating tactic has the potential to inflict senseless pain on millions of Americans who rely on these and other Federal programs.

By ending the threat of government shutdowns, Congress can ensure no one can ever again hold public servants and critical programs hostage by using a shutdown as a negotiating tactic. I encourage my colleagues to support this common-sense proposal that is needed for both the American people and the Federal employees across the country on whom we rely.

By Mr. Durbin (for himself, Mr. Blumenthal, Mr. Merkley, and Mr. Whitehouse):

S. 2730. A bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish a national usury rate for consumer credit transactions; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. Durbin. Madam 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. 2730

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 “Protecting Consumers from Unreasonable Credit Rates Act of 2023”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) attempts have been made to prohibit usurious interest rates in America since colonial times;

(2) at the Federal level, in 2006, Congress enacted a Federal 36-percent annualized usury cap for servicemembers and their families for covered credit products, as defined by the Department of Defense, which curbed payday, car title, and tax refund lending around military bases;

(3) notwithstanding such attempts to curb predatory lending, high-cost lending persists in all 50 States due to loopholes in State laws, safe harbor laws for specific forms of credit, and the exportation of unregulated interest rates permitted by preemption;

(4) due to the lack of a comprehensive Federal usury cap, consumers have paid as much as approximately \$14,000,000,000 on high-cost overdraft loans, \$9,000,000,000 on storefront and online payday loans, \$3,800,000,000 on car title loans, and additional amounts in unreported revenues on high-cost online installment loans;

(5) cash-strapped consumers pay on average approximately 400-percent annual interest for payday loans, 300-percent annual interest for car title loans, 17,000 percent for bank overdraft loans, and triple-digit rates for online installment loans;

(6) a national maximum interest rate that includes all forms of fees and closes all loopholes is necessary to eliminate such predatory lending; and

(7) alternatives to predatory lending that encourage small dollar loans with minimal or no fees, installment payment schedules, and affordable repayment periods should be encouraged.

SEC. 3. NATIONAL MAXIMUM INTEREST RATE.

Chapter 2 of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1631 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

SEC. 140B. MAXIMUM RATES OF INTEREST.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no creditor may make an extension of credit to a consumer with respect to which the fee and interest rate, as defined in subsection (b), exceeds 36 percent.

“(b) FEE AND INTEREST RATE DEFINED.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this section, the fee and interest rate includes all charges payable, directly or indirectly, incident to, ancillary to, or as a condition of the extension of credit, including—

“(A) any payment compensating a creditor or prospective creditor for—

“(i) an extension of credit or making available a line of credit, such as fees connected with credit extension or availability such as numerical periodic rates, annual fees, cash advance fees, and membership fees; or

“(ii) any fees for default or breach by a borrower of a condition upon which credit was extended, such as late fees, insufficient funds fees, overdraft fees, and over-limit fees;

“(B) all fees which constitute a finance charge, as defined by rules of the Bureau in accordance with this title;

“(C) credit insurance premiums, whether optional or required; and

“(D) all charges and costs for ancillary products sold in connection with or incidental to the credit transaction.

“(2) TOLERANCES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—With respect to a credit obligation that is payable in at least 3 fully amortizing installments over at least 90 days, the term ‘fee and interest rate’ does not include—

“(i) application or participation fees that in total do not exceed the greater of \$30 or, if there is a limit to the credit line, 5 percent of the credit limit, up to \$120, if—

“(I) such fees are excludable from the finance charge pursuant to section 106 and regulations issued thereunder;

“(II) such fees cover all credit extended or renewed by the creditor for 12 months; and

“(III) the minimum amount of credit extended or available on a credit line is equal to \$300 or more;

“(ii) a late fee charged as authorized by State law and by the agreement that does not exceed either \$20 per late payment or \$20 per month; or

“(iii) a creditor-imposed insufficient funds fee charged when a borrower tenders payment on a debt with a check drawn on insufficient funds that does not exceed \$15.

“(B) ADJUSTMENTS FOR INFLATION.—The Bureau may adjust the amounts of the tolerances established under this paragraph for inflation over time, consistent with the primary goals of protecting consumers and ensuring that the 36-percent fee and interest rate limitation is not circumvented.

“(C) CALCULATIONS.—

“(1) OPEN END CREDIT PLANS.—For an open end credit plan—

“(A) the fee and interest rate shall be calculated each month, based upon the sum of all fees and finance charges described in subsection (b) charged by the creditor during the preceding 1-year period, divided by the average daily balance; and

“(B) if the credit account has been open less than 1 year, the fee and interest rate shall be calculated based upon the total of all fees and finance charges described in subsection (b)(1) charged by the creditor since the plan was opened, divided by the average daily balance, and multiplied by the quotient of 12 divided by the number of full months that the credit plan has been in existence.

“(2) OTHER CREDIT PLANS.—For purposes of this section, in calculating the fee and interest rate, the Bureau shall require the method of calculation of annual percentage rate specified in section 107(a)(1), except that the amount referred to in that section 107(a)(1) as the ‘finance charge’ shall include all fees, charges, and payments described in subsection (b)(1) of this section.

“(3) ADJUSTMENTS AUTHORIZED.—The Bureau may make adjustments to the calculations in paragraphs (1) and (2), but the primary goals of such adjustment shall be to protect consumers and to ensure that the 36-percent fee and interest rate limitation is not circumvented.

“(d) DEFINITION OF CREDITOR.—As used in this section, the term ‘creditor’ has the same meaning as in section 702(e) of the Equal Credit Opportunity Act (15 U.S.C. 1691a(e)).

“(e) NO EXEMPTIONS PERMITTED.—The exemption authority of the Bureau under section 105 shall not apply to the rates established under this section or the disclosure requirements under section 127(b)(6).

“(f) DISCLOSURE OF FEE AND INTEREST RATE FOR CREDIT OTHER THAN OPEN END CREDIT PLANS.—In addition to the disclosure requirements under section 127(b)(6), the Bureau may prescribe regulations requiring disclosure of the fee and interest rate established under this section.

“(g) RELATION TO STATE LAW.—Nothing in this section may be construed to preempt any provision of State law that provides greater protection to consumers than is provided in this section.

“(h) CIVIL LIABILITY AND ENFORCEMENT.—In addition to remedies available to the consumer under section 130(a), any payment compensating a creditor or prospective creditor, to the extent that such payment is a transaction made in violation of this section, shall be null and void, and not enforceable by any party in any court or alternative dispute resolution forum, and the creditor or any subsequent holder of the obligation shall promptly return to the consumer any principal, interest, charges, and fees, and any security interest associated with such transaction. Notwithstanding any statute of limitations or repose, a violation of this section may be raised as a matter of defense by recoupment or setoff to an action to collect such debt or repossess related security at any time.

“(i) VIOLATIONS.—Any person that violates this section, or seeks to enforce an agreement made in violation of this section, shall be subject to, for each such violation, 1 year in prison and a fine in an amount equal to the greater of—

“(1) three times the amount of the total accrued debt associated with the subject transaction; or

“(2) \$50,000.

“(j) STATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL.—An action to enforce this section may be brought by the appropriate State attorney general in any United States district court or any other court of competent jurisdiction within 3 years from the date of the violation, and such attorney general may obtain injunctive relief.”.

SEC. 4. DISCLOSURE OF FEE AND INTEREST RATE FOR OPEN END CREDIT PLANS.

Section 127(b)(6) of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1637(b)(6)) is amended by striking “the total finance charge expressed” and all that follows through the end of the paragraph and inserting “the fee and interest rate, displayed as ‘FAIR’, established under section 141.”.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS**SENATE RESOLUTION 329—TO AUTHORIZE TESTIMONY AND REPRESENTATION IN UNITED STATES V. HORN**

Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mr. McCONNELL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 329

Whereas, in the case of *United States v. Horn*, Cr. No. 21-301, pending in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, the prosecution is seeking the production of testimony from Michael J. Mastrian, Director of the Senate Radio and Television Gallery, and Jeffrey S. Kent, Director of the Press Photographers’ Gallery, departments of the Office of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate;

Whereas, pursuant to sections 703(a) and 704(a)(2) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, 2 U.S.C. §§ 288b(a) and 288c(a)(2), the Senate may direct its counsel to represent current and former officers and employees of the Senate with respect to any subpoena, order, or request for evidence relating to their official responsibilities;

Whereas, by the privileges of the Senate of the United States and Rule XI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, no evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate may, by the judicial or administrative process, be taken from such control or possession but by permission of the Senate; and

Whereas, when it appears that evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate may promote the administration of justice, the Senate will take such action as will promote the ends of justice consistent with the privileges of the Senate: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That Michael J. Mastrian, Director of the Senate Radio and Television Gallery, and Jeffrey S. Kent, Director of the Press Photographers' Gallery, are authorized to provide relevant testimony in the case of *United States v. Horn*, except concerning matters for which a privilege should be asserted.

SEC. 2. The Senate Legal Counsel is authorized to represent Messrs. Mastrian and Kent, and any current or former officer or employee of their offices, in connection with the production of evidence authorized in section one of this resolution.

SENATE RESOLUTION 330—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. CASEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 330

Whereas children are fundamental to the success of the United States and will shape the future of the United States;

Whereas elected representatives and leaders in the communities of the United States must be ever vigilant and proactive in support of evidence-based means to prevent child abuse and neglect and support families;

Whereas adverse childhood experiences (referred to in this preamble as "ACEs") are traumatic experiences that occur during childhood with lasting effects and include experiences of violence, abuse, or neglect;

Whereas at least 5 of the top 10 leading causes of death are associated with ACEs;

Whereas preventing ACEs could reduce many health conditions, including—

(1) up to 21,000,000 cases of depression;
(2) up to 1,900,000 cases of heart disease; and
(3) up to 2,500,000 cases of overweight and obesity;

Whereas every child is filled with tremendous promise, and we all have a collective responsibility to prevent ACEs, foster the potential of every child, and promote positive childhood experiences;

Whereas primary prevention of child abuse and neglect can reduce the lifetime economic burden associated with child maltreatment;

Whereas, in 2021, an estimated 7,176,600 children were referred to child protective services agencies, alleging maltreatment;

Whereas, in 2022, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's CyberTipline received more than 32,000,000 reports of suspected online child sexual exploitation, which marked the highest number of reports ever received in 1 year;

Whereas 88,300,000 pieces of child exploitation materials were reported in 2022;

Whereas reports indicate that 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 13 boys experience sexual abuse before their eighteenth birthday, with 42,000,000 estimated child sexual abuse survivors in the United States;

Whereas approximately 1 in 7 children in the United States experienced child abuse, neglect, or both between 2022 and 2023;

Whereas 43 percent of children exposed to inappropriate sexual content on social media are under 13 years old, and 1 in 5 are 9 years old or younger;

Whereas 91 percent of child sexual abuse victims are abused by a person they know and trust;

Whereas children who are sexually abused, especially when not provided appropriate treatment and support, often suffer lifelong consequences, such as physical and mental health challenges and higher risk of drug and alcohol misuse and suicide;

Whereas education and awareness of possible signs of child abuse and neglect should be prioritized for purposes of prevention;

Whereas by intervening to prevent adversity and build resilience during the most critical years of development of a child, voluntary, evidence-based, home-visiting programs have shown positive impact on—

- (1) reducing the recurrence of child abuse and neglect;
- (2) decreased low-birthweight babies;
- (3) improved school readiness for children; and
- (4) increased high school graduation rates:

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses support for the goals and ideals of National Child Abuse Prevention Month;

(2) recognizes child abuse and neglect and child sexual abuse are preventable and that a healthy and prosperous society depends on strong families and communities;

(3) supports efforts to increase the awareness of, and provide education for, the general public of the United States, with respect to preventing child abuse and neglect and building protective factors for families;

(4) supports the efforts to help survivors of childhood sexual abuse heal;

(5) supports justice for victims of childhood sexual abuse; and

(6) recognizes the need for prevention, healing, and justice efforts related to childhood abuse and neglect and sexual abuse.

SENATE RESOLUTION 331—DESIGNATING AUGUST 2023 AS "NATIONAL CATFISH MONTH"

Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. KENNEDY, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. COTTON, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 331

Whereas the Catfish Institute recognizes August to be National Catfish Month;

Whereas the States of Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas recognize August to be National Catfish Month;

Whereas the States of Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, and Tennessee embody the Channel Catfish as their State Fish;

Whereas the farm-raised catfish industry in the United States employs over 9,000 people and contributes almost \$2,000,000,000 to the economy of the United States;

Whereas the United States has 55,855 surface water acres used for catfish production in 2023, and catfish growers in the United States had \$447,039,000 in sales during 2022;

Whereas the average catfish farmer produces 6,800 pounds of catfish per acre;

Whereas 99 percent of all United States farm-raised catfish are grown in Alabama, Arkansas, California, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, and Texas;

Whereas catfish is the largest farm-raised seafood product, by weight, in the United States, representing more than 50 percent of the food fish produced by the United States aquaculture industry;

Whereas United States farm-raised catfish are consistently high quality and, unlike ocean-caught fish, are available all year long;

Whereas United States farm-raised catfish are a sustainable and environmentally friendly seafood product;

Whereas catfish is a lean fish and an excellent source of protein; and

Whereas catfish is a versatile fish in cuisine of the United States, with a myriad of regional and national recipes to be enjoyed by all people of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates August 2023 as "National Catfish Month";

(2) recognizes the contributions of all workers, past and present, that produce, process, and provide catfish for the people of the United States; and

(3) recognizes that purchasing United States farm-raised catfish supports farmers, jobs, and the economy of the United States.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Ms. SMITH. Madam President, I have four 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 FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 6, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 6, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 6, 2023, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AND BORDER MANAGEMENT

The Subcommittee on Government Operations and Border Management of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 6, 2023, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to the provisions of S. Res. 64, adopted March 5, 2013, appoints the following Senators as members of the Senate National Security Working Group for the 118th Congress: DIANNE FEINSTEIN of California (Administrative Co-Chair); JACK REED of Rhode Island (Co-Chair); ROBERT MENENDEZ of New Jersey (Co-Chair); RICHARD J.

DURBIN of Illinois (Co-Chair); BENJAMIN L. CARDIN of Maryland; ROBERT P. CASEY, Jr. of Pennsylvania; TAMMY DUCKWORTH of Illinois; KYRSTEN SINEMA of Arizona; and RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK of Georgia.

AUTHORIZING TESTIMONY AND REPRESENTATION IN UNITED STATES V. HORN

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 329, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 329) to authorize testimony and representation in United States v. Horn.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, another criminal trial arising out of the events of January 6, 2021, is scheduled to begin on September 13, 2023, in Federal district court in the District of Columbia. The defendant in this case is charged with multiple counts, including unlawfully entering and remaining in a restricted area within the U.S. Capitol grounds.

The prosecution is seeking trial testimony from Michael J. Mastrian, Director of the Senate Radio and Television Gallery, and Jeffrey S. Kent, Director of the Press Photographers' Gallery, which operate under the authority of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate, relating to the regulation of access to the Capitol by bona fide members of the electronic news media, news photographers, and heads of photographic news bureaus.

Senate Sergeant at Arms Gibson would like to cooperate by providing relevant testimony in this proceeding from Messrs. Mastrian and Kent.

In keeping with the rules and practices of the Senate, this resolution would authorize the production of relevant testimony from Messrs. Mastrian and Kent, with representation by the Senate legal counsel.

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent 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. 329) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate

proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 330, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 330) expressing support for the goals and ideals of National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

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

Ms. SMITH. I know of no further debate on the resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Hearing no further debate, the question is on adoption of the resolution.

The resolution (S. Res. 330) was agreed to.

Ms. SMITH. I ask unanimous consent the preamble be agreed to and that 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 preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

NATIONAL CATFISH MONTH

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 331, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 331) designating August 2023 as "National Catfish Month".

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

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent 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. 331) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2023

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Thursday, September 7; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Sen-

ate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Kugler nomination postclosure; further, that at 11:45 a.m., all postclosure time be considered expired and the Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination; further, that if cloture is invoked on the Gomez nomination, all postclosure time be considered expired at 1:45 p.m.; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

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

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Ms. SMITH. 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, following the remarks of Senator KENNEDY.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

UKRAINE

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I am going to talk for a few minutes about NATO, but before I do that, I want to make two preliminary points.

I believe that America's aid to Ukraine is not charity. I believe that aid is in America's national security interest, and I have voted accordingly.

I am convinced that Vladimir Putin, President Xi Jinping, and the Ayatollah of Iran are working together. I am convinced that their objective is to have Russia dominate Central and Eastern Europe; the Ayatollah from Iran dominate the Middle East; and China, through President Xi, dominate the Indo-Pacific, Sub-Saharan Africa, and South America. That is not a world that is safe for the United States of America. That certainly isn't a world that is safe for democracy. That is point one.

Point two, I have been sorely disappointed at the refusal of the U.S. Senate to appoint or to pass a bill that would allow the President to appoint—confirmed by the U.S. Senate—a special inspector general to follow the money in Ukraine.

Once again, I have voted to send that money to Ukraine not as an act of charity but because I believe it is in America's national security interest. But that money didn't just fall from Heaven. That money that we sent to Ukraine—we thank Heaven for it, but it came out of the pockets of the American taxpayer. I understand that we have an inspector general from the Department of Defense following the money, and I don't mean to be overtly critical.

I would point out as an aside that I find it somewhat ironic that the Department of Defense inspector general says "We have got this," but yet the Department of Defense has never been audited. Ever. Never. The Department

of Defense is the only Agency in the U.S. Government that has never been audited, and the American people know that.

That is why I and a number of my colleagues have asked this Senate to pass a bill to allow the President to pick a special inspector general of his choosing to be confirmed by the U.S. Senate to follow every single dollar we are sending to Ukraine and to answer to the Members of the Senate, Members of the House, and, most importantly, to the American people.

Many Republicans and many Democrats have supported that effort, but many Democrats and many Republicans on both sides of the aisle have refused. Now, I am going to keep trying, but, as I said, this money didn't just fall from Heaven; it came out of people's pockets.

(Ms. BALDWIN assumed the Chair.)

NATO

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, a word about NATO. For the past 18 months, the United States and our NATO allies have worked together to support our Ukrainian friends as they push back against Russian President Vladimir Putin's violent attack on their sovereignty.

Putin's war in Ukraine is illegal, and it has presented one of the most serious challenges that NATO—the North Atlantic Treaty Organization—has faced in decades. As with many challenges in life, I believe that the difficulties we face today can make NATO stronger tomorrow. I believe that. But that will only happen if we are honest with each other. Friends tell friends the truth. Friends tell friends the truth.

Here is the truth as I see it: NATO is one of the most impactful defense PACs in all of human history. The United States is a proud NATO member. The American people support NATO. But it is also no secret that some of our friends in NATO have not been taking their own defense and defense spending seriously, and they had not been taking their own defense and defense spending seriously even before Vladimir Putin began his illegal assault on Ukraine.

As the full extent of Putin's cruelty unfolded last year, NATO leaders—they appeared at first to regard it as a wake-up call, and that is a good thing. It was a wake-up call for many people throughout the world. But sometime, somehow, over the past year, those same countries fell back asleep.

You see, when Putin began his march into Ukraine, key NATO leaders said that they would start spending 2 percent of their gross domestic product on defense. That is a promise that they had made before but had reneged on until Putin's assault. But it took less than a year after Putin entered Ukraine for those same leaders to begin to renege again, and that is just a fact. Friends tell friends the truth. Recent analysis shows that as of today, just 11 out of the 31 countries currently

in NATO are on track to fulfill their 2 percent defense spending obligation.

Now, this is becoming a frustrating pattern for some of our NATO allies. As a smart person once said, history doesn't repeat itself, but sometimes it rhymes, and that is the case here. If you take a look at NATO today and compare it to NATO in 2014, it, frankly, would make Michael Avenatti blush.

Let me paint the picture for you. NATO countries first agreed to spend 2 percent of their gross domestic product on defense in 2006. The 2 percent figure was designed, as the Presiding Officer knows, to be a floor, not a ceiling. And this didn't mean—this promise made by all NATO countries in 2006—this didn't mean that each country was required to cut a check to NATO. That is not what it meant. It just meant that each country would spend 2 percent of its gross domestic product on itself—on itself—in its own military and in its own national security. Why? Because all NATO countries understood then that our alliance was stronger when everyone pulled their weight.

Now, we know a lot of what has happened since then. The world economy sank into a recession in 2008. We all felt the brunt of that, including the American people. But for some of our friends in NATO, that 2 percent commitment fell apart. After the great recession, as we call it, just three NATO members—three—fulfilled their promise to invest 2 percent or more in defense. Do you know who took note? Vladimir Putin.

In 2014—fast-forward a few years—Putin invaded Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula. Putin made it clear that he intended to take that key block of land on the Black Sea and make it his own, and he did. This was a blatant violation of Ukrainian sovereignty. It was an unmistakable foreshadowing as well of what would come.

Now, Putin's aggression outraged NATO. It should have. It outraged all fairminded, freedom-loving people. At a conference that year, 2014, in Wales, each member country of NATO reaffirmed their commitment to spend 2 percent of their GDP on defense by 2024.

At the time, President Obama was President. In a speech at the conference in Wales where each country pledged to spend 2 percent—the second time it made the pledge—President Obama said:

[T]his commitment makes clear that NATO will not be complacent.

I remember when the President said that.

President Obama also said:

Our Alliance will reverse the decline in defense spending and rise to meet the challenges that we face in the 21st century.

He later added:

Here in Wales, we also sent a strong message to Russia that actions have consequences.

Well, that turned out to be debatable. By 2021, just a few years later, only seven NATO members were spending

the minimum 2 percent on defense, and that is just a fact. Friends tell friends the truth. In fact, President Trump was met with scorn when he asked our friends in NATO to keep their word and reinvest in defense. Germany's Foreign Minister, Heiko Maas, said:

Our common response today to the President of the United States and his assertion of "America First" must be "Europe United."

Apparently, Germany and others felt that upholding their pledge to spend 2 percent on their own defense was somehow an "America First" policy. And do you know who took note? Vladimir Putin.

Flash-forward to 2022. Putin's tanks are rolling farther into Ukraine. And just like in 2014, our NATO friends issued statements a third time once again pledging to spend 2 percent of their gross domestic product on their own security. Yet, today, despite Putin's ongoing attack on Ukraine, today, some of our friends in NATO have already stopped or postponed their 2 percent spending plans, and that is just a fact. Friends tell friends the truth.

French President Macron, for example, promised to increase France's defense spending in the days following Putin's invasion. I remember when he made that promise. But French officials have also announced that it will take until 2025 to hit the 2 percent defense spending threshold. Similarly, Italy announced it would not hit 2 percent until 2028. Spain said it won't hit its 2 percent goal until 2029. Belgium said it won't hit its 2 percent goal until 2035.

The war is going on.

To be fair, Belgium and Spain, both good friends of America, have made some small progress in their defense spending over the past year. I want to make that clear. They may come through eventually. But France's spending has hardly changed at all, and Italy will actually spend less on defense this year, in the middle of the war which is happening in Europe, than it did in 2021, before Putin even entered Ukraine.

Germany's failure to follow through on its 2 percent commitment is especially disappointing and consequential. As the world's fourth largest economy—Germany is the world's fourth largest economy behind only the United States of America, China, and Japan, the world's fourth largest economy. So Germany's defense spending shortfall, and it is a shortfall, leaves a much bigger hole. We are talking about a lot of money. Germany will only spend 1.6 percent of its GDP on defense in 2023. That is \$18.1 billion short of the commitment that it has made not once, not twice, but three times.

Now, NATO is an alliance. It means we are friends, and we are. It means we know that we are stronger together. It means that if you come for one of us, you are going to have to fight all of us. That is what it means.

At the end of the day, an alliance, though, is just a promise. That is all it is, but it is built on mutual trust. It states that we won't leave each other to fight threats alone, and that is what NATO is supposed to stand for and I am very proud of that and so are the American people. We support NATO.

But when countries in NATO choose not to keep their commitment to spend 2 percent on their own defense, they weaken the alliance of NATO. It shows us and it shows our enemies that we cannot count on those countries to step up to help keep all of us safe. And it tells Putin—it tells Putin that some NATO members are content sitting back and waiting, rather than remaining strong together, and that is just a fact. Friends tell friends the truth.

Now, the United States of America, we keep our promises. And all along, every year through the history of NATO, we have proudly invested in our defense to the benefit of our allies—to our own benefit but to the benefit of our allies. And it was important to our allies in Europe. It was.

I don't know what would have happened in Europe had the American people not come to Ukraine's rescue. Putin may be in Paris right now, for all I know, God forbid.

Now, a few of our NATO friends have kept their commitment, and I want to thank them. Our friends in Greece, for example, our friends in the United Kingdom, our friends in Estonia, they spent 2 percent of their GDP on defense before Putin invaded. Our friends in Lithuania and in Hungary and Romania and Slovakia, they will all reach the 2-percent threshold by the end of this year. And that is a good thing. Thank you, Greece. Thank you, United Kingdom. Thank you, Estonia. Thank you, Lithuania and Hungary and Romania and Slovakia, for keeping your word.

Now, Finland—Finland just joined NATO. We are so pleased. Our friends in Finland spent 2 percent on defense before joining NATO, but they didn't use the alliance as a reason for taking their foot off the gas. Instead, Finland increased their defense spending even more to 2.4 percent of GDP. Thank you, Finland. I hope our allies, which have been nestled safely under the NATO umbrella for years without pulling their financial weight, will take note of Finland's dedication.

Let me say it again: Thank you, Finland.

And we have got to commend Poland. Poland spent 2 percent on defense long before Putin invaded Ukraine, but over the past 2 years, it hasn't spent 2 percent—Poland hasn't. It nearly doubled its defense spending to 4.3 percent. It is investing that money, in part, by buying American weapons, and it is showing Putin that Poland is serious about its sovereignty and that Poland is serious about freedom. By the end of this decade, Poland is on pace to have more tanks than the United Kingdom, than Germany, than France, than the Neth-

erlands, than Belgium and Italy put together—put together. Thank you, Poland.

Now, I understand you don't have to be Mensa material to understand that Putin's threat is more visceral when it is happening next door, and of course Poland is much closer to Russia than Germany or France is. I get that. But when you are allies, when you are friends, when you have promised not once, not twice, but three times to have each other's backs, you are not only supposed to think of yourself and your proximity to the threat.

You know, as Americans, we have got an entire ocean between us and Russia. We have got an entire ocean as our buffer against Putin's tanks. But I doubt that Germany or France—both good friends, love them to death—but I doubt that Germany or France would support the United States backing away because we aren't close enough to the shelling to be bothered.

Let me be frank. Allies through NATO have pledged to have each other's backs, and I see no sense in bubble-wrapping it. That starts by putting your money where your mouth is.

I want to be frank again. Some of our friends in NATO have engaged in a cycle of broken promises time and time and time again. Putin shows his cruel aggression, and horrified European leaders pledged to invest in defense. Then Putin's aggression maybe falls off the front page of the paper, and leaders forget their promise to invest until Putin's rockets start blowing up another city.

It has been more than a year, as the Presiding Officer knows as well as I do, since Putin sent Russian tanks and troops into Ukraine. And maybe for some the horror of it all has worn off, maybe. It hasn't worn off for most Americans, and it sure hasn't worn off for Ukraine. Citizens of a sovereign Ukraine are still dodging missiles on their own streets, and Putin is still watching too many NATO members bury their heads and drag their feet. And so is President Xi Jinping.

Now, I don't mean to offend anyone—I don't—but friends tell friends the truth, and everyone in NATO is a friend. And I am so proud that the United States of America is a member of NATO. But NATO is only as strong as our confidence in one another. If we want to strengthen NATO's ability to deter bad actors from bad acts, we have each got to do our part. It is time for all of us in NATO to start keeping our promises and investing in our defense.

The American people have sent over \$100 billion to fight Putin in Ukraine, and I don't regret a single penny. We kept our word. But, again, friends tell friends the truth: Not all of our allies in NATO have, and it is time they put their money where their mouth is.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.
TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 7:25 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, September 7, 2023, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be colonel

JASON E. LITTLE

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

LARRY K. CREEL
BRIDGETTE Y. EPPS
TIFFANY M. FUSCO
BERNADINE D. GALANG
LEESA M. HARRIE
SUZANNE D. HERNANDEZ
JAYSON S. JARVIS
NATALIE A. JOHNSON
ENRIQUE C. LUNA
BRIAN J. MCMILLION
AUDLEY S. SALMON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

ALFRED L. BOOKER, JR.
ANTHONY M. KELLY
FERNANDO L. RIVERA
PABLO RIVERA, JR.
MELISSA L. WARDLAW

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

CHRISTOPHER J. HANKEY
JENNIFER M. JAEVERS

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

CHRIS R. LARSEN
THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:
To be colonel
CHRISTOPHER J. CALVANO
OLUWASEUN T. COLE
JONATHAN F. DICKENS
CHARLES G. DIPIERRO
ROBERT V. MADLINGER
BRIAN OREILLY
JOHN R. REAUME
ERIN S. SEEFDLT
JOHN G. SPETHMAN
DAVID C. THOMA
ALFREDO E. URDANETA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:
To be colonel

RYAN S. CASPER
CHRISTOPHER J. CHABOT
ANTHONY B. COLE
CHRISTINE M. DECAPITE
CHRISTOPHER S. DOBOZY
EMILY C. GRAFF
BRIAN K. HOWELL
DOUGLAS S. LOWERY
AMY L. LUER
CHRISTOPHER L. NORTHAM
DAWN R. PAUL
DAVID M. PEYOK
MARTIN J. REIDY III
KYLE A. SMITH
STEPHEN TRYNOSKY
BENJAMIN J. WEITZEL, JR.

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

EUGENE S. JOHNSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

BRIAN V. CRUPI
NATHAN C. PARRISH

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

DANIEL J. MCINTYRE
KELLEY A. PETERSON

IN THE MARINE CORPS

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 major

CALE D. MAGNUSON

IN THE NAVY

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

DAVID J. BROWN
GREGORY R. LANEY
RENO R. PERRYMAN

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

JONATHAN W. ALEXANDER

MARIO E. ANCIRA, JR.
CHRIS M. BELL
JEFFREY B. BIRCH
ARTHUR R. BRIGGS
BRIAN E. BURD
PAUL A. CHAPMAN
SCOTT A. DEAN
KEITH E. ELLISON
JASON D. EVERSON
ROBERT D. FRIEBEL
MICHAEL P. GEOGHEGAN
JOSEPH W. E. GILLIAM
STEPHEN M. HEATHMAN
MARK T. JONES
JAMIL A. KHAN
SAE-JEONG KIM
JOHN D. KNIPP
CHAD R. LAUGHERY
POHLMARC O. LAWRENCE
PETER S. K. LEE
IAN F. MCCARTHY
BRADFORD M. MOORE
GUY L. PASSMORE, JR.
CARL D. SCROGGS
MICHAEL T. SLAUGHTER
MICHAEL L. SMITH
MERLIN E. STEPHAN
NICHOLAS M. SUDDAH
JEREMY E. SWEETEN
MICHAEL D. TAULBEE
STEPHEN M. THOMPSON
DAMIAN S. VELARDE
PHILLIP L. WEBSTER II
LEOTRA L. 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

VINCENZO G. ALBERICO

STUART G. ALLISON
ZACHARY L. ALTENBURGER
JESSE K. AN
LIAM L. ARELLANO
MICHAEL E. BISHOP
AMY M. CAMPO
MATTHEW D. CARMODY
MATTHEW G. CATOIRE
ABIGAIL M. CHEK
NATHAN D. CINTULA
BRYAN S. CLARK
SHAUN P. CLOPTON
JOSEPH W. COOK
ERNESTO CRUZACEVEDO
VICTOR S. DELEON
MICHAEL A. DELROSSI
KEVIN C. DORIAN
DANIEL I. DUNN
TANNER R. ENGLAND
ZACHARY B. ESKEW
CASSANDRA C. FACH
DAVID B. FITCKEY
MICHELLE A. FITZGERALD
BRADFORD C. GARRIGUES
MICHAEL O. HAMILTON
DAVID A. HARMON
CORY E. HAUPTMAN
ADAM R. HINDS
JOSHUA P. HUESING
IAN C. JORDAN
BRUCE D. J. KIM
UZIEL B. LADAW
KIMLONG Q. LE
CHANHAN LEE
JOSHUA J. MOORE

CHRISTOPHER M. NEAL
ZACHARY M. NIEZGODSKI
JOSHUA D. OWENS
KAREEM M. RADWAN
SAMUEL L. REIMER
JAMES M. RENALDO
LUKE K. REYNOLDS
BRANDON D. ROTH
PATRICK J. SHINE
ERIK M. SNODGRASS
VIARONIC I. SNOWHILL
MICHAEL D. STOLLER
JANNETT C. SUSBERRY
BRYSON A. SUTTERFIELD
CHARLES J. SWEET III
DYLAN S. SYLVESTER
SHANE D. THAMES
MICHAEL J. TULLIS
IGOR A. VLADIMIROV
CORI R. WALLACE

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

JULIANNE R. HUDSON
WELLE A. HUENING
SIVCHHUN HUN
JAMES P. H. JACOB
MATTHEW E. JOHNSON
ROBERT T. JOHNSON
PHILOMENA T. KAHLER
NICOLE S. KELLYMOORE
BEYONAVA R. KENDALL
LORI S. KENNY
BOBBYJOE N. KIMBRO
AKOUETE KOUVEIGOU
KIMBERLY L. KOZLOWSKI
ANNETTE F. KUSARFISCHER
CHOANG N. LAI
NICOLE R. LEWIS
XINGTONG LIU
CHARISE M. LLOYD
CHARLES L. LONG
JEREMY G. LONG
MARY K. LOOKER
JESSICA A. LOPEZ
RICHARD W. LOWRANCE
ERIN M. MACDONALD
ERIC S. MAKOVSKY

GWENDOLYN L. MANN
MARC Z. MANICAL
MEREDITH K. MARLOWE
MILENA A. MARSHALL
PAULINA M. MARSHALL
DESHON MARTIN
ANNASTASIA K. MASSO
STEFFANI M. MATTSON
JESSICA M. MCATEE
MEAGAN C. MCAULEY
NATALIE A. MCCORMICK
JASON A. MCDONALD
ALEXANDRA A. MCGAHA
SHAWNDELL M. MCNARY
JOSHUA J. MEDLIN
DARRELL N. MENDOZA
GEORGE U. MENNINGER
MICHAEL C. MENNINGER
EMILY M. MICCIOLI
WADE A. MILLER
RENEE J. MIMBELA
MAYRA MONARREZ
LOGAN E. MOORE
CAROLINE A. MOSHER
RICHARD J. MURRAY
KELLY K. NAGLE
HEATHER W. NELSON
LESLIE C. NEWBURN
ANDREW O. NOP
GLORIA M. OAKMAN
BRIAN J. OLDENBURG
SONJA E. OLSEN
HANNAH M. PARADISE
KATHARINE L. PARDEW
GALIA PARKER
HANNAH J. PARKER
YING PAYTON
RODNEY G. POSELY, JR.
MELISSA M. QUINONES
BRIDGET A. RAY
ILIANA REYES
MATTHEW S. RIDGWAY
PERLA S. RIOS
ESTELA ROJAS
RITA E. ROMBAOA
EDUARDO A. ROSAS
LILIANA A. RUSSELL
EVAN J. RUTHERFORD
SHIJU SANTHANIVAS
HOLLY B. SAPIEN
LAILA C. SCHLESS
NICOLE R. SEARCY
SUEHEIGH K. SEEPERSAUD
JACLYN D. SINCLAIR
NORA G. SKORINA
ADAM J. SLANKARD
ELIZABETH R. SMITH
LATISHA N. SMITH
DANIEL S. SOLOMON
EMMA V. SPROTT
DEBORAH A. STEELE
DESIREA A. STEINHILBER
JENNIFER A. STEVELEY
DAYNA E. STEVENS
GRETA C. STEVENS
MARGARET T. TAYLOR
GENEVIEVE C. THEARD
HEATHER M. THOMAS
KHADIJAH R. TORRES
NATHAN L. TRUJILLO
JOSHUA A. VANZANT
YASSER E. VELASQUEZ
CRUZ VINEGAS
BERLINE VINCENT
MARIA E. VITALEECHON
VICTORIA P. VUONG
ANTHONY S. WAITE, JR.
GRETTA M. WALTER
KATHERINE G. WHATLEY
TANJJI L. WHITE
KOURGEES S. WILLIAMS
LEONARD L. WILSON, JR.
SARAH L. WOLFF
DEBORAH L. WOODSCHATTMAN
JOSHUA M. YODER
AMY L. ZABEL
ALTON J. ZURLOHAYEV

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

CHARLES D. BALL III
JUSTIN J. BARTA
ROBERT L. BAXTER
ALEX M. BIGGS
ANDREW D. BROWN
DOUGLAS J. CANTWELL
JOHN J. CASPER
SIMON J. Y. CHUN
KATH A. CLARKDAWE
DENEALIA CUNNINGHAM PETERSON
COLLEEN E. DALY
KEVIN O. DARBY
MARIA A. P. DEGUZMAN
LAURA A. DELLANTONIO
RYAN M. FEINGOLD
CLARE E. FITZPATRICK
ASHLEE E. GOODWIN
KEVIN R. GRIFFIN
TITUS J. HATTAN
MARC D. HENDEL
KRISTIN W. HIGHSMITH
JARED R. HUDSON
LEE A. HUGHES
JARED M. JANES
JASON J. L. KIM
GREGGARY E. LINES
MEGAN E. MARTINO
TAYLOR M. ONIK
JESSE K. POSEY
ALEXANDRA C. PUTNAM
DANIEL P. RICHEY
MICHAEL B. ROBERTS
MORGAN A. SANDERS
CAROLYN M. SCHNURR
MICHAEL R. SEELEY
DANIEL T. SEGOVIA
AMANDA M. SERFESS
AUSTIN J. SHORT
TARA M. SHORT
SAVANNAH J. SMIDT
CAITLIN O. SPENCE
AARON J. SPENCER
PHILIP K. STEVENS
MICHELLE A. TABACH
COLETTA K. TOLBERT
DAVID O. VALENTINE
ADAM N. WALKER
BRIGID M. WEINTRAUB
KAMERON T. WRIGHT
COLIN N. ZOOK

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

CHRISTOPHER B. ABEL
MYON D. ADOM
MELISSA M. ALFARO
MARGARET J. ANDERSON
TIARA C. ANDERSON
KWABENA ANTWINIMARKO
OSCAR A. ARITAGONAZQUE
QIZHENG BAO
AARON J. BAUMAN
JOHN T. BEVERLY
JEFFREY P. BURKHART
MELISSA F. CALDERWOOD
KEISHA B. CASTILLO
DYLAN M. CAWDERY
VINCENT D. CHURCHWARD
BEAU R. CITRONE
CORALICEMAR COCHRANE
WILLIAM S. CONTARINO
NOAH K. COPELAND
ARIANA CORONA
NATHAN L. COURTER
ROBERT C. CRONSTEDT II
JOSHUA M. CROSBY
JOSHUA C. DANIELS
WHITNEY G. DAVIDSON
ROIMARRION G. DEGUZMAN
BRIAN M. DELAMORA
RICHARD T. DIGGS II
JAMES M. DONAHUE
NICHOLAS C. DOUGLAS
JASON J. DUDELL
DANIEL M. DULAC
CELESTINO D. DULNUAN
CODY O. DUNN
JAMES H. ENGELKING
DERRICK R. FLOYD
KATHERINE M. FOSTER
MARCUS R. FOSTER
SCOTT M. GALLOWAY
MARCUS A. GARCIA
SAMUEL T. GEBRESELASSIE
PATRICK D. GLYNN
JUSTIN J. GODFREY
JACOB B. GUAMARANG
JORDAN P. HAMILTON
JOHN F. HANBY
SEAN P. HARLOW
THOMAS M. HART
LOLLITA R. HEHOLT
BRIAN C. HOAGLAND
KATHRYN P. HUSSEY
JOSHUA M. IMPERIAL
JOHN F. JACKSON
LISA JIANG
EVAN T. JONES
DATA J. JURUGO
BRENDAN S. KAHLE
JESSICA M. KALLANDER
JONATHAN KANG

OLUWATOBI K. KAZEEM
ROBERT G. KEATING, JR.
TRAVIS A. KENDALL
HEATHER N. KERBER
MAXX A. KILLMAN
THOMAS C. KNOWLES
EVAN G. KOHL
CASSANDRA M. KOVAC
SAFOUANE LACHGAR
RHIANNON S. LADWIG
BRIAN R. LASLEY
TCHANAVIA C. LASTIE
RYAN LE
DEIRDRE A. LEARY
JORDAN P. M. LEGASPI
IAN J. LEVINE
MARISKA LIU
DONG M. LOGAN
PETER R. LUTTER
STEPHEN D. MACINTYRE
TOMMASO MASTROIANNI
RODWAY W. MCCLOGGAN
CAMERON C. MEIER
CYNTHIA MILLEN
KEVIN S. MILLER, JR.
MICHAEL D. MILLER
BYRON P. MONTGOMERY
COLE S. MORRIS
LOC X. NGUYEN
VU T. NGUYEN
WILLIAM E. NORMAN
SHANE M. ODONNELL
GILMORE S. OLIVE
OLUWATOBI B. OLUBANJO
TYLER R. OWEN
ANDREW B. OXENDINE
THOMAS B. PATTERSON
REAGANBRUNO P. PESCOZO
IAN M. PIDDUCK
MICHAEL M. QUERRY
DANIEL P. REDDEN
NICHOLAS J. REEL
PHILIP K. REILLY
SHANNON L. ROMAN
CHRISTOPHER L. RUNGE
PATRICK N. RYAN
WAVE K. RYDER
BRITTANY S. SAULSBERRY
GRANT SAWYER
GEORGE D. SCHULZ
GREGORY T. SCHWARGA
SHERWIN S. SHEPHERD
KATE M. SHERWIN
MARTIN A. SOTOPEREZ
ELISABETH R. STAAB
ANDREW S. STECZO
ANDREW J. TIELKING
PATRICK W. TOOMEY
ANDREA A. VILLARREAL
MARC J. WALKER
KYLE A. WATSON
PETER E. WATSON
JACOB M. WAYMIRE
SPENCER WILSON
JUSTIN B. WOODS

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 commander

MARK ADJEE
MATTHEW S. BELLINGTON
IAN A. BRENNER
THAD R. BRILL, JR.
CHRISTIAN L. BUENSUCESO
MARGARET M. CAMPBELL
ALEXANDER R. CASSADY
CARLISLE R. CATACTAN
CHRISTOPHER T. CROMIE
CHRISTOPHER S. CULP
JACOB R. DAVIS
JAMMIE L. DOWNER
DAVID A. DYAL III
LUIS C. ESCOBAR
AARON B. FISH
WYATT J. FRANCE
DAVID F. FRANCIA
ROBERT A. FRITSCH
AUSTIN W. GAGE
ARACELI GALVAN
BLAKE D. GARNER
KENDRICK R. GARRETT
JUSTIN C. GAY
DAVID K. GIBSON
TRAVIS M. C. GRAYUM
JACOB M. GRIMES
SHAWN M. GROGAN
HILMAN I. GUILLORY, JR.
AARON J. HARPEL
JOSHUA R. HART
CHRISTOPHER J. HARVEY
CRETTE O. HENDRICKS II
JUSTIN N. HIGGINS
STEVEN A. HOLLAND
KEITH A. HOUGH
JAY H. HUGHES
DAVID J. HUNT
TRACI L. IRBY
IRINA JARREAU
AMANDA M. JONES
JESSE V. JULAO
JESSE Y. KIENGSIKI
BRYAN W. KING
JONATHAN R. KING
PETER M. KOJM
ANDREW J. KRANTZ

JOSEPH M. LANDON
EMMA R. LARENAS
JEFFREY D. LEGG
JOSEPH P. MURPHY
THUY L. T. NGUYEN
JONATHAN M. OKONAK
CHRISTOPHER D. OLIVERIA
TYLER S. ORDWAY
DYLAN S. PAIGE
JONAH A. PETRINOVIC
ROBERT D. ROUTLEY
SAHEED A. SALAMI
JEREMY R. SANTIAGO
JERMAINE L. SEALS
KIERA M. SILVA
EDWIN J. STEVENS
BRANDON A. STEWART
BRADFORD R. STURGIS, JR.
JUSTIN C. TINSLEY
JENNIFER A. TRAUL
KEVIN M. WALL
ORLANDO J. WHITE
ASHLY L. WISNIEWSKI

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

KEVIN L. JACKSON

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 commander

JASON R. ARANT
MICHAEL W. BEASLEY
JEREMY P. BLYTHE
SHAWN L. BOOTSMA
BENJAMIN M. BOX
WILLIAM D. BUTTS
PHILIP D. CARSON
PON CHANTHAPHON
BARRETT D. CRAIG
LOREN M. CRONE
JASON M. DIPINTO
CHARLES R. FERGUSON
BENTON L. GARRETT
STEPHEN T. GRIFFIN
JUSTIN M. HAYES
ANDREW J. HAYLER
ROBERT M. HESS
BRANDON K. HOOD
DIEGO H. LONDONO
DANIEL J. MCGRATH
ERIC J. MELVIN
TIMOTHY J. MILLER
DAVID T. NELSON
DRU A. NELSON
JEREMY C. SELITTO
JASON B. SLUDER
CHRISTOPHER J. SUTTON
STEPHEN E. VELTHUIS

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 commander

MICHAEL A. BERL
DEREK M. BOOGAART
CARL C. CHASE III
NATHAN V. CHENARAK
CARL J. CLEMENCICH III
DANIEL D. CLOUTIER
RAUL E. CUEVAS
RICHARD DIAZ
RYAN T. DOYLE
MICHAEL J. DUFFY
KIMBERLY A. HERM
JOSEPH L. IACOVONE
KEVIN J. KACZMARSKI
KRISTEN KRUSHINSKI
CLINTON B. LAWSON
BRIAN G. MACK
CHRISTIAN U. MARTINEZ
TRAVIS R. MYERS
JOHN P. ORR
JOHN M. PARIZEK
DON PASTEUR
MATTHEW K. RIEGE
JEREMIAH P. SMITH
ALEXANDRIA M. SOVIE
SAMUEL C. TATEL
ROBERT J. THOMPSON
JUSTIN P. WEBB
CHRISTOPHER M. WILLICH

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

ADRIAN ACEVESHURTADO
ANDREW J. ALSTERDA
AMANDA T. AN
MICHAEL P. ANDERSEN
CHRISTOPHER P. ANDROSKI
ERICA L. ANSTETT
MATTHEW J. ASH BROOK
STERLING F. ATKINS
KRISTEN M. AZZAM
RYAN S. AZZAM
ANDREW T. BAGBY
JOHN J. BAGINSKI
KYLE A. BEMENT
ALEXANDER O. BERG

HOLLY H. BERKLEY
 CHRISTOPHER J. BERNETSKI
 THEODORE W. BEVAN
 ROBERT I. BLACKMON
 GREGORY M. BLAKE
 MICHAEL A. BOATWRIGHT
 MARY E. BOKENKAMP
 BRANDON F. BOLDT
 SEAN M. BOWEN
 CHANNING E. BOWERS
 CATHERINE A. BRAHE
 CAMERON W. BRASSFIELD
 JAMES E. BREUER
 ERRAN D. BRIGGS II
 WILLIAM R. BROOKS
 STEPHEN R. BROWN
 MICHAEL W. BURNS, JR.
 CHRISTIAN E. BUSTAMANTE
 AMANDA E. CAIN
 LAUREL C. CANTRELL
 BENEDICT A. CAPACIO
 INGRID C. CARNEVALE
 CHRISTOPHER J. CARR
 SARA E. CARROLL
 KYLA J. CASEY
 ANDREW C. CAUDILL
 CHRISTOPHER M. CEROVSKY
 KEVIN H. CHEN
 JOHN D. COOPER
 JOHN A. COATHERN
 RACE A. CREEDEN
 TARA K. CROWN
 JESSICA N. CUBILLOS
 ALEJANDRO L. CUESTA
 KENNETH R. DALTON III
 JOHN V. DANG
 MATTHEW J. DAVID
 NICHOLAS R. DAVIS
 ROBERT D. DAVIS
 WILLIAM G. DAY
 MARISSE E. DEARDEN
 ERIN L. DELANEY
 JOSEPH A. DIAZ
 ROSEMARIE P. DIZON
 ALEXANDER P. DUNNUM
 GERALD P. DURKAN III
 JARED R. EDWARDS
 STEPHEN D. EDWARDS
 STEPHANIE E. EONTA
 PHILIP R. FAGAN III
 MATTHEW R. FALLER
 JORDAN S. FARBER
 ADAM W. FINE
 PETER W. FISCHER
 CONNOR P. FLINT
 DAVIS A. FREASE
 CHRISTOPHER H. FREDERICK
 CLAYTON F. FUQUA
 MICHAEL N. GAONA
 MICHAEL D. GEDESTAD
 DOUGLAS GEORGE
 ANASTASSIYA B. GEORGIEV
 MARISSA S. GHANT
 CHRISTOPHER J. GILBERTSON
 NICOLAS G. GIULIANO
 JENA C. GLAVY
 MAX H. GOULAS
 DYLAN M. GRIFFITHS
 MATTHEW A. GRIMES
 ALLISON J. GUTIERREZ
 ASHLEY S. HAFER
 ETHAN D. HARRIS
 MORGAN M. HARVEY
 WARREN C. HARVEY, JR.
 ASHLEIGH M. HEMPHILL
 WILLIAM P. HENRKUS
 LAUREN A. HENSLEY
 KRISTEN R. HEYE
 CODY S. HOLMES
 MICHAEL L. HORSEY
 ERIN K. HOURIGAN
 JAMES B. HUGHES
 PHYLLICIA A. IRONS
 HARISH K. JAIRAM
 ZHENGGRAN JIANG
 KEVIN A. JILES
 DANIEL D. JOHNSON
 JONATHAN K. KALLEVANG
 LAUREN B. KALODNER
 THOMAS M. KANE
 KYLA A. KELLY
 ALEXANDER J. KERSEY
 BRENDON W. KIELY
 JOSEPH B. KIM
 ANDREW D. KIRST
 DUSTIN R. KOCOL
 DANIEL S. KOESTNER
 ERIC R. KRIVENSKY
 LIDIA P. KRUSEPERALTA
 JEFFREY P. S. KWAN
 DANIEL A. LAMORTE
 GABRIEL C. M. LAPID
 CAITLIN C. LEE
 NATASHA K. LEIDHOLT
 MEGAN J. LENIHAN
 SARAH R. LIGGETT
 CHUCHU LIU
 JOHN J. LOFRESE
 TYLER R. LOPACHIN
 NATHAN C. LOREI
 DEVON D. MAHONEY
 SALLY M. MANDICHAK
 JOSEPH R. MANZI
 BARRY D. MASIN
 MARGARET L. MCCARTHY
 CHRISTOPHER R. MCGEE
 AARON E. MCINTIRE

JAMES E. MCLEAN
 JAIMEE MENDEZ
 SCOTT A. METEER
 CHLOE A. MICHEL
 JAMES K. MILSTEAD
 BENJAMIN M. MOBERLY
 ANDREW L. MONROE
 BRETT T. MONSON
 KRISTA N. MOORE
 SHERRIE F. MOORE
 KAITALYN B. MOSTELLER
 BRYAN A. MUELLER
 DINH D. NGO
 THANH T. NGUYEN
 JESSICA M. NIETO
 FRANCINE E. NODA
 JAMIE A. OBLEIN
 SPENCER R. OSBOURN
 ALEXANDRA T. OSGOOD
 BRENDAN J. OSHEA
 VASILIJ OVKIMYAN
 CANDICE PASSERELLA
 STEPHEN H. PEACOCK
 WAYLON C. PEARSON
 JACQUELINE M. PERETTI
 GIA H. PHAM
 JORDAN H. POWELL
 JOHN E. POWERS
 ERIC J. PROKOPOVICH
 ALEXANDER J. PYBUS
 MACK Y. QIN
 MEGHAN E. QUINN
 KRISTOPHER W. RANDALL
 ANNA K. RAYNE
 NICHOLAS J. REAVES
 JOSE REDONDO
 FRANCESCA R. RESIDE
 ADRIENNE R. RICHARDS
 KYLE M. RICHARDSON
 ANDREW J. RITTER
 ROBERT D. RIVERA
 AARON K. ROCHESTER
 YEVIN A. ROH
 RACHEL L. ROSEDALE
 DANIELLE E. RUMSEY
 TAMEEM Y. SABITI
 RICHARD J. SCHEUERLE II
 RYAN M. SCOTT
 BENJAMIN A. SEBREROS
 VICTORIA F. M. SERVEN
 SEAN G. SHEPPARD
 DAVID M. SHERRIER
 JESSIE A. SNIDER
 JANELL C. SOURBEER
 DAVID W. SPIVEY
 LATICIA STEWART
 BROOKE D. STREETT
 STEPHANIE TAMAYO
 KEVIN M. TANIGUCHI
 LORI M. TANTLINGER
 IVO TENENG
 KAWIKA M. TERUKINA
 MATTHEW A. TOENEBOEHN
 LEVIS H. TRAN
 CHRISTOPHER D. TREAGER
 CHRISTOPHER H. TRICE
 JORDAN G. TROPP
 JERRY E. TROTTER III
 TAYLOR A. TUCKER
 BRADLEY J. ULIS
 JENNIFER M. UNDERHILL
 NICOLE J. URPS
 TRAVIS W. VALDEZ
 LYNN A. VANAIRDSALE
 JEFFREY P. VANBUREN
 NELA VANDONGE
 ERIC S. VAUGHT
 AMANDA E. WALLER
 SAMUEL R. WALTHER
 SARAH M. WALZ
 JESSIE T. WANG
 PHILIPPE A. WARREN
 DANIEL T. WEINBERG
 KRISTIN K. WERTIN
 SALLY L. WESTCOTT
 CASSIDY WESTSANTOS
 AMANDA L. WILDER
 MICHAEL S. WILINSKI
 SARAH E. WILSON
 MELANIE L. WISEMAN
 SEAN D. K. WOODRING
 KARLI A. WOOLLENS
 LYMAN P. WOOLLENS
 JOHN U. WRIGHT
 JOHN M. WYATT
 MICHAEL T. WYNGARDEN

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

JENNIFER T. ADCOCK
 ALISA AGEY
 SARAH R. B. ALPEROS
 AYOYINKA O. ALUKO
 NICHOLAS J. ARMENDARIZ
 STEVEN C. AUGUSTINE
 ADAM S. BAKER
 KORRY L. BARNES
 MEOSHE S. BECKWORTH
 CYNTHIA G. BLACKMAN
 ERIC A. BOAKYE
 ELIZABETH A. BOHME
 IVAN BOSHKOVICH
 LEAH N. BRADLEY
 KIM A. BUI

ROBERT R. CARDELL IV
 PAMELA R. CARTWRIGHT
 JARED K. CASTRO
 MICHAEL B. CHANG
 ARSLAN S. CHAUDHRY
 MATTHEW CHUNG
 ADAM P. CHURCH
 BENJAMIN C. COKER
 MARIE E. CONGO
 ELIZABETH A. CONLEY
 LAURA C. COREY
 JOSHUA R. M. CORPUS
 POLLYANNA P. CRANE
 RENEE M. CRISMAN
 EMIL T. CUADRADO
 CODY C. DAVIS
 PAIGE E. DESAULNIERS
 SCOTT M. DOMBROSKI
 LESLEY B. DORSEY
 BRYAN M. ELDREDGE
 MICHAEL C. ENCOY
 RUSSELL T. EVANS
 KENNETH R. FRATTI
 JOSEPH T. FREUNDLICH
 NICHOLAS A. FRIEDELEIN
 STACEY GABBANI
 WILLIAM B. GALEGOR II
 YOJANA K. GARCIA
 RAMON G. GAVAN, JR.
 SAMANTHA J. GIANGRANDE
 CHRISTOPHER M. GILG
 ALEJANDRO GONZALEZ
 CLAIREMARIE E. GOULD
 KARL Y. M. GRANDPIERRE
 JARRED B. GRAY
 MICHAEL J. GREENBERG
 STEPHANIE M. HARRIS
 TARA A. HAUGEN
 ANGELA L. HERAZ
 JESSE M. HERNANDEZRODRIGUEZ
 DAMICO R. HILL
 DALE A. HIRSCH
 RYAN J. HOLLINS
 SYDNEY R. HOOVER
 DEBRA H. HOUST
 ALICIA M. HOWARD
 CHRISTOPHER C. IKE
 LUCIAN A. IONESCU
 VICTORIA P. ISFAHANI
 YULIYA S. JOHNSON
 STACI L. JONES
 ALEXANDER KAECK
 STEPHEN J. KAHN
 SIUNG W. KANG
 ANDREW W. KEOUGH
 DANIELLE J. KERR
 YEONG H. KIM
 GRETCHEN E. KIRK
 VIKTOR E. KOLTKO
 JASON R. KOUCHÉ
 CHARLES L. LEE
 KATHRYN B. LITWINCHUK
 JACOB D. LOCKWOOD
 JUSTIN M. LODER
 ERIC R. MANUEL
 KENNETH M. MARLER
 SIPRANO A. MARTE
 IVORYEE D. MARTIN
 TIMOTHY J. MARTIN
 JULES C. MARTOWSKI
 DANE T. MASUDA
 JAMES H. MAXFIELD III
 MICHAEL F. MCKENNA
 CHRISTOPHER D. MCCLAUGHLIN
 ROBERT B. MCNEAL
 HERBIE M. MEDALLA
 VICTORIA D. MEDVED
 VALERIE E. MELCHERT
 PETER Y. MERCREDI
 ERICA MONTANEZ
 RYAN C. MOORE
 MARY K. MORIN
 RANDALL E. MOSS
 VANESSA L. MOYNAHAN
 DANIEL L. R. MURRISH
 TAKEHITO NAKAGAWA
 NICHOLAS C. NELSON
 TAMMY NGUYEN
 SAIDAT F. OJOYE
 JOSEPH D. OLSON
 APOLINAR ORTIZ, JR.
 YASDEL E. ORTIZRIVERA
 SAMSON F. OYELAMI
 GENNARO A. PAOLELLA
 MAGNUS D. PERKINS
 OWEN T. PITRONE
 CHARLENE A. PIZZIMENTI
 NICOLE PLAZIO
 ADITYA A. PRASAD
 ROMMEL R. RABULAN
 THERICA A. REYNOLDS
 MATTHEW T. RILEY
 MICHELLE D. RIZZOPELLEY
 RACHEL S. ROBECK
 JONATHAN M. ROGERS
 EDWARD J. RONQUILLO
 JASMINE D. ROSE
 MICHELLE L. ROSE
 TYA M. ROWE
 CARLA F. SANTIAGO
 JARED L. SCHAEFER
 ANCA I. SELARIU
 CESAR SERNA
 TUONG N. SETALA
 SARAH M. SHERWOOD
 LINETT A. SIERRA
 CHRISTOPHER W. SKIRVIN

CAITLIN B. SLEIGHT
 ALBERT D. SNIPES
 STEPHANIE S. SNYDER
 MARIA A. SPENCER
 JASON N. SPRUILL
 MATTHEW J. SQUIRES
 BRYAN L. STEINKOPF
 RICHARD C. STEPP
 AURA J. STEWART
 MICHAEL P. STOBIE
 AMY L. STRICKMAN
 MARK L. STRUTTON
 MATTHEW J. STURGEON
 JOHN E. SWEENEY III
 NARESH THEDDU
 NICHOLAS K. VAUGHAN
 JAE H. WAH
 CAROLAN H. J. WHITNEY
 DANIEL C. WILLIAMS
 ELENA V. WILLIAMS
 ERIN E. WILLIAMS
 HILARY C. WILLIAMS
 JOSEPH L. WILLIAMS
 NICOLE C. WILLIS
 WARNEE C. WILSON
 MICHAEL J. WING
 CHRISTOPHER T. WOODEN
 SAMUEL J. WOODSON
 JOSHUA YAHALOM
 KRISTINA D. YEPEZ
 QIANNING ZHANG
 DANIEL S. ZIMMER

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

MATTHEW C. ANDERSON
 MARIA S. ANGLE
 RANDY L. BAGAY
 AARON W. BARTO
 KYLIE N. BERRONG
 EVAN M. BLACK
 ELAINE C. BOOSALIS
 ERICA G. CACCIATORE
 KEVIN W. L. CAMPBELL
 CARISSA L. CERNA
 ERICH CHEN
 TIFFANY K. CHEUNG
 CODY A. CLARK
 JACOB M. CONRAD
 HANNAH C. COOK
 ROBERT W. CRAWFORD
 JORDAN E. CROSS
 SCOTT M. CURTIS
 JENNA L. DANIELS
 DOMINIQUE A. DANTHONY
 JARRETT M. DARAH
 HARDY DJULIANTO
 CHARLES T. FREEMAN
 PETER GARCIA
 SHELLY K. GAREISS
 MICHAEL J. GATZ
 KIMBERLY M. GIBBS
 GABRIEL L. GRISHAM
 SAMUEL P. HANGER
 JESSICA A. HARDY
 ELIZABETH R. HOLT
 NATHANIEL A. HOLT
 ISAAC E. HONG
 BENJAMIN J. W. HWANG
 RYAN M. JONES
 LAURA E. KAYE
 AARON M. KEITH
 CODY L. KRAMER
 PETER J. LEE
 KENNETH A. MILLARD
 KELLI M. MORRISSEY
 ILONA Z. NOCKLES
 JAE S. OH
 JAE H. PARK
 THOMAS E. C. PIKE
 QUINN C. ROBBINS
 JONATHAN A. SANKMAN
 THOMAS R. SANTACROCE
 CONRAD M. SCHULTE
 KATHERINE M. SHAFFER
 ASHLEY R. SIMPSON
 ANDREW D. SINCLAIR
 RYAN SONNABEND
 KELLY B. STODDARD
 AUSTIN J. STOKES
 SARA A. STORER
 CODY L. SULLIVAN
 JYOTIRMAIE SURYADEVARA
 TROY A. VANDERGROEN
 JONATHAN D. VOLLAND
 SHANNAN J. WALKER
 ALBERT S. YOUNG
 LI YUAN

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

ALBETRO ALSHABAZZ
 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

KEES A. ANDERSON
 CLATEN W. BECHTOL
 JAMES E. BUSSOLETTI
 SEAN P. FAGAN

KENNETH A. GAAL
 DANIEL D. HARBAUGH
 ROBERT A. HO
 ANA M. JOYNER
 NICHOLAS G. KOEHLER
 ELPHBERT D. LAFORTEZA
 SCOTT C. LILLARD, JR.
 ANTHONY G. MCMILLIAN
 JULIO C. MOLINA
 GREGORY S. MYERS
 DANIEL A. NAVARRO
 BRENDAN O. PARKER
 DANIEL S. PARKER
 BRAYAN S. RAMOSDIAZ
 KRISTOPFER J. RIEL
 PHILIP R. ROSI III
 CAREY A. SHARPE
 GARY C. THARP
 BENJAMIN P. TRAYLOR
 TOBY G. VIA

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

ASIA M. ALLISON
 VINCENT M. AUDO
 JOHN M. BARMANN
 SASHA M. BARNETT
 ANISH H. BHATT
 SAMANTHA R. BOVINO
 ZACHARY E. BRAIDA
 BRANDON J. CARTER
 BEATRICE J. A. CAYABAN
 SAMUEL S. DRUEN
 DONALD J. FINKES
 TIMOTHY S. FOUNTAIN
 KEITH L. GIBSON
 CHRISTOPHER P. GRECO
 BRADY M. HAMMOND
 MATTHEW R. HENRICKS
 JOSHUA P. HILDEBRAND
 AARON M. HOFFMAN
 DAYNE M. HOWARD
 MARIAN A. JESTER
 ROBERT M. KELLEY
 JAROD R. KRAMER
 MATTHEW T. KRUSE
 CHANTEL J. LAVENDER
 MONICA T. LAVRIS
 KAYLA L. LOVELADY
 RYAN J. MAAS
 ALEXANDER G. MUND
 SCOTT D. OBERST
 DANIEL S. OJARD
 EMILLE N. O. PEREZ
 CONNOR M. REASONERBLASCH
 IVAN A. REYES
 CHRISTINA P. ROBINSON
 ALEXANDER W. SCHACHT
 ALFONSO SCIACCHITANO
 DARIEN A. SEARS
 THOMAS J. SHAHEEN
 KELSEY M. SHEVOCK
 CASIE S. STRONG
 AUSTIN B. TAYLOR
 WILLIAM A. THIBAULT
 CHRISTOPHER R. TOMLINSON
 ZACHARY J. VRTIS
 HEATHER L. WILLIS

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

SKYLER S. BARGER
 KYLE E. BELCHER
 ROY G. BLISS II
 JEFFREY C. BOUTIN
 KURAN W. BRICKER
 BRIANNA F. BRITT
 CHRISTINE D. COLE
 COLLEEN J. COOMBES
 DEREK A. CULLEN
 JESSICA M. CULLEN
 CHARISE P. FOGLE
 CRAIG J. HIGGINS
 HUY V. HUYNH
 DYLAN M. JOHNSON
 JONATHAN D. KAPPEL
 KEVIN D. LUTZ
 NAOMI A. MARCELO
 ALINA C. MICKLE
 CHRISTOPHER R. MUNN
 MARTIN K. NGANGA
 SHEREKA F. RILEY
 MARVIN P. SALONGA
 KELLIE H. SBRACCIO
 DOMINIC J. SCHARRET
 LAUREN N. SCHMIEGEL
 JOHNATHAN L. THORNTON
 MICHAEL P. WATROL

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

JEREMY T. AARON
 ERIC D. ABORDO
 ANNMARIE L. ACEVEDO
 HOWARD M. ACOSTA
 JUSTIN A. ADAMS
 JOCELYN ADDEO
 PETER A. ADDESS
 ROBERT L. AGUILAR II

PAUL S. AHN
 BYRON J. ALEXANDER
 SARAH M. ALEXANDRE
 CURTIS E. ALLEN
 WESLEY J. ALTHAUS
 CASEY K. ALTSISER
 RACHELLE F. AMMOND
 TONY H. AN
 LEO G. ANDERLE
 ADAM M. ANDERSON
 JOHN R. ANDERSON
 MATTHEW L. ANDERSON
 ROBERT T. ANDON
 TYLER J. ANDREW
 VANNYMAE O. ANGELES
 TANNER F. ANJOLA
 CHRISTOPHER J. ANTHONY
 REINALDO J. ARAUJO
 ANDREW D. ARCHBOLD
 KEVIN D. ARDIS
 ALDO E. ARDON
 MATTHEW R. AREND
 DAVID M. ARNOLD, JR.
 JESSE C. ARNOLD
 TYRONE J. ARRINGTON
 FRANCIS L. ASCIOTI
 RYDER H. ASHCRAFT
 ELIIS AUNIS
 BROR E. AXELSSON
 KENNETH W. BABCOCK
 GARRETT M. BACON
 PARKER N. BAILEY
 JULIA Z. BAILY
 BRANDON J. BAKER
 JOSHUA D. BAKER
 MARK C. BAKER
 MICHAEL J. BAKO
 MICHAEL G. BALLATO
 RYAN P. BAPTISTE
 JOSHUA S. BARABE
 ELLIOTT L. BARDUN
 JEFFREY M. BARI
 JOSEPH M. BARONE
 DANIEL E. BARRINGER
 HEATHER M. BARTELT
 GLENDON J. BARTLETT
 ALEXANDER M. BARTO
 STEPHEN A. BATES
 SARA J. BAUGH
 EDPHILLIP Z. BAYANI
 DAVID T. BAZAN
 NICHOLAS T. BEASLEY
 ERIC R. BEAUDOIN
 ARAM BEBEKIAN
 HUNTER D. BECK
 DANIEL R. BECKER
 JOHN G. BELANGER
 LANCE R. BELL
 MITCHELL I. BELL
 KENDALL A. BENJAMIN
 CAMERON J. BENNER
 MICHAEL K. BENNER
 GARRETT M. BENNETT
 STEPHEN A. BENNETT
 ANDREW G. BENTLEY
 ANDREW J. BERGSTROM
 ROBERT S. BERKOWITZ
 MATTHEW C. BERNARD
 ANDREW J. BEST
 TYLER C. BIGGS
 REGIS J. BIGNESS
 ALEC L. BIRCHFIELD
 JILL F. BITTNER
 TREVOR C. BITTNER
 STEWART W. BLACK
 ALEXANDER G. BLAIR
 DAVID R. BLANCHARD
 JOHN C. BLANKENSHIP
 WILLIAM A. BLUME
 TYLER R. BOBLIT
 KYLER E. BOECK
 BRETT BOGAARD
 EVAN A. BOKHART
 CASEY BOLENA
 ZACHARY C. BOLEY
 KENDALL P. BORRELL
 TYLER R. BOTHEL
 JEREMY R. BOTTONMLEY
 JAMES M. BOTZER
 JACOB J. BOUDREAU
 STEPHEN M. BOWDEN
 ERIC P. BOYD
 CHARLES H. BOYLE
 LINDSEY S. BOYLE
 BRENDAN W. BRADLEY
 COURTNEY A. BRADLEY
 JASON R. BRADLEY
 RICHARD D. BRADLEY, JR.
 NICHOLAS W. BRADY
 JACK R. BRAULT
 MATTHEW W. BRAY
 SCOTT D. BREVDVOLD
 GREGORY V. BRENNAN
 JOHN A. BRENNAN
 MICHAEL V. BROMBOSZ
 JEREMY A. D. BROOKS
 BRENT S. BROUWER
 DEVON M. BROWN
 GARY M. BROWN
 JEREMY J. BROWN
 NATHAN A. BROWN
 JAMES P. BROWNING III
 ROBERT M. BRUBAKER
 JACOB J. BRUMBACH
 MICHAEL J. BRUN
 MICHAEL R. BRUN
 KATHERINE S. BRUNO

MICHAEL P. BUCK
 AMBER T. BULLEN
 TYLER R. BURESH
 MICHAEL T. BURGOYNE
 CASEY S. BURKE
 RORY O. BURKE
 DAVID J. BURKHARDT
 CHRISTOPHER P. BURNS
 JAMES C. BURNS
 MARY K. BURNS
 ALEXANDER B. BURTON
 BLAKE A. BUSSE
 DOMINIC J. BUSTO
 NATHAN R. BYAMMOONEY
 CAROLYN R. BYSTROM
 CASEY J. BYWATER
 ANTHONY CABALLERO
 CHRISTOPHER A. CABILLO
 NASHRINA S. CALDERON
 DAVID I. CALDERONGUTHE
 CASEY K. CALLAHAN
 JACQUELINE R. CALLAHAN
 ZACHARY L. CALLAHAN
 QUINTON B. CALMUS
 COLBY J. CAMPBELL
 THOMAS R. CAMPBELL
 ANDREW M. CANADY
 TYLER P. CANINGTON
 JUNE CAPELLE
 JEREMY W. B. CAPELOTTI
 MELISSA M. CARDENAS
 SEAN K. CARRIGAN
 MARK A. CARRION
 THOMAS J. CASAMASSA
 THOMAS A. CAYWOOD
 ANTHONY D. CELLETTI
 JOSHUA D. CENCI
 JACQUES A. CEROW II
 BRANDON J. CESPEDES
 ROBERT J. I. CHAMBERLAIN
 MICHAEL A. CHAMBERS
 JOHN P. CHANTRY
 ADRIAN M. CHANCE
 JOHN M. CHAPMAN
 PETER F. CHATRY
 DANIEL J. CHAUVIN
 CHRISTOPHER T. CHAVEZ
 PHILIP M. CHERRY
 JOSHUA M. CHESTER
 WILLIAM P. CHILTON
 ALEXANDER J. CLARK
 JUSTIN M. CLINE
 ELIZABETH C. CLUBB
 NATHAN L. COFSKY
 BRIAN C. COLBY
 COREY A. COLEMAN
 ERIC J. COLLINS
 TANNER J. COLLINS
 JOHN M. CONAWAY
 KEVIN M. CONDRON
 KEVIN M. CONE
 FRANK CONENNA, JR.
 KYLIE T. CONNOLLY
 IAN A. CONTE
 DANIEL M. COOK
 KILLIAN H. CORBISHLEY
 ELIZABETH M. CORCORAN
 ZACHARY D. CORNELIUS
 CATHERINE M. CORTESIO
 CORY S. COUTURE
 THOMAS J. COWHEY
 JOE D. COX
 MCKENNA M. COX
 TYLER D. COX
 DANIEL J. COZAD
 BRETT D. CRAWFORD
 AARON L. CREEK
 KYLIE P. CREGGE
 CODY W. CROSSLAND
 CAMERON B. CROWELL
 HERIBERTO N. CRUZ
 KEVIN P. CURAN
 WILLIAM H. CURRY IV
 ANNIE L. CUTCHEN
 GREGORY J. DALESSANDRO
 MATTHEW B. DALTON
 PAUL E. DALY
 CHRISTOPHER R. DAMBRA
 SEAN C. DAMICO
 RYAN M. DANIEL
 MARK C. DANIELSON
 CHRISTOPHER A. DARE
 CRAIG R. DATKO
 JULIA M. DATKO
 KELSEY K. DAUCHER
 ALEXANDER P. DAVIS
 JUSTIN R. DAVIS
 MEAGAN R. DAVIS
 ROBERT P. DAVIS
 ZACHARY J. DAVIS
 GEORGE M. DAVROS
 JAMES J. DAWSON III
 RYAN D. DEFARNO
 ANDREW J. DELANEY
 EDUARDO DELATORRE
 ALYSON M. DELEEUW
 CARINNE A. DELEON
 ANGELA J. DELLIAPAOLI
 JOSEPH P. DELORENZO
 JONATHAN A. DELVALLE
 RYAN D. DEMERS
 CONNER J. DEMPSEY
 JAMES E. DEMPSEY
 CARTER B. DENNIS
 NICHOLAS E. DEWISPELAERE
 JUAN M. DIAZ
 ANDREW L. DILLARD

GREGORY A. DINKEL
 ANDREW C. DINMORE
 TIMOTHY D. DIXON, JR.
 CELINE C. DOERR
 STEVEN J. DOMINGO
 KEVIN J. DONAHUE
 AARON J. DOUGHERTY
 DAVID J. DOWNIE
 SETH A. DRYER
 NICHOLAS A. DUBEE
 GRANT W. DUBYAK
 AUSTIN M. DUDLEY
 JUSTIN R. DUELL
 LUKE W. DULEY
 THOMAS M. DUNCAN
 ROBERT T. DUNLAP
 STEVONNISE J. DUNN
 TYLER J. DUNN
 JOHN E. DUNNE
 BRANDON K. EASLER
 SCOTT W. EBERT
 SAMUEL K. EBY
 BRENDAN C. EGAN
 ISAAC J. EICKMEIER
 JAMES L. ELLERBE
 MATTHEW G. ELLIOTT
 CLAY S. ELWARD, JR.
 NICHOLAS J. ENGLISH
 SARAH E. ERICKSON
 JOSHUA R. ESCOBAR
 MICHAEL J. ESTES
 AMANDA A. EVANS
 KEVYN T. EVANS
 LYNDSAY P. EVANS
 NICHOLAS C. EVANS
 NICHALOS A. EVERHART
 ARTHUR T. EWING
 GAVIN S. FALCONA
 CHRISTINA L. FARACI
 CHRISTIAN J. FARUS
 BRIAN A. FEDORCHAK
 ANDY K. A. FELIX
 BRIAN D. FERDON, JR.
 VIRGILIO J. FERMIN
 BENJAMIN R. FIELD
 RYAN L. FISCHELLA
 SEAMUS K. FISH
 DANIEL J. FISHER
 TYLER R. FISHER
 ALEXANDER J. FISHMAN
 TERRIL L. FITZGERALD
 CHARLES C. FITZMAURICE
 AARON D. FLEMING
 SAMUEL C. FLOOD
 ORION W. FLURETT
 KYLE P. FLYNN
 RYAN K. FOLEY
 CHRISTOPHER B. FONTANA
 ERIN M. FORD
 ANDREW W. FOSKETT
 BRANDI D. FOSTER
 ETHAN B. POSTER
 WILLIAM D. H. FOSTER
 JOHN W. FOUNDS, JR.
 ALEXANDER S. FRANCHER
 TRAVIS H. FRANKLIN
 ELIZABETH A. FREY
 BRIAN A. FRITZ
 NATHANIEL E. FRYER
 KRISTA M. GADAROWSKI
 GABRIEL GAETA
 ZACHARY J. GACIS
 ZACHARY A. GALCZYNSKI
 JOSEPH T. GALLAGHER
 SCOTT A. GALLAGHER
 AUSTIN C. GALLEGOS
 JOSEPH M. GALLETTDESTAURIN
 SHANE C. GAMEZ
 DWAYNE E. GAMMAGE II
 DERRIK T. GAMMONS
 CHRISTOPHER A. GARCIA
 ROBERTO J. GARCIA
 SOLOMON GARDEA
 SEAN A. GARFOLA
 EMILY M. GARLINGTON
 CHARLES D. GARNER
 FLETCHER M. GARRISON
 ROBERT W. GATES
 THOMAS J. GAUS
 MARTIN E. GAUT
 SAMUEL R. GEDEON
 MICHAEL P. GEHLE
 KURT D. GEIGER, JR.
 ALEXANDER J. GEIS
 ANDREW L. GEORGE
 IVAN R. GEORGIEV
 CALEB D. GERARD
 SEAN C. GIBSON
 LENUE GILCHRIST III
 BENJAMIN R. GILLEY
 KEVIN F. GINN
 MOLLY A. GINNANE
 BRITTON A. GIRARD, JR.
 MATTHEW T. GIVEN
 JACOB A. GODDARD
 SAMUEL O. GOLDSMITH
 PAMELA S. GOLY
 ANDY G. GOMEZ
 NICHOLAS M. GONSALVES
 JOHNATTAN M. GONZALEZ
 ROBERT W. GOODS
 UMBERTO D. F. GORDON
 ALEXANDER J. GOULETTE
 ETHAN J. GRAY
 JOSHUA D. GRAY
 ANTHONY N. GRAYSON
 MATTHEW J. GREENE
 BILLIE H. GREENWOOD
 JOHN T. M. GREGG
 BRENT T. GREND
 MEGHAN S. GRENIER
 CHAD O. GRIFFIN
 MATTHEW R. GRIMM
 JOSHUA P. GRISWOLD
 TIMOTHY L. GRONDIN
 MICHAEL S. GROVE
 MICHAEL G. GUTKOWSKI
 MICHAEL D. HADEL
 SEAN M. HADLEY
 MICHAEL A. HAGAN, JR.
 IAN C. HAGEN
 NICHOLAS R. HAJNER
 TYLER J. HALL
 SIMON L. HALLBERG
 JAMES R. HALLIWELL
 MARK A. HAMMERQUIST
 AARON S. HAMPTON
 BRITANA L. HANACEK
 EMILY T. HANNON
 BRIAN J. HANSEN
 MICHAEL T. HARDISON
 ANDREW M. HARLOW
 ALPHONSO HARRIS, JR.
 JONATHAN W. HARRIS
 RILEY J. HARSH
 RYAN M. HARTMAN
 MATTHEW H. HARVEY
 IAN A. HASKINS
 JOSEPH E. HASLEM
 SHANE A. HASS
 MCMILLAN J. HASTINGS
 JUSTIN F. HATFIELD
 ZACHARY J. HAUETER
 GEROLD A. HAUMSCHILD, JR.
 ANNA L. HAWKINS
 ALEX M. HAYANO
 KENNAN M. HEALY
 STEVEN G. HEFNER II
 JARED L. HEGER
 KEVIN D. HEISTER
 JORDAN T. HELLER
 STUART M. HELME
 TIMOTHY B. HENDERSON
 AUSTIN D. HENEVELD
 EMILY D. HENIGAN
 CRAIG R. HENRIKSEN
 ZACHARY M. HENSLEY
 THOMAS R. HERIFORD
 ROSS E. HERMANN
 ERIK JOHN A. HERRERA
 WESLEY M. HERRMANN
 MICHAEL J. HICKY
 AARON P. HILL
 JOSHUA P. HILL
 WYATT J. HILL
 ZACHARY H. HILLIARD
 ALEXANDER D. HOERSTEN
 JENNIFER A. HOGAN
 STANLEY E. HOLLINS, JR.
 JOSHUA A. HOLY
 PATRICK M. HOLZLEIN
 CHRISTOPHER P. HONEYCUTT
 RACHAEL M. HONRATH
 BRANDON J. HOOPER
 ANDREA R. HOWARD
 COLIN M. HOWELL
 RICHARD A. HOYT
 DANIEL J. HUBER
 CHASE C. HUBERT
 JOSHUA B. HUDSON
 MATTHEW C. HUFFMAN
 EITZE HUISMAN
 AADAM S. HUMAYUN
 JON M. HUNTSMAN III
 JONATHAN D. HURD
 ALEXIS B. HURLEY
 RYAN C. HURTZ
 COLLIN HUST
 ANDREW W. HUSTED
 MORGAN N. HUTTON
 RICHARD L. HUTYRA
 KYLE A. IASIELLO
 JONATHAN R. INGRAM
 ANDREW C. IRELAND
 ROGER O. IVESON
 JOSEPH D. JACKSON
 MATTHEW L. JACKSON
 TYLER P. JACKSON
 STEVEN P. JARDINA
 JONATHAN R. JAVIER
 KAELEN M. JEPSEN
 ADAM C. JERSCHEID
 CALVIN S. JOEWONO
 AARON M. JOHNSON
 CHRISTOPHER M. JOHNSON
 DAVID I. JOHNSON
 QUENTIN A. JOHNSON
 RYAN T. JOHNSON
 ZACHARY T. JOHNSON
 CONOR B. JONES
 DONNA L. JONES
 MICHAEL J. JONES, JR.
 MARY C. JORDAN
 KATRINA R. JORSCH
 CORBIN R. JUDSTRA
 CHRISTOPHER J. JUNGHANS
 HARRISON G. KANE
 MICHAEL M. KARAFOTIS
 NOELLE R. KAUFMANN
 ALEXANDER P. KAVALL
 WILLIAM C. KELLER III
 HOWARD W. KELLETT, JR.
 DYLAN B. KELLY
 DYLAN M. KELLY

THOMAS N. KELLY
 MITCHELL A. KEMPSTY
 CRAIG A. KENDZIOR
 WESTON T. KENNEDY
 ROBERT C. KENT
 SHANE T. KERBER
 THOMAS J. KERINS
 BRADLEY R. KERR
 BRADLEY W. KETTERER
 CURTIS A. KHOL, JR.
 HANNAH G. KIDD
 CAMRON J. KIEKINTVELD
 MARY L. KIEKINTVELD
 CHUL KIM
 SAMUEL C. KIM
 YECHAN C. KIM
 RYAN A. KINCH
 MICHAEL R. KIRKPATRICK
 ZACHARY A. KLASSEN
 MACKENZIE A. KLEVEN
 SARAH J. KLINE
 STEFAN C. KNIGHT
 WILLIAM C. KNOX
 MICHAEL D. KOCH
 RYAN A. KOLLER
 KITTI J. KOPAR
 JAMES S. KOPER
 JAMES P. KORNOWSKI
 GEORGE E. KOUTROS
 AARON J. KOVALCHICK
 BRANDON D. KOVALEVICH
 DAVID A. KRAMER
 EMILY L. KREYENHAGEN
 ANDREW P. KRILEY
 THOMAS D. KRYSL
 CRYSTAL L. KUBE
 DUSTIN T. KUCHENBECKER
 JAMES R. KUZMICK
 MAXTRILLION J. KYMAN
 ALEXANDER J. LAABS
 ANDREW D. LACOSSE
 EVAN G. LADNER
 ANDREW T. LAFAVE
 DANIEL T. LAFOND
 MATTHEW J. LANOUE
 KELLY A. LARKIN
 JONATHAN M. LARSON
 PATRICK J. LARSON
 BARRETT W. LARWIN
 ROBERT R. LATHROP III
 TRENTON R. LAYNE
 MELANIE C. LECAROZ
 CHRISTOPHER J. LEE
 DANIEL M. LEE
 DEREK R. LEE
 KELSEY E. LEE
 JACOB J. LEIGHTON
 CHRIS LELAH
 JEREMY F. LENHART
 KYLE M. LEONARD
 DEVIN R. LEW
 ARTHUR B. LEWIS III
 KYLIE P. LEWIS
 DAVID J. LIEBE
 THOMAS A. LINGARD
 CHRISTOPHER G. LINICH
 KATRINA M. LINTZ
 CAMERON M. LITTLE
 MICHAEL A. E. LOGAN
 ROBERT LOMBARDO
 COLTON J. LONG
 ANTHONY L. LONGORIA
 MITCHELL J. LOPES
 ISAAC J. LOSEE
 JAMES P. LOUPOS
 MICHAEL J. LOWE
 RYAN O. LOY
 MEGAN C. LUM
 LUKE P. E. LUMSDEN
 MARK A. LUTTHANS
 LAURA A. LUTZ
 JORDAN C. LYNCH
 KYLE R. LYNCH
 MICHAEL J. LYNCH
 SAMANTHA L. LYNCH
 ZACHARY S. LYNN
 PATRICK T. LYONS
 SHANE P. LYONS
 MICHAEL J. MAASEN
 AMANDA R. MACALUSO
 JAMES M. MACKOVJAK
 JOHN M. MACKOVJAK
 KATHERINE K. MACMURRAY
 ANDREW D. MACPHERSON
 WILLIAM A. MADDOX II
 SAMUEL A. MAGILKE
 DAVID M. MAGNO
 JAMES F. MAGNO
 ERIC R. MAHLER
 BRETT A. MANCHE
 CHRISTOPHER A. MANCHIGIAH
 JOSEPH A. MANGANO
 TIMOTHY J. MANGOLD
 JACOB A. MANICH
 VIGNESHWAR MANICKAM
 JAMES W. MANNIER
 ASHLEY J. MARCELLINO
 MONTANA D. MARSH
 ROBERT C. MARSHALL
 JOHN T. MARTIN, JR.
 ANDREW D. MARTINEZ
 KATHRYN M. MARTINEZ
 ALDEN B. MARTON
 PAUL F. MASTELLER
 CHRISTOPHER W. MASTERS
 KACIE E. MASTRONARDI
 DAVID S. MATASIC

JAMES M. MATERN
 WILLIAM J. MATTHEWS
 JASON C. MAY
 WILLIAM C. MAYO
 CHRISTOPHER N. MCBRIDE
 THOMAS R. D. MCCARTHY
 SPENCER R. MCCOY
 VICTORIA C. MCCRAVE
 WESLEY T. MCDANIEL
 SPENCER C. MCDERMOTT
 SEAN P. MCDONALD
 RYAN M. MCDUNN
 DENNIS P. MCFADDEN
 NATALIE MCFALL
 BENJAMIN P. MCFARLAND
 BRENDAN S. MCGINNIS
 EVAN R. MCGOOGAN
 FORREI I. MCGRAW
 RANDON C. MCKAIN
 JOHN L. MCKEE
 ANDREW I. MCKELLIPS
 CONNOR D. MCKIERNAN
 JOHN J. MCLAUGHLIN III
 WILLIAM C. MCLoughlin
 JAMES F. MCMAHON
 CLINT G. MCMLLEN
 SHAMUS D. MCNAMARA
 ROBERT J. MCSTRAVICK
 TYLER R. MEHRMAN
 RAZVAN MELEN
 ALVARO B. MERINO
 MARK A. MERLEY
 BO J. MERRITT
 ADAM D. MEYRICK
 THOMAS K. MICKELSON
 LLOYD M. MICKENS
 ASHLEY M. MILLER
 CHRISTINA B. MILLER
 CHRISTOPHER B. MILLER
 LANDON C. MILLER
 SEAN R. MILLIGAN
 JAMES A. MILLS II
 MATTHEW T. MINNIS
 MICAH J. MISHO
 ANTONIO C. MISTRON
 JEFFREY C. MITCHELL
 DAVID E. MOBED
 PAUL S. MOBLEY
 ALISON L. MONDVILLE
 KILLIAN L. MONLEY
 KEVIN MOORE
 KRISTOPHER J. MOORE
 THOMAS I. MOORE
 TIMOTHY A. MOORE
 LYNDON A. MOOREHEAD
 SAREE C. MORENO
 BRIAN D. MORRILL
 ALEXANDER K. MORRIS
 LEVI J. MORRIS
 MATTHEW C. MORRIS, JR.
 SEAN R. MORRISSEY
 NICHOLAS A. MOSER
 STEPHEN K. MOSS
 BENJAMIN H. MOSSBERG
 JULIAN D. MOTEN
 MARLON J. MOUTON
 JEANETTE A. MOUTRAY
 CORY R. MOWBRAY
 JOSHUA A. MULANAX
 MARK J. MULKA
 TYLER J. MULLOY
 CONNOR T. MURPHY
 MICHAEL S. MURPHY
 MICHAEL T. MURPHY
 SEAN D. MURRAY
 BREANDAN K. MURTHA
 JACOB A. MYERS
 MARIA E. MYERS
 TIA J. MYERS
 TIMOTHY M. MYLAND
 MICHAEL A. NACLERIO
 TIMOTHY A. NANGERONI
 TYLER A. NARBY
 GORDON C. NASH IV
 VIRGINIA A. NAVA
 REBECCA D. NAVARRE
 JACOB T. NEAL
 BRADLEY C. NELSON
 NICHOLAS A. NESBIT
 COLLIN R. NEWCOMB
 MICHAEL A. NEWMAN
 JOSHUA P. NEWSOME
 VICTOR H. NGUYEN
 MATTHEW W. NICHOLS
 PIERCE J. NIEMIEC
 TYLER C. NIMICK
 ANTHONY T. NISHIDA
 HANI Z. NOFAL
 ERIC W. NORDQUIST
 MICHAEL J. NUGENT
 SAMUEL J. OATJUDGE
 KRISTINA C. OBERST
 CASEY P. OBIEN
 JAMES J. OBRIST
 MATTHEW C. ODOWD
 GREGORY OH
 MYUNG K. OH
 GERALD P. OHARA
 JOHN H. OJARD
 ALEX J. OKONSKI
 THOMAS E. OLMSTEAD
 CAITLIN S. OLSEN
 CHRISTOPHER J. OLSEN
 KENDALL J. T. ONEILL
 ADIDOREYDI ONTIVEROS
 MICHAEL E. ORAM
 KATHLEEN M. ORTEGA

LOGAN M. OSHEA
 MEGHAN L. OSTERBUR
 JOSE I. OTEROVERA
 ERIN R. OVERCASH
 NICHOLAS A. PADLECKAS
 RUALCABA S. PALACIOS
 NICHOLAS P. PALMER
 HONG Y. PARK
 KYLE R. PARKER
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 JOSEPH R. PASSALUGO
 WILLIAM P. PATCHEN
 AKHEEL R. PATEL
 STEPHEN E. PATRICKO, JR.
 ZACHARY M. PATRICK
 BLAKE E. PAULEY
 JOSHUA D. PAULS
 BRYAN T. PAWELEK
 SKYE A. PAWLICK
 ERIKA N. PEDERSEN
 ERIK B. PEDERSON
 DEREK T. PELLETIER
 CHRISTOPHER J. PENCE
 MARCUS R. PEREZ
 STEPHEN R. PEREZ
 NATHANIAL R. PERISHO
 JAMES W. PERKINS
 MICHAEL F. PERRY
 LYNDSEY E. PETERS
 AUDREY L. PETERSEN
 JAMES R. PETERSON
 DERRICK B. PETETT
 JOHN A. PETT
 ANDREW M. PFAU
 ANHVIET D. PHAM
 JOHN PHAM
 MATTHEW N. PHILLIPS IV
 TAYLOR D. PHILLIPS
 ADAM B. PIERCE
 CRAIG R. PIERCE
 ARIS PILIPCHUK
 NICHOLAS A. PILLARI
 PAULENA P. PINE
 PATRICKROY T. PIZZARO
 ROBERT A. PLATT
 ANDREW L. PORCHIE
 BRIAN H. POWERS
 MARK C. POWERS
 JUSTIN R. PRATT
 BRIANA C. PRESS
 JARED M. PRICE
 ZACHARY M. PRICE
 MICHAEL R. PRYOR
 HAYDEN J. PURPUR
 MICHAEL W. QUINLAN
 CHRISTOPHER N. RADKA
 RYAN M. RAFFO
 LYNDEL A. RAIFORD
 KRISHNAN RAJAGOPALAN
 THOMAS J. RAKUS
 PIERRE F. RAMOS
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 RYAN RAPADA
 JOHN H. RAPP
 TODD A. RAPP
 TAYLOR R. RATTNER
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 SOPHIA M. RECCA
 SHAWN D. REED
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 LOWELL S. REEH
 ALEXANDER F. REESE
 JAKE P. REID
 JORDAN M. RETTIE
 ANDREW S. REUTHER
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 CHRISTOPHER M. REYNOLDS
 ST JOHN A. RICHARDSON
 WESLEY J. RILEY
 SHAWN M. ROADES
 JOEL P. ROBBINS
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 MATTHEW W. ROBERTS
 CHRISTOPHER C. ROBEY
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 ANDREW J. ROCHE
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 MATTHEW L. SALO
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 JASMINE L. SARJEANT
 ANDREW P. SAWYER
 DERYA C. SAYDAM
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 BENJAMIN J. SCHMIDT

BRYAN R. SCHMIDT
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 SKYLER C. SCHNEIDER
 EVELYN W. SCHNELL
 THOMAS SCHOFER
 CONNOR R. SCHROEDER
 KEVIN A. SCHROEDER
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 NICHOLAS A. SENECA
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 FREDERICK L. SHAAK III
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 TREVOR J. SHAFRAN
 JONATHAN F. SHAMPINE
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 MATTHEW Q. SHEELER
 JONATHAN A. SHEPHERD
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 KENNETH A. SHOOK
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 RUSSELL G. SIMONS
 GARRETT L. SINGLETON
 EVAN B. SINGLETON
 MICHAEL B. SIPAH
 ANDREW B. SKAGGS
 KARISSA A. SKAGGS
 MATTHEW R. SKOGLUND
 GUY R. SKORD
 NICHOLAS C. SKURSKY
 CAMERON B. SLAPPE
 JUSTIN R. SLATER
 RACHEL L. SLATER
 ADAM R. SMITH
 ADAM T. SMITH
 BRIDGER SMITH
 COREY L. SMITH
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 JONATHAN D. SMITH
 JOSEPH M. SMITH
 KURT A. SMITH
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 PATRICK M. SOPKO
 COLTEN J. SOUTHWORTH
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 ANDREW C. SPILLING
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 JAMES SRISUTASANAVONG
 NATHAN R. STAATS
 SUMMER L. STARK
 AUSTIN F. STARNER
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 THORYS J. STENSRUD II
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 JORDAN A. SUAZO
 DANIEL F. SULLIVAN

MICHAEL T. SULLIVAN
 ROXANNE Y. SUMANGA
 BRYAN J. SUMPTER
 CHARLES H. SUNDAL
 PHILLIP C. SVOBODA
 JOSEPH E. SWIERZOWSKI
 BRANDON A. SWINDLER
 VONHAYES R. SWITZER
 MICHAEL J. SZEMPLINSKI
 AARON P. SZYMBORSKI
 SPENCER J. TACK
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 LUKE C. TALBOT
 DAVID A. TALON
 ERIC G. TAN
 MATTHEW J. TARABOLETTI
 JOSHUA J. TASSONE
 BRANDEN G. TATASCIORE
 DANIELLE S. TATCHIO
 MICHAEL H. TAUSKEY
 BEN E. TAYLOR
 GREGORY S. TAYLOR
 JAMES P. TEMPLE
 MARCUS L. TERRELL
 DANIEL T. TESSNOW
 WHITNEY E. THARP
 JOEL D. P. THOMAS
 ROSCOE K. THOMAS
 TYLER E. THOMAS
 BRENT E. THOMPSON
 DIANA R. THOMSEN
 RYAN E. THURMAN
 MORGAN L. TILLEY
 ALAN D. TOMPKINS
 PATRICK S. TOON
 JASON S. TORRES
 EMANUEL A. TOWNS II
 LAUREN H. TRACY
 SCOTT A. TRAIL
 TYLER S. TRAINOR
 TERRY C. TRAN
 BENJAMIN B. TRAVERS
 ALEXIS R. TRELKA
 WILLIAM F. TRIGGS
 SEAN M. TROMBETTA
 CODY P. TRUDEAU
 ANNE S. TURCOTTE
 ALEXANDER P. TURITZIN
 JENNIFER R. TUTTON
 MATTHEW T. VALCOURT
 WESLEY Q. VALDYKE
 BRIANNA L. VALLADARES
 CHRISTOPHER VALLES
 MAX C. VANBENTHEM
 JAMES T. VANDENPLAS, JR.
 JON A. VANDEUSEN
 HUNTER E. VANHOOK
 BENNY L. VANN, JR.
 TAYLOR R. VANNATTA
 JEFFREY T. VANSOLKEMA
 SHAYLA R. VANWOY
 LUKE J. VAUGHN
 JORGE M. VEGA
 ADAM R. VEIT
 ERICA D. VILLAFRANCA
 ANDREA J. VILLANUEVA
 JOEL T. VIRCKS
 JOSHUA D. VITALI
 WILLIAM C. VOELLMECKE
 DEREK P. VONDISTERLO
 CHRISTOPHER J. WAGES
 ADAM J. WAGONER
 KYLE R. WAGONER
 MORGAN L. WALBERG
 CHRISTINE M. WALKER
 CODY N. WALKER
 JORDAN S. WALL
 LOGAN J. WALLACE
 ERIN E. WALSH
 BENJAMIN D. WALTERS
 KRIS A. WARD
 CLAIRE A. WARDIUS
 JOHNATHAN D. WARGI
 COSBY F. WASHINGTON
 CHAD M. WASSON
 MATTHEW B. WATERMAN
 JUSTIN A. WATKIS
 BRANDON N. WATSON
 JOHN D. WATSON, JR.
 JOHNNY T. WATSON

CATALINA S. WEBSTER
 DALTON T. WEBSTER
 BRIAN M. WELLS
 CHRISTOPHER M. WEST
 TORY J. WEST
 DANIEL J. WESTCOTT
 IAN W. WESTON
 TYLER L. WESTOVER
 JONATHAN K. WEV
 RYAN W. WHEELER
 JASON A. WHITE
 SCOTT E. WHITEMAN
 JOSEPH A. WIER
 IAN L. WIGHTMAN
 JAMES E. WIGLE
 AUSTEN T. WILDBERGER
 LOGAN E. WILK
 PATRICK W. WILKERSON
 WILFRID P. V. WILKINSON
 ZACHARY M. WILKOWSKI
 BRADLEY W. WILLIAMS
 DANIEL A. WILLIAMS
 KENYON L. WILLIAMS
 JUSTIN M. WILLIAMSON
 DILLON D. WILSON
 JOHN B. WILSON
 KATHLEEN T. WILSON
 MAXWELL R. WILSON
 WILLIAM M. WILSON
 VALETA L. WILSON JAMES
 JAMES C. WILTSHIRE
 CORY E. R. WOERNER
 MATTHEW J. WOLFORD
 WILLIAM J. WOLTMAN
 LAURA S. WOODS
 ERIC J. WOOTTON
 JOHNATHAN D. T. WORSTELL
 KEVIN M. WUNDERLY
 TERRY J. YAMIN
 DANIEL Y. YE
 CHRISTOPHER C. YEE
 DOUGLAS P. YOUNG
 ERIC M. YOUNG
 JONATHAN A. YUEN
 AMANDA A. ZABLOCKY
 JAMES R. ZAKEN
 MONICA K. ZARICOR
 ZACHARY M. ZATORSKI
 CONNOR M. ZEMAN
 ROBERT J. ZIELINSKI
 MARK A. ZIRION
 MICHAEL A. ZITTRAUER
 JONATHAN E. ZURITA

IN THE COAST GUARD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADES INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD UNDER TITLE 14, U.S.C., SECTION 2130:

To be captain

MATTHEW A. GANS

To be commander

IAN W. MARKS

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate September 6, 2023:

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

LISA DENELL COOK, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM FOR A TERM OF FOURTEEN YEARS FROM FEBRUARY 1, 2024.

PHILIP NATHAN JEFFERSON, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD

GWYNNE A. WILCOX, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD FOR THE TERM OF FIVE YEARS EXPIRING AUGUST 27, 2028.