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No. 162

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

October 3, 2023.

I hereby appoint Honorable LORI CHAVEZ-DEREMER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

KEVIN MCCARTHY,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 9, 2023, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, this morning, 40 million Americans will begin their day without access to broadband internet. These high-speed broadband connections, which were once a luxury, have now become essential tools for students, businessowners, farmers, and patients.

Last year, historic BEAD funding was disbursed to the States. Today, it

is critical that these funds are used efficiently, not to gold-plate the infrastructure in our cities, but to finally connect our rural communities to fast, reliable, high-speed internet.

Recently, I was proud to introduce the 5G SALE Act to require the FCC to release previously auctioned spectrum in order to expand access to 5G internet for communities across central and western Pennsylvania.

Bridging the digital divide has never been more important as we fight to ensure that our students can learn from home, that small businesses can operate from home, and that patients can heal from home.

ENACTING REPUBLICANS' COMMITMENT TO AMERICA

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, in the past 10 months since retaking the majority, House Republicans have fought to enact our Commitment to America, working each day to forge an economy that is strong, to build a nation that is safe, to create a future that is built on freedom, and to once again have a government that is accountable to the American people.

We fought to reopen the people's House. We passed H.R. 1, the Lower Energy Costs Act, 225–204, because Americans are paying too high a price for gas. We passed H.R. 2, the Secure the Border Act, 219–213, because President Biden's border crisis has made each and every State a border State. We passed H.R. 5, the Parents Bill of Rights Act, 213–208, because parents deserve to be involved in their children's education.

These legislative victories have only been possible because House Republicans have remained united and willing to stand up to President Biden's radical agenda. It must be a top priority to fight President Biden's out-of-control spending, his Green New Deal initiatives, and his threats to strip away our constitutional rights.

Madam Speaker, it is time for House Republicans to renew our commitment

to the American people and to our shared conservative values. The work that is still ahead is too great to waste any additional time.

RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING IS SYMBOL OF DISRESPECT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, and still I rise, a proud, liberated Democrat in the spirit of Shirley Chisholm, unbought, unbossed, and unafraid—unafraid to say that the Senate of the United States of America cares more about what they wear to work than the building they work in.

There was a recent kerfuffle about the dress code in the Senate. As a result, some 40 Senators—in fact, about 46—signed a letter addressing this newly installed dress code. I won't read it in its entirety because time doesn't permit, but here is what it says in one paragraph: "Allowing casual clothing on the Senate floor disrespects the institution we serve and the American families we represent."

No disrespect, Senators, but I believe allowing Richard Russell's name to stay on the Russell Senate Office Building disrespects the people you serve and disrespects this country. The Richard Russell Senate Office Building is a symbol of racism. It is a symbol of disrespect for the American people, and it certainly disrespects people of African ancestry because Richard Russell was a racist and a bigot.

Richard Russell was the coauthor of the "Southern Manifesto." Richard Russell fought antilynching legislation. Richard Russell's name should not be on a building paid for with taxpayer dollars.

It is time for you to take the same amount of time that you took to reform your dress code and reform the name that is on the Richard Russell

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

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



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Senate Office Building. It is easy to do. Just let it revert back to the name it had before it became the Russell Senate Office Building. Let it become the Old Senate Office Building.

If you need more time, take an infinitum and decide the name that you most prefer. I have no name to recommend. I only recommend that you take Russell's name off. It took less than 2 weeks to revert back to the old dress code. It has been more than 50 years that Richard Russell's name has been on this building.

Have you no shame, Senators? Do you not respect the people of African ancestry who go in and out of this building? I refuse to enter the Richard Russell Senate Office Building. I am a one-person protest. I refuse to disrespect myself by entering a building named after a bigot and racist who authored the "Southern Manifesto" and fought antilynching legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

CONGRATULATING JAMES SIMMONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate James Simmons, a dedicated construction teacher at North Scott High School in Eldridge, Iowa, who will receive the Harbor Freight Tools for Schools Prize for Teaching Excellence. This prestigious national recognition awards Mr. Simmons with a \$50,000 grant for his school's skilled trades program.

Teachers, students, and the North Scott principal have been working together to surprise Mr. Simmons today with his award by orchestrating a surprise celebration at his school, held outdoors by the tiny homes his students tirelessly built.

The Harbor Freight Tools for Schools Prize spotlights the exceptional yet often overlooked contributions of high school skilled trades teachers. This year, the program saw a record number of applicants, with over 1,000 teachers from all 50 States competing in the rigorous selection process.

We are immensely proud of Mr. Simmons. I congratulate him on this well-deserved honor.

HONORING CINDY MONTANEZ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. CÁRDENAS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a true champion of the San Fernando Valley, a trailblazer, a leader, "y una de las nuestras," "and one of ours," the Honorable Cindy Montanez from the city of San Fernando.

Cindy and I have had the privilege of representing the northeast San Fernando Valley for the past 27 years. Cindy is a strong, unwavering community leader who, throughout her years of public service, has made sure that the voices of the people of the valley are heard and that they have a seat at the table.

Cindy has lived a quintessential American immigrant story, just like the monarch butterfly. They are bicultural and bring beauty everywhere they go.

She is the proud daughter of Miguel and Margarita Montanez, immigrants from Veracruz and Chihuahua, Mexico. The Montanezes came to the city of San Fernando, where Cindy and her five siblings were born and raised. Together, her family pursued the American Dream, a dream that includes giving back to the community and the country that has given us so much.

Cindy's activism began in 1993, as she pushed to establish the Chicano studies department at the University of California, Los Angeles by participating in a 14-day hunger strike.

At the age of 25, she won a seat on the San Fernando City Council, and 2 years later, she became the mayor of that city. Her exceptional leadership extends to the California State Legislature, where Cindy was the youngest woman elected to the California State Assembly at the age of 28 at that time. At the age of 30, she became the first Latina to chair the powerful assembly rules committee.

She fought for workers' protections, consumer rights, and healthcare access. Out of these accomplishments, what Cindy is best known for is her environmental work.

She continued her environmental activism to become the CEO of TreePeople, one of the largest environmental organizations in all of southern California. With over 3 million volunteers, they planted hundreds of thousands of trees, from San Fernando to Huntington Park.

In 2020, she was called back to her role in public service. She returned home to serve as a councilmember for the city of San Fernando.

Cindy is a titan who has worked tirelessly for her community. It is an honor to stand before you today to tell Cindy Montanez's story. I am not the only one highlighting her and her accomplishments. Last month, the city of San Fernando and the city of Los Angeles voted to rename Pacoima Wash Natural Park, which is shared by both cities, to Cindy Montanez Natural Park.

On August 28, the California State Legislature declared January 19 as Cindy Montanez Day.

These distinctions are well deserved, built on years of tireless service.

I just saw Cindy when I had the privilege to join our community in a celebration to rename Cindy Montanez Natural Park. Cindy was surrounded by dozens and dozens of community mem-

bers, full of love and prayer. It was a beautiful tribute to a hero in our community. For all of this and more, I honor my friend and my "hermana," "sister," Cindy Montanez.

Every time I see a monarch butterfly, I will think of the impact she has had, from the tree-lined streets of San Fernando to the committee rooms of Sacramento and all across our great State of California.

I had the pleasure of meeting Cindy Montanez when she was running for city council 28 years ago. I remember her coming into my office and saying some of her supporters had abandoned her, and I listened to what she had to say. I stood up and said: "I will support you. What I see in you is someone who is running for the right reasons. You care about the community." She said thank you. That is where she launched her career in 1995.

Sometimes in life we meet people and never know where our journeys are going to go, but I am so honored to have called Cindy Montanez my colleague and friend. I am so honored to be able to witness one of the first people who got elected to the State legislature out of our community of the San Fernando Valley who could speak to every constituent both in Spanish and in English. That had never happened before in our community, even though our community of northeast San Fernando Valley was over 75 percent Latino by population, parents like Cindy's parents and my parents who came from Mexico to make a better life for the next generation and the next.

Once again, it is my honor to speak before all of you in this beautiful House about an amazing, beautiful person, Cindy Montanez.

□ 1015

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JACK TRICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. FEENSTRA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FEENSTRA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Jack Trice—Iowa State University's first African-American athlete, and the namesake of the college football stadium in Ames, Iowa—he is an inspiration.

Trice enrolled at Iowa State University with the desire to play football and graduate with a degree in animal husbandry and to help and support farmers.

Tragically, 100 years ago, on October 8, 1923, Trice passed away at just 21 years old after sustaining severe injuries during a game.

While his life was cut short, his legacy prevailed. In 1997, Iowa State University renamed their college football stadium the Jack Trice Stadium, and it remains the only major stadium in college football that is named after an African American.

Today, Iowa State University supports thousands of students through

the Jack Trice Character Award and Jack Trice Endowed Scholarship helping generations of Cyclones succeed.

This October will mark the 100-year anniversary of Jack Trice's tragic death. To honor him, Iowa State will host the Jack Trice legacy game on October 7 and hold the ceremony at the same location where his funeral was 100 years ago at the central campus lawn on October 8.

I am proud to introduce a House resolution that recognizes the life and legacy of Jack Trice, a young man that passed away way too soon, but inspired our communities and the Cyclone nation.

HONORING OFFICER KEVIN CRAM

Mr. FEENSTRA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Algona Police Officer Kevin Cram, who was senselessly murdered while doing his job.

Officer Cram was a 10-year veteran of Iowa law enforcement and a member of the Algona Police Department. He was also a son, husband, and father who is remembered as a family man and a true hero.

Proudly wearing the badge, he dedicated his career to protecting our families and keeping our streets safe. Words cannot accurately express my gratitude for his service and sacrifice. Officer Cram gave his life to protect the lives of fellow Iowans.

There is no greater sacrifice than this.

My prayers remain with his family, the Algona Police Department, and everyone who knew and loved him.

Madam Speaker, Officer Cram will never be forgotten.

RECOGNIZING GOVERNOR REYNOLDS AND KEVIN REYNOLDS

Mr. FEENSTRA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize my friend and Iowa's conservative champion, Governor Kim Reynolds and her husband, first gentleman, Kevin Reynolds.

We both came to the Iowa Senate together, serving the rural communities that power our economy and feed and fuel the world. I can tell you that she was the leader back then and she is still a tremendous leader today.

Since day one, she delivered real victories for our State. As promised, she signed into law the largest tax cut in Iowa history, gave parents a voice in their children's education, and she secured a \$1.83 billion surplus for our State budget with no debt. She has also deployed the Iowa National Guard to the southern border to do what President Biden will not do: secure our border and protect our families.

While Governor Reynolds continues her selfless work in Iowa, my prayers are with her family and her husband, Kevin, who was recently diagnosed with cancer. I have no doubt that through their faith in God they will overcome this challenge and they will continue delivering results for Iowa.

Madam Speaker, I thank Governor Reynolds and Kevin for their dedication to our great State.

HONORING UCLA CHANCELLOR GENE BLOCK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. CORREA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, today, I rise in honor of UCLA's Chancellor Gene Block to thank him for 17 years of leadership at America's premier public institution of education, UCLA.

Since 2007, Chancellor Block has increased accessibility and diversity, grown enrollment, and doubled funding for research at UCLA. Today, nearly a third of UCLA graduates are first-generation college students, as Chancellor Block was himself.

Madam Speaker, as a proud UCLA alumnus, I thank Chancellor Block for his service to the public and to the Bruin community, and for keeping UCLA as a top research institution in the Nation. Go Bruins.

RECOGNIZING GUSTAVO OCEGUEDA

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a young man in my district, Gustavo Ocegueda, a remarkable young man whose journey is one of determination and inspiration.

When he was a boy, Gustavo looked at the sky and began collecting model planes, dreaming of becoming a commercial pilot.

As a proud Godinez Fundamental High School alumnus, he stayed focused on his dream, worked hard, volunteered in the community, and played basketball.

He grew up in an underserved community, but his parents' support and sacrifice and hard work pushed him to study at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University where Gustavo spent long nights studying in the library. In the end, it was all worth it.

The multiple jobs and family sacrifices were all worth it when his mother joined him as his first passenger on a commercial flight. He is now a commercial pilot and has finally achieved his dream.

Madam Speaker, I thank Gustavo for his great work and keep flying high.

WHY NOT VICTORY?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, America is sadly in a conflict of dictators with rule of gun opposing democracies with rule of law.

This conflict, we did not choose, was begun by war criminal Putin on February 24, 2022, invading Ukraine, in the murderous tradition of Hitler invading Poland on September 1, 1939, and Stalin invading Poland 2 weeks later on September 17. In 5 weeks, over 70,000 Poles were killed in 1939 by the Nazis and Communists, and now thousands of Ukrainians have been killed by Putin.

I am grateful to have read the book by Senator Barry Goldwater in May

1963, "Why Not Victory?", proposing the ultimate achievement of democracy over Communism.

The Goldwater Presidential campaign led to the hallmark speech, "A Time for Choosing," by Ronald Reagan in 1964. This led to the Reagan Presidency and hundreds of millions of people being liberated from totalitarian communism. More countries today live in freedom and democracy than in the history of the world due to American military strength defeating Communism.

The Russian Embassy in Berlin, Germany, which I visited outside on May 1 this year, clearly reveals Putin's murderous goal of recreating the evil Soviet empire. The hammer and sickle communist symbol is maintained over the massive building, revealing that the Russian people are still being oppressed by a despotic dictator.

With the invasion of Ukraine, Putin now has troops in Moldova and Georgia with direct threats to Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, and even Poland to realign international boundaries. The murderous conquest of Ukraine would be a green light for more conquests putting American families at risk of attack.

It is reassuring that NATO has never been stronger with Finland and Sweden joining the alliance. Finland has an 830-mile border with Russia, and Sweden has given up 200 years of neutrality to stop dictators.

The European Union has doubled the aid correctly provided by America, according to analyst Luke Coffey of the Hudson Institute. Additionally, more than 160 officials across Federal oversight agencies monitor the U.S. aid to Ukraine.

Democracies must continue to stand together to support the brave Ukrainians to restore peace through strength. Goldwater was correct in his book, "The only alternative to victory is—obviously defeat." Putin can end this war today by living up to the agreements that Russia has already signed for Ukrainian territorial integrity.

The Chinese Communist Party is watching as it plans world domination by 2049, with the largest peacetime military build-up in world history. The regime in Tehran continues its chants of death to Israel, death to America with drones to Putin to murder Ukrainians.

The axis of evil is clear: you have dictator Putin, dictator Xi, dictator Raisi. They must be stopped now, or every American family will be threatened by murderers, which I have seen when I saw the murders that were conducted in Bucha, Ukraine, where innocent civilians, with their hands tied behind their backs, were brutally executed and buried by the Putin troops.

As a teenage Republican supporter myself of Barry Goldwater, who attended the National Draft Goldwater Rally in Washington on July 4, 1963, I will always be grateful for his vision for freedom.

In conclusion, God bless our troops who successfully protected America for 20 years as the global war on terrorism continues, moving from the Afghanistan safe haven to America with Biden open borders. Border security is national security for America.

HONORING OUR FALLEN CAL FIRE MEMBERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. RUIZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RUIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and memorialize our fallen heroes from CAL FIRE who gave their lives to serve our communities. Assistant Chief Josh Bischof, Fire Captain Tim Rodriguez, and pilot Tony Sousa, all sacrificed their life to protect their community while battling a fire in Cabazon.

Assistant Chief Josh Bischof was a devoted and loyal firefighter, husband, and father who never stopped serving others even in his last moments. He started his career in the fire service as a volunteer firefighter in Mountain Center at Volunteer Fire Station 78 and worked his way up through hard work, loyalty, and commitment.

In recent months, before his tragic death, Josh had been promoted to assistant chief with CAL FIRE Southern Region headquarters where he oversaw the training program before transferring to the tactical air operations.

Josh loved his wife of 24 years beyond measure and lived to make his children's dreams come true no matter the cost.

Josh was always up for an adventure and was known for his willingness to help others and was loved and respected by his friends, family, and community.

Now, Fire Captain Tim Rodriguez loved being a firefighter more than anyone could imagine. He was raised in Hemet and graduated from West Valley High School in 1997. He started his fire service career as a firefighter I, serving at Fire Station 41 in Mecca, and was soon promoted to firefighter II at Fire Station 79 in Coachella.

Captain Rodriguez married his wife, Dorothy, in 2001 and had three children: Josh, Haley, and Alexis. He will be remembered for the immense love he had for his family and his passion for staying active by hiking, camping, snowboarding, kayaking, and mountain biking.

Lastly, pilot Tony Sousa of Red Bluff, California, was fulfilling his lifelong dream of being a pilot before the tragic accident.

Before fulfilling his dream, Tony was a dairy worker, a sales representative for Outlaw Kart, a custom harvester, an avid water-skier, and finally a pilot.

In 2022, Tony played a pivotal role in implementing the CAL FIRE Helicopter Coordinator training program. Through this program, Tony guided and mentored a huge cohort of fellow aviators to help them obtain certifications for their aviation careers.

Pilot Sousa is survived by his wife, Rachelle; sons, Connor and Carson; father, Ed; and mother, Sharon.

These men were husbands, sons, fathers, who now leave behind loving and caring families. Their bravery, courage, and devotion to duty will always be remembered.

Madam Speaker, I ask everyone present on the House floor to join me in a moment of silence for the CAL FIRE members—Assistant Chief Josh Bischof, Fire Captain Tim Rodriguez, and pilot Tony Sousa.

□ 1030

TRUTH TELLING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. VAN ORDEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. VAN ORDEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to do a little truth telling.

I rise today as a proud member of the silent majority of United States citizens and the super majority of the Republican Party of this august House.

I will be plain. The motion to vacate the speakership is a fool's errand, and I can think of no greater leader in that effort than my colleague from the State of Florida.

The American people are concerned about crime. One of our colleagues was carjacked at gunpoint a mile and a half from where I am speaking today.

The border is open. There have been over 6 million illegal crossings since Joe Biden has taken leadership. 232,972 illegal immigrants were encountered on the southern border last night alone. That is a 27 percent increase from July.

The Customs and Border Patrol has seized over 25,000 pounds of fentanyl this year. That is enough to kill every American citizen over and over and over again.

Madam Speaker, 151 people on the terrorist watch list have been apprehended on the southern border on Joe Biden's watch. We don't know how many people who are plotting to destroy our Nation got across our border. Yet, today, we will spend the people's time so that someone can audition for a television show or possibly the Governorship of a State.

This is unacceptable, and the time for these antics are over.

HONORING NEIL MCKIERNAN ON HIS RETIREMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to honor Neil McKiernan, an outstanding public servant who just recently announced his retirement from the House of Representatives where he has worked for over 20 years; 17 of those years in my office and 7 of those years as chief of staff.

Neil is a native of the State of Connecticut and began his journey over 20 years ago on the Hill as a young assistant working in Congresswoman LINDA SÁNCHEZ' office. He then worked for a short period of time for my colleague, JOHN LARSON. Then when I was first elected in 2006, Neil joined my office.

Neil worked on a variety of issues during his time there. I see my friend Mr. KELLY from Pennsylvania here. We worked together to repeal the Cadillac tax in 2019, and Neil was part of that really massive bipartisan effort to protect and stabilize the health benefits of union and nonunion workers all across the country, which passed by a margin of 419-6 on the floor.

Mike and I were here that day, and Neil—actually, one of his rare visits to the House floor—was there to join us.

The centerpiece of Neil's work was the fact that I have the honor of representing the submarine capital of the world. It is the home of the oldest submarine base, the Naval Submarine Base Groton in Groton, where there are 16 attack submarines tied up and doing great work for our Nation every single day, as well as General Dynamics Electric Boat Shipyard, a 120-year-old company that is building submarines for the Navy to this day.

This is a picture in 2014 of myself and some staff from the House Committee on Armed Services. Neil is the gentleman on my far right with the glasses and the cup of coffee. It is before dawn at the naval port facility in Cape Canaveral, Florida. We were about to embark on the USS *Missouri*, the submarine right behind us, which was built in Groton and commissioned back in 2011. It is over in the Indo-Pacific region doing great work for our Nation.

Again, when I first came into office, the shipyard was in a dangerous downward spiral. After the Cold War, procurement for submarines had totally collapsed. The shipyard, which once had 28,000-plus workers, was down to roughly 6- or 7,000.

Beginning that year, we got a plus-up, working again with Neil's incredible work, Ike Skelton, and Jack Murtha, and others to turn around that spiral.

Today, the shipyard employs over 21,000 workers. We now again have a build rate of two attack submarines and now the Columbia-class ballistic submarine program is beginning its work. They just laid the keel for the second of those vessels.

It is a great legacy that Neil leaves behind him in terms of really reversing what really would have been a tragic loss of an industrial base with unique talents, but also making sure that our Navy has an undersea fleet, which today, with the threats from China and Russia, is still our strongest card in terms of rebutting and creating real deterrence to keep the world safe.

Admiral Gary Roughead once said our submarine fleet is the queen on the chessboard in terms of being able to go anywhere undetected with stealth and

with the might and potency to make sure our enemies and our competitors abide by international rule of law.

Again, as Neil begins the next chapter in his life, let me express my deep gratitude personally, but also take a moment on the floor of this Chamber to remind people that people like Neil are great staff people and are so essential in terms of doing great things that benefit our country.

Neil, best wishes to you and your family and your future.

REMEMBERING LANNA ALDRIDGE DENISON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Lanna Aldridge Denison.

This July, Lanna passed away following a fight with a sudden illness. She was known for her radiant smile and her love for others. She earned her position as principal of Blackshear Elementary through her years of dedication and hard work, earning many accolades, including being named district coordinator of student learning objectives for Pierce County Schools and director of student achievement in 2017.

She transformed her school through her tireless and creative efforts, making it a happy, thriving place for the 800 students who looked up to her.

She took every opportunity to put others first and lift their spirits. It was never too early or too late to call her for anything. She truly put everyone else first and many called her their best friend.

Ms. Lanna will forever be known as someone who “loved big” and her impact will be felt for decades to come.

CONGRATULATING ERROL ROACH ON 40 YEARS OF TEACHING MUSIC

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Savannah native Errol Roach for hitting a major milestone. This past June he celebrated his 40th anniversary of teaching music.

At just 4 years old, Mr. Roach was able to play music by ear, and that began his lifelong passion for music. He attended what is now Savannah State University, where at just 19 years old, he started passing down his love of music through teaching lessons out of his parents’ home in Carver Village.

Mr. Roach founded the Sound of Joy School of Music in Savannah, Georgia, and was recognized for reaching this milestone of teaching through a proclamation from Savannah Mayor Van Johnson.

The slogan for Mr. Roach’s school is “for a world of harmony.” He hopes his students will continue to pass on the gift of music and harmony for many more generations to come.

Madam Speaker, I take this moment to congratulate Mr. Roach on reaching this significant milestone, and I know that he will continue to touch many through his love of music.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF CENTRAL HARDWARE

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 75th anniversary of Central Hardware. Central Hardware opened on Norwich Street in downtown Brunswick in 1948 and quickly became known as “The Store of 10,000 Items.”

The store is still family owned and is managed by Anne Strother and her brother Baxter Shaw. Their father, Jimmy Shaw, always emphasized the importance of quick, friendly customer service and competitive pricing. This is the main reason the store has survived in the face of competition from big-box stores.

Shaw taught his children everything about the business, and they continued managing it the way he did.

I am proud to say Central Hardware has been an important part of the First District community for 75 years now. Again, I congratulate them on their success, and I know they will continue to bless our community for many more years to come.

APPROPRIATIONS FUNDING CUTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Madam Speaker, this week, we have seen the events that have gripped this Nation, the potential for a shutdown, the squabble on the floor for leadership, extreme MAGA opinions trying to impose their points of view on the American people.

This past year, we have also watched distinctly as climate change-related natural disasters have hit every region of this country.

This last week, we saw images from New York City with subways flooding, streets flooding, backyards and front yards of houses flooding. The inability to sustain consistent and persistent rainfall crippled New York City.

As we saw New York City underwater, just 2 months ago, wildfires consumed Maui. Mother Nature is talking to us. Mother Nature is never wrong.

Madam Speaker, this year the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024 within the appropriations process slashes the renewable energy and energy-efficient programs by 14 percent—get this—and instead funds the Department’s fossil fuel energy at more than \$850 million.

In the middle of this climate crisis, we take money away from renewable energy and we empower fossil fuel energy. We put them on steroids. It also underfunds the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers who will be able to address the flood and storm damage protection and claws back \$50 million that would have allowed communities like the one that I represent from becoming energy efficient.

So right in the middle of global warming, right in the middle of these disasters that are hurting communities

across the Nation, we see how funding is cut for renewable energy and for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer.

The legislative branch bill, as part of the appropriations process, harms both those that work in the Capitol and those that secure it. It lacks funding to secure the Capitol campus and district offices.

Not so long ago, we saw how some of our staff members in the Commonwealth of Virginia were attacked in their district offices where they worked.

We know that security on the Capitol complex is important not just for Members, but for our staff, for visitors, for everyone who makes their way here, just as security is also important in our district offices. Not enough funding has been given to that area.

Retention of U.S. Capitol police officers continues to be a major problem. After January 6, the Capitol Police is having a difficult time recruiting and retaining officers that will protect all of us.

The legislative branch bill also eliminates diversity, equity, and inclusion training. This program has been important to ensure that the government continues to look more and more like the rest of the country.

Inclusion means me being at this podium, Madam Speaker. Inclusion means you presiding over these proceedings. That is inclusion, to have a representative government of the people that make up our people. Yet, the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion was eliminated.

□ 1045

THANKING STATION 9 FIREFIGHTERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank the firefighters of Station 9 in west Little Rock, Arkansas, for their selfless service during the horrific tornado that struck our city and region in March.

The firefighters of Station 9 were standing in their building when it was directly hit by the tornado, completely destroying it.

Despite their fire station being in ruins, they immediately got to work clearing debris, providing emergency assistance, and serving as an important beacon of hope for those in need in that neighborhood.

Their tremendous efforts were a critical component in helping my hometown recover from one of the worst storms in recent history.

I am proud to honor the brave firefighters for their dedicated work in the face of destruction and ruin. Their service stands as a model of resilience and strength for our entire State and Nation.

RECOGNIZING HEIDE HARRELL

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my good friend, Heide

Harrell, on being a recipient of the Public Relations Society of America, Arkansas Chapter's 2023 Crystal Award.

Heide and I worked together at Arkansas-based Delta Trust and Banking Corporation, a Little Rock-based banking, trust, and investment company, where she was the communications and marketing officer.

Today, she serves as the vice president and communications director at Stephens, one of the largest privately held independent investment firms off Wall Street.

Just a few years ago, Heide was selected as an honoree in the 27th class of Arkansas Business 40 Under 40.

Heide is truly an inspiration to all through her hard work and leadership. Mr. Speaker, I thank Heide for being a great friend and a creative force for good across our community.

RECOGNIZING MADISON MURPHY

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a longtime friend and a terrific civic leader in our State, Madison Murphy, on the occasion of Highway 167 from El Dorado to Little Rock being dedicated in his honor.

Madison has been an inspiration to all Arkansans for many years and has received numerous awards and recognition for his work throughout the State.

He has been named to the Arkansas Business 40 Under 40 list and named Arkansas' Tourism Person of the Year for his financial support and inspiration in the creation of the Murphy Arts District in El Dorado.

Madison has also served as chairman of the Arkansas Highway Commission from 2003 to 2013, where he championed the widening of the Highway 167 corridor to provide a four-lane connection between south and central Arkansas, improving roadway safety, mobility, and transit.

Throughout his leadership as chairman, a temporary half-cent sales tax was implemented that funded 31 highway widening projects to improve connectivity across the State.

I applaud Mr. Murphy for his leadership and service to the State of Arkansas and congratulate him on this recognition.

CONTROL DEFICITS AND SPENDING

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, last Saturday, this House—all the Democrats and 31 Republicans—rejected a stopgap spending measure, which would have lowered spending for the 4 weeks of the continuing resolution period; secured the border with important needs, a critical element that every day we see and hear from our constituents; and established a commission to tackle the biggest challenge this House and this Nation has, which is that 70 percent of our spending, Mr. Speaker, is not voted on on this House floor. It is on autopilot—mandatory spending.

These mandatory spending programs require bipartisan attention to reform them. We can keep the promises made to the American people on Social Security and Medicare, but we need to get our fiscal house in order.

I support that commission, and I was so disappointed that 31 Republicans joined the Democrats to reject it.

Now, in this period of 45 days, as we continue to look for the most conservative spending policies that we can achieve across this House floor and in the Senate, let's be committed that we will have a bipartisan commission on debt and deficit and get this spending and these deficits under control.

HONORING DAVE SMIGLEWSKI

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Mrs. FISCHBACH) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Granite Falls Mayor David Smiglewski.

On September 22, the mayor passed away after a long and courageous battle with ALS.

Mr. Granite Falls, as many came to know him, began his service in city government in 1979 as a member of the city council. In 1996, he became the city's mayor and served in that role for 27 years until his passing.

During his tenure, Dave's commitment as a leader and advocate never wavered. He guided his community through devastating floods in 1997 and 2001 and a tornado in 2000.

He even spent his final days here in Washington, working to secure highway funding for his community.

The people of Granite Falls and the people of Minnesota have lost one of their greatest public servants.

We can all only hope to be more like Dave Smiglewski. I offer my deepest condolences to Cindy, his wife of 40 years, and his children, Cody, Seth, and Laurel.

RECOGNIZING LUKE COOPER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BEAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor one of the best and brightest of Florida's Fourth Congressional District, Luke Cooper.

Luke is an exceptional young man who was recently announced as a silver medalist for the Congressional Award, one of the highest awards Congress can bestow upon America's youth.

The Congressional Award Foundation was created to recognize initiative, service, and achievement in young people. There are exceptionally few who meet these lofty goals, and Luke is one of them.

He has given back to his local community by volunteering at Safe Animal Shelter in Clay County, fostering cats and kittens until they can find forever homes. Through his 150 hours of service, Luke has helped with the shelter's efforts to care for homeless animals while leaving a positive impact on his community.

As a volunteer at Clay County Teen Court, Luke has gained hands-on experience with our judicial system and

learned the necessary skills to be a catalyst for a better tomorrow.

Beyond service to others, Luke has put in hundreds of hours of personal development, including training for a 50-mile cycling excursion and sharpening his problem-solving skills on the golf course.

A prime example of what students from Florida's Fourth Congressional District are capable of, I am proud to congratulate Luke Cooper on his impressive achievements.

HONORING JACKSONVILLE EXCHANGE CLUB

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, what do Hasbro, Warner Brothers, Russell Stover, and the Jacksonville Exchange Club have in common? Well, they all were started in 1923 and have thrived for 100 years. They each represent the gold standard of service and success.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Jacksonville Exchange Club, an all-volunteer national service organization that has been providing valuable services and programs to members of our community for 100 years.

Since 1923, the club has continued to expand and evolve, dedicating their free time toward the pursuit of community projects that promote volunteerism, good citizenship, and love of country.

With a strong belief that America's youth are the leaders of tomorrow, club members actively seek out ways to inspire and engage Jacksonville's youth with programs such as Student of the Year, Accepting the Challenge of Excellence Award, and Americanism Speech Contest.

The Jacksonville Exchange Club continues to not only make a difference through their ongoing community service efforts but by providing members with a space where they may gather, exchange ideas and knowledge, and pursue the core principles envisioned by the club's original members.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating this significant milestone of the Jacksonville Exchange Club, its members, and the entire city of Jacksonville.

On its 100th anniversary, I wish the Jacksonville Exchange Club continued growth and prosperity in the years ahead.

CELEBRATING HYUNDAI HOPE ON WHEELS' 25TH ANNIVERSARY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of childhood cancer research and the organization Hyundai Hope on Wheels, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary.

Before serving in Congress, I began working with Hyundai Hope on Wheels in my role as a Hyundai dealer. Today, I am proud to work with this incredible

charity in my role as co-chair along with MIKE McCAUL of the Congressional Childhood Cancer Caucus.

Every time a Hyundai is sold, \$22 of each new vehicle goes toward Hyundai Hope on Wheels to fund pediatric cancer research. Since 1998, this organization has raised over \$225 million. It truly makes Hyundai not only a great company but a good company.

Now, I work with dealers Tom O'Brien and Don Reilly, and these are the men who started this incredible charity. It has played a crucial role in creating hope and saving lives in the battle against childhood cancer, fueling nearly 1,300 research studies at more than 175 medical institutions.

They are dedicated to supporting pediatric cancer research that finds innovative approaches, creates discovery, and improves care for children fighting cancer.

Their milestone came during an important week last month. As they held their annual event here on Capitol Hill, the Congressional Childhood Cancer Caucus held its annual Childhood Cancer Summit simultaneously.

Here in Congress and through the work of our caucus, we have made great legislative strides that have turned bills into laws and hope into action.

Last year, we passed the Childhood Cancer STAR Reauthorization Act. Since it was first passed in 2018, this bill has expanded opportunities for childhood research, improved efforts to identify and track childhood cancer incidences, and enhanced the quality of life for childhood survivors.

Since its inception, the Congressional Childhood Cancer Caucus has had four landmark pieces of legislation signed into law: The Childhood Cancer STAR Act, the Creating Hope Act, the RACE for Children Act, and the Global Hope Act. Our work is not done.

Thanks to their work, and thanks to our partnership in Congress, we have made great strides in funding childhood cancer research. Most importantly, I believe we are getting closer to the day when no parent, no family, will ever again have to hear the words: "Your child has cancer."

I also will take a moment to share a success story from the Hyundai Hope on Wheels program. Each year, Hyundai Hope on Wheels has a youth ambassador, and a few years ago, we met Hannah Adams. She was several years removed from battling cancer herself, and she shared with us some incredible and impactful stories.

Hannah is now 13 years cancer-free, and this summer, she was an intern in our Washington, D.C., office. She is now a junior at the University of Alabama, double majoring in political science and public relations, and we know she will accomplish so much.

It is my honor to have worked alongside Hannah and all of our youth ambassadors over the years.

You can understand why we have a youth ambassador. If you or I were to

go into a cancer hospital and try to talk to a child, it looks like, in my case, their grandfather came in. Hannah was their age. The youth ambassadors are their age, and they connect with children in a way that says to them: Look, I was once in the same position you were in. You can beat this. You can beat this, and we will work with you to do it.

Mr. Speaker, I acknowledge that October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. As co-chair of the House Cancer Caucus, I also make a commitment to those who are currently living with or who have lived with breast cancer. Congress will continue to fight for you by providing the necessary funding for research and support in the hope that someday we can find a cure.

CONGRATULATING LAPHONZA BUTLER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. KILEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, first, I extend my wishes and prayers to the family of Senator Feinstein. Dianne Feinstein dedicated her life to public service, and her passing is a profound loss for our State and country.

I also congratulate LAPHONZA BUTLER on her appointment to the Senate by Governor Newsom, and I say that with all sincerity. I harbor no ill will in any form against Ms. BUTLER. She apparently wasn't even expecting this appointment and only learned about it when she got a call from the Governor, and she agreed to serve. She should be commended for that.

I should say that there has been raised a question concerning whether she meets the requirements to hold this office and to represent California, given that apparently she is a registered voter in Maryland. I trust that the Senate, which is responsible for judging the qualifications of its Members, is taking that inquiry seriously.

I will say, however, that we need to, at this point, kind of pause to reflect on the fact that if Ms. BUTLER is sworn in, which I believe she is supposed to be sworn in today, California will now have two Senators who gained their office not by the authority of voters but, rather, by the whim of a single individual, Governor Gavin Newsom. We will have two Senators who gained their office via appointment.

□ 1100

We also, by the way, have a Senator from New Jersey whose own conference is calling on him to resign, which could create another appointed Senator in the United States Senate.

This is very much contrary to the spirit of the 17th Amendment, which calls for the direct election of Senators. When this amendment was adopted, it was put in place, according to one scholarly article, to replace a distrusted aristocratic regime of appointed Senators with one of popular enfranchisement.

Indeed, since the 17th Amendment, which provided for the direct election of Senators but allowed that governors could appoint Senators still to fill vacancies, these appointments have been subject to all manner of abuses. You have had instances of nepotism. Governors have appointed their children. They have appointed their spouses. Some have even appointed themselves to the U.S. Senate. Indeed, the appointment that Governor Newsom has just made demonstrates the risks that are inherent in an appointment system.

As one headline in today's San Francisco Chronicle reads: "Newsom's handling of Feinstein's replacement was a highlight reel of his political flaws." The writer says that he twisted himself into rhetorical pretzels over the last 2 years because he looked at this appointment through the lens of what is going to help his Presidential aspirations as opposed to what is going to be best for the State of California.

As long as 2 years ago, Governor Newsom made statements about who he might appoint in the event of a vacancy. Then just a few weeks ago, he said he was going to appoint an interim Senator. Then a couple days ago, he walked back that statement and said, no, the person would be free to run for reelection.

This is just not the sort of dynamic that ought to influence who is going to hold a position as important as being the United States Senator from California.

I should also add that it is quite unfair to the candidates who have been running to hold this position in 2024, three of whom currently serve in the House, who have been very actively campaigning and now face the prospect of running against an incumbent who didn't actually have to get to that office and face voters in order to get there.

For this House, the House of Representatives, every single person who walks onto the floor of this House is there by the authority of voters, is there having been elected. There is no reason why it shouldn't be the same in the United States Senate.

I have introduced H. Res. 57. This is a constitutional amendment that will simply say that in order to be a United States Senator, just as to be a United States Representative, you have to get there by an election of the people. If this really is a government of, by, and for the people, as Lincoln put it, then we should make sure that those who are here at this Capitol making important decisions on behalf of the people are there because the people chose them to be so.

THE STATE OF FOOD PRODUCTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, we are in perilous times as a Nation due to the

weakness we have been projecting in the last 2½ years from our leadership.

What do we see? When you have a vacuum like that—we know the terminology “nature abhors a vacuum”—China is all too eager to step in and move in and replace us in that regard. We are seeing that with the undermining of our currency around the world. We see it with the BRICS group trying to go on its own where the American currency for many, many years has been the standard.

Now, we don't have a birthright to that. We don't have a birthright as the United States for being number one in anything, but I think we can agree that we would be stronger as a country, as well as with our good intentions as a people, that the United States is well positioned to continue to be the light of the world that it is capable of being.

With bad leadership, with poor leadership, we allow others to come in and replace us in that role. China is seeking to do so on so many things, like manufacturing and food. That is what I would like to talk about today: food production.

At the same time as western countries are saying we need to blame agriculture for climate change, which basically means CO₂ production, I would remind you once again, carbon dioxide is only .04 percent of our atmosphere. All the hysteria over that is that it is somehow going to be the end of us as a people, the end of the Earth; it has only grown a minute amount.

They would have us cut one-third of agriculture in this country. John Kerry, the so-called czar, as he flies in his private jet to yet another fancy event in Davos to talk about climate change, along with hundreds of other private jets, would have us cut one-third of our agriculture in this country.

You see that happening in Europe. You see the Dutch farmers valiantly fighting back against their oppressive government where they are wanting to put a bunch of their land out of business. Holland reclaimed a bunch of land from the ocean via those polders, via those levees they used to push back the ocean and made prime farmland out of that. You have extremists trying to push them out. You see Ireland a while back deciding they need to cull about 30 percent, maybe a third of their dairy herd because dairies make CO₂ and methane gas and such.

There was a time in this country where we had way, way more buffalo on the plains than we do have currently with beef and dairy cattle. That is an interesting stat. It isn't about the animals burping or whatever.

As we see the U.S., due to bad policy, to poor leadership, being displaced in that area, do we really want to become dependent even more so on China and a cartel they might be in with Russia and other alliances they have with Iran, to be more and more dependent on them? We are already dependent on them for 90 percent of our pharma-

ceuticals, and so much of our manufactured products. Do you want to do that to agriculture, too? It makes no sense.

You see what is happening in my home State of California, where California produces so many of these great crops here. Ninety-plus percent that Americans rely on comes from California. We saw just last year, in 2022, that due to the decisions made by the Bureau of Reclamation and others, and the environmental groups, the water got cut off from Shasta Dam and other Federal project water to much of agriculture.

We saw just an example of rice, for example. Normally, about half a million acres of rice are grown in California. They cut that number in half to 250,000. Do you know how devastating that is to communities when you have that and other crops just wiped away because of mismanagement of our water supply during a drought period?

There is still plenty of water that hits California, plenty of snowpack. We were certainly blessed with a lot this year that made things good for the 2023 crops. We are still having a decent carryover, it looks like. As we watch, they are going to fritter the water away at this time of year, as they have to lower the lakes to have a flood control level, conservation level. Indeed, the water that could be used for other things is just now going out to the ocean as so much of it is. It is a water-management issue. It is a leadership issue.

Where is this food going to come from? They want to continue to take dams out. I heard a colleague here yesterday say, well, these dams haven't been maintained over the years. Well, that is purposeful. If the government doesn't put forward the dollars and the effort and the permitting process to maintain and keep dams upgraded, yeah, after 40 years they can deteriorate. Then someone decides, well, it is going to be too expensive to revamp the dam, to bring it up to spec, so let's go ahead and tear it out. That is what they want to begin with.

Where is our food going to come from if we don't have the dams, the water storage, our hydroelectric power, all of those things? It makes no sense what we are doing.

THE PRESS NEEDS TO WAKE UP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I will address some of the votes that took place on the floor last week, in particular the vote regarding a continuing resolution designed to keep the government open that was taken here last Friday.

The effort to keep the government open failed 232-198. Every Democrat voted against that resolution to close the government. What I am going to address is the fact that 21 Republicans voted against keeping the government

open at that time. The press, particularly The New York Times, probably other organizations as well, referred to those 21 people as hardcore conservatives.

As our country goes under, some people are going to blame the executive, some people will blame Congress, some people will blame the courts, but a lot of it has to fall on the utterly incompetent press corps of this country. Hard-line conservatives?

Let's look at the bill that we wanted to have to keep the government open last Friday. First of all, a continuing resolution is primarily about spending, and that spending bill cut spending, discretionary spending, on all but veterans, the border, and defense, by 30 percent. In other words, across-the-board, you put everything else together, discretionary spending on the Department of Education, the Department of Commerce, the Department of the Interior, the State Department, energy, the legislature itself, a 30 percent reduction in spending.

How in the world can you say the people who voted for the 30 percent reduction in spending are not conservative? How in the world can the press corps refer to the people who voted against a 30 percent reduction in spending as the hard-line conservatives?

We all know part of that bill was not just focused on government spending. Probably the biggest crisis facing America today is the massive group of people coming across the southern border, over 200,000 a month. In addition to that, we have all the unaccompanied minors, 8,000 to 10,000 children, coming across the southern border with no adult accompanying them at all.

In that bill, we also tried to add 22,000 new border agents, end catch and release, so people showing up at the southern border would be kept in Mexico, and the policy of inviting unaccompanied minors into our country. In other words, we were dealing with the immigration crisis.

We had two parts of the bill: A 30 percent reduction in discretionary spending on so much of the budget and, in essence, closing down the border to prevent all of these people coming here illegally, as well as to prevent the drugs coming across that kill over 100,000 Americans a year. The press corps in this country has the nerve to say that the people who sided with the Democrats to kill this bill are hard-line conservatives.

I call upon the slumbering press to wake up and pay attention to what is in these bills and tell us exactly what you mean by hardcore conservatives if they vote against the bill.

There may be a variety of motivations to vote against a bill. There may be personalities. Maybe you want to fancy yourself a hardcore conservative and you count on utter incompetence in the news media.

I beg the press corps in the future to pay attention to what is in these bills

and only use the phrase “hardcore conservative” to describe people who are voting for hardcore conservative bills.

The next thing that I think we should point out here today and the importance of having that large reduction in spending—and I don’t mean to bore you with numbers—is the degree to which, on a daily basis, our country gets in worse and worse shape. That is because the interest rates go up. That is no vote that we take here in Congress. I mean, we fight trench warfare here on a variety of bills. Sometimes the bills are just minor bills that have a few million dollars in them. In the last 2 days, because of an increase in interest rates, the amount of money we are going to have to spend on interest, just interest in the next year, went up \$12 billion.

Since April, when interest rates were like 3½ percent, the cost in interest has gone up over \$100 billion. We have serious problems here, and the costs in interest should also be reported by the press.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o’clock and 14 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

O God, You desire not the strength of our arguments, nor the vigor of our opinions, but the gravity of our humble sacrifice.

On this day, may we sacrifice our inclination for contempt and instead initiate kindness; loosen our grip on judgment and instead may we grab hold of a generosity of spirit; may we forswear our grudges and commit instead to exercise forbearance.

Hold us accountable that our arguments will support Your righteousness and not ring hollow in the defense of our rightness.

May our struggles serve to preserve the dignity of this body and not erode our commitment to its noble purpose. May our words underscore our devotion to the common good and not undermine our ability to see, even in our adversary, the image of God common to all.

Open us to Your inspiration, for only in You can we aspire to an attitude of sacrifice. With You upholding us, we can be strengthened in our every effort

to do what leads to peace and mutual edification.

We pray unto Him that is able to keep us from falling, hoping that You in Your mercy will receive our prayers and this body into Your keeping.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day’s proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. LAMALFA 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

NATIONAL CLEAN ENERGY WEEK

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, National Clean Energy week just passed by. It should be a time to recognize the various forms of clean energy available to all of us.

Unfortunately, one form continues to be taken not as seriously and, in many cases, undermined, and that would be hydroelectric power, which has so many benefits. Yet hydroelectric dams across this country, including one in the Klamath area of my district, are being torn out because of an environmental agenda that isn’t even true.

Others are on the hit list, like up in the State of Washington, by their environmental extremists. As policy leaders and consumers push for a more green future, hydropower should be part of that solution as a lot of the needed infrastructure already exists, as well as nuclear power.

Why are we seeing dams that supply low-cost renewable energy that have already existed for over a century being decommissioned?

Because here is the trick: You make it where it is almost impossible to do the maintenance and upgrades to that infrastructure so that over time it becomes too expensive now to continue to have those dams and they are old relics that need to be taken out. That is the trick.

Indeed, had we maintained them and kept them in place, we wouldn’t have

this economic crossroads to deal with. We need to preserve our dams and keep hydroelectric power as a cornerstone of our power grid.

MERIT-BASED EDUCATION STANDARDS FOR ALL PROFESSIONS

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, medical education based on competency and merit is necessary to lead the world in healthcare and medical innovation.

Americans sign up for a healthcare system free of racial discrimination. Medical schools must instill this fundamental precept in our country’s future healthcare professionals.

That is why the Education and the Workforce Committee pressed the Liaison Committee on Medical Education, the medical school accreditor, on its diversity, equity, and inclusion standards for applicants and its mandate for diversity.

LCME responded to the committee inquiry and publicly clarified that accredited medical schools will not treat applicants differently on the basis of race. With lives on the line, racial discrimination must play no part in our Nation’s healthcare system.

The committee will continue to push for merit-based education standards for all professions in the American workforce.

THE DEDICATION AND PASSION OF VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Alpha Fire Company of Centre County.

Recently, the Alpha Fire Company made history when an all-women crew took on the initial attack line in a three-alarm fire. Lieutenant Claudia Rudisill, firefighter Talia Chlach, and firefighter Kara Stover answered the call to protect and serve.

Claudia is a recent Penn State graduate, and Talia and Kara are current students at the university. All three come from a long line of firefighters.

Madam Speaker, they made history and they made a difference. They have put in the time and dedication to train, so when the call for help comes, they are able to respond and perform professionally. I know firsthand the dedication and passion volunteer firefighters have when it comes to protecting their communities.

Madam Speaker, I thank Claudia, Talia, and Kara for their bravery and dedication to the State College community.

AMERICANS ARE POORER UNDER PRESIDENT BIDEN

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, yesterday, Arthur Laffer and Stephen Moore of the Committee to Unleash Prosperity, revealed that Biden was accelerating poverty.

The recent Census Bureau report on income and poverty in 2022 was god-awful. The supplemental poverty rate rose in 1 year by nearly a record amount. The child poverty rate doubled. Almost every income group—old people, young people, males, females, and residents of our region of the country—lost ground.

Meanwhile, median income fell by 2.2 percent. The average family is roughly \$2,000 poorer than when Biden entered office, following more than a \$6,000 raise in the middle-class incomes under Trump.

Instead of the JFK aspiration of the rising tide lifting all boats, we now have a falling tide that is capsizing all boats. Biden's failures are a useful reminder that putting equity over prosperity leads inevitably to equal misery.

I am very grateful for the leadership of Speaker KEVIN MCCARTHY promoting border security as national security.

In conclusion, God bless our troops who successfully protected America for 20 years as the global war on terrorism continues, moving from the Afghanistan safe haven to America with Biden open borders.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF ALAN BERNIKOW

(Ms. MALLIOTAKIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of Alan Bernikow, whose generosity impacted thousands of Staten Islanders.

Alan was a mentor and a dear friend of mine. He was a compassionate community leader, entrepreneur, and philanthropist looking to make a difference in the lives of those around him.

He climbed to the top of the corporate ladder. He was the inaugural chairman of the Heart Institute at Staten Island University Hospital; he served on the board of directors of the Richmond University Medical Center; and he was the former President of the Richmond County Country Club and the Jewish Community Center. He also founded the JCC's annual golf and bocce classic which funds scholarships for local children.

He and his wife, Joan, were married for over 50 years and they donated their time, their energy, and their resources to Staten Island's flagship JCC, which bears their name.

Today, on Staten Island, there is a celebration of Alan's life, and I send

my deepest condolences to his family and friends and our community during this difficult time.

Mr. Speaker, I offer this tribute of Alan's life for the official CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

RECOGNIZING AIMEE BEFORT

(Mr. RUTHERFORD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Aimee Befort for her tireless efforts to place children in reliable, safe, and loving homes.

In 2013, Aimee started her career in child welfare as a dependency case manager for the St. Johns County Family Integrity Program, which works with State and local partners to find safe homes for abused and neglected children.

After 2 years as a dependency case manager, Aimee transitioned into the role of adoption coordinator, where she works closely with case management staff to avoid prolonged foster care and expedite permanency through adoption.

Thanks to her determination and ongoing efforts to place children in secure homes, she has played a role in finalizing over 250 adoptions for more than 100 families.

Throughout my 40-year career in law enforcement, I have seen the difference individuals like Aimee can make in our community. Without Aimee's heart for our youth, these children would have lost the opportunity for a safe and joyful childhood.

For this reason, I was proud to nominate Aimee for this year's Congressional Angels in Adoption award. On behalf of Florida's Fifth Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives, I extend a heartfelt congratulations to Aimee Befort.

Mr. Speaker, may God bless her and this calling, and may God bless the families that she serves.

FOCUS ON THE PRIORITIES FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I just spent time with my constituents over the weekend, and everywhere I went and announced that the government was going to remain open because of the advocacy of Democrats, there was applause. No matter what party, what affiliation they had, there was applause to recognize that law enforcement would be paid, those at the border would be paid, the supplemental nutrition program that families so desperately need would be provided for, and the women and children program would be provided for.

However, at the same time, it is important to take note that we have

passed draconian appropriation bills that sizably cut what working families need—the supplemental nutrition program, the WIC program, housing.

We cannot continue on this route. We must find a bipartisan pathway to fund this government, recognizing that we do have a deficit created by the past administration and that we have been dug out of poverty because of Biden's American Rescue Plan Act that cities have depended on. These cities relied on large Federal dollars that helped them bridge the gap during the pandemic for rural communities, as well.

Madam Speaker, we are getting ready to take a monumental step today. Let's focus on the priorities for the American people.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4394, ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4364, LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

Mr. RESCENTIALER. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 756 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 756

Resolved, That at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4394) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The amendment printed in part A of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived.

SEC. 2. (a) No further amendment to H.R. 4394, as amended, shall be in order except those printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, amendments en bloc described in section 3 of this resolution, and pro forma amendments described in section 4 of this resolution.

(b) Each further amendment printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules shall be considered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment except as provided by section 4 of this resolution, and shall not be subject to a demand

for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole.

(c) All points of order against further amendments printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules or against amendments en bloc described in section 3 of this resolution are waived.

SEC. 3. It shall be in order at any time for the chair of the Committee on Appropriations or her designee to offer amendments en bloc consisting of further amendments printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution not earlier disposed of. Amendments en bloc offered pursuant to this section shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees, shall not be subject to amendment except as provided by section 4 of this resolution, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole.

SEC. 4. During consideration of H.R. 4394 for amendment, the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees may offer up to 10 pro forma amendments each at any point for the purpose of debate.

SEC. 5. At the conclusion of consideration of H.R. 4394 for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill, as amended, to the House with such further amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit.

SEC. 6. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 4364) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The amendment printed in part C of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 7. House Resolution 699 is laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. MALLIOTAKIS). The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. RESCENTIALER. Madam Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. SCANLON), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RESCENTIALER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

□ 1215

Mr. RESCENTIALER. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this rule and in support of the underlying legislation.

House Resolution 756 provides for consideration of H.R. 4394, the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2024, under a structured rule, with 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees and provides one motion to recommit.

The rule makes in order 60 amendments. Further, the rule provides for consideration of H.R. 4364, the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2024, under a closed rule, with 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees and provides for one motion to recommit.

Madam Speaker, since President Biden took office, gas prices are up 60 percent; natural gas prices are up 25 percent; coal prices are up 70 percent; and electricity prices are up 24 percent.

This should raise alarms on the other side of the aisle. I don't mean pulling fire alarms. This should get the attention of the other side.

H.R. 4364 restores American energy dominance. It invests in our national security and delivers fiscal responsibility for the American taxpayer.

As a Navy veteran, I am proud to support H.R. 4394, which provides \$32.51 billion in Defense spending. That is an increase of more than \$1 billion over FY23 enacted levels.

This legislation continues efforts to modernize the Nation's nuclear weapon stockpile, supports Columbia-class submarine reactor development and helps counter our adversaries.

Additionally, H.R. 4394 prioritizes energy security and economic competitiveness by investing \$200 million in critical mineral production and supporting domestic uranium enrichment capabilities.

Finally, this legislation rescinds \$5.58 billion of absolutely reckless spending that was wasted by the previous majority. It terminates Biden's waters of the United States rule and it cuts the dangerous, radical, and extreme Green New Deal programs.

Madam Speaker, additionally, H.R. 4364 ensures that Members of Congress can address the needs of their constituents while prioritizing deficit reduction.

H.R. 4364 reduces spending by 4.5 percent, provides Capitol police officers with an increase of \$46 million over last year, and protects House networks by banning the purchase of telecommunications equipment made in China.

As we work to pass single-subject appropriations bills, I am proud to support the underlying legislation which upholds the House Republicans' commitment to the American people.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this rule, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SCANLON. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for yielding the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, over the past month, House Republicans have plunged this Chamber into chaos. Whether it is the extremists who refuse to honor the bipartisan budget deal negotiated with the White House and voted into law by bipartisan majorities in both houses of Congress, and then sought to shut down the government with their outrageous demands, or whether it is House leadership who seem unable to prevent this destructive behavior or perhaps to leave this Chamber at all.

As I and my Democratic colleagues push back against the majority's cruel, extreme, and unworkable agenda, Members on the other side of the aisle have been consumed with infighting and trying to distract from the fact that their refusal to work in a collaborative or bipartisan manner either with the Senate, Democrats, or even within their own party, has resulted in their failing to perform Congress' most basic job of funding the Federal Government.

Just this past weekend, they brought us within hours of a devastating government shutdown. As the funding deadline approached, my office was fielding calls from terrified constituents; people feeling that come the end of month, their paychecks would no longer arrive and that critical government services which they rely upon would be interrupted.

Parents wondered whether they would be able to make ends meet, whether they would be able to pay the childcare bills that allowed them to go to work and keep food on the table for themselves and their children. Seniors worried about heat assistance as temperatures drop. That is why Democrats stepped in to keep the government up and running without the outrageous rightwing demands coming from the most extreme and exotic fringes of the House Republican majority.

Now, we have 6 weeks before another funding deadline, and we have a lot of work to do. The American people don't deserve this continued uncertainty.

After the majority's reckless approach to government funding failed, time and time again, on the House floor, we still only have 4 of the 12 appropriations bills passed through the House; 2 haven't even been marked up, another one has failed, and more may go down this week.

One would think they would be willing to change tactics because after all, the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result.

You would think they would be willing to come to the table, honor the agreements, pass the spending bills

that the American people should expect and certainly deserve, but apparently not. Instead, we see them doubling down on the strategy of jamming through unrealistic spending proposals that would devastate children, families, seniors, and veterans all across this country.

That includes the two hyper-partisan bills they have brought to the House floor today; bills that continue to break the pattern of the bipartisan funding agreement that Congress approved last spring and that both parties in the Senate have been willing to honor.

These bills slash vital services and include rightwing culture war provisions; bills that are so extreme that the House Republicans may not be able to pass them here, the Senate won't agree to, and the President certainly won't sign.

The first of these is H.R. 4394, the Energy and Water Development funding bill. With this legislation, we should be ensuring that the U.S. is able to meet the challenges of today's and tomorrow's world.

Unfortunately, the bill in front of us doesn't do that. It is full of harmful rescissions, repeals, and funding cuts. It attempts to impede the progress we have made by increasing America's energy costs, jeopardizing our energy security and hurting U.S. global competitiveness.

It claws back important funding that supports programs to combat flooding, improve wildlife habitat, and reduce pollution in our drinking water. That includes millions in funding for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Let me zoom in on that for a minute and talk about all the important work that the Army Corps does in my district alone.

It is responsible for the regular maintenance of two major rivers running through and alongside Pennsylvania's Fifth district: the Schuylkill and the Delaware. That maintenance includes tasks like dredging, debris removal, and maintaining river embankments.

This river work is critical to our region's environmental, public, and even economic health because it means boats can use our waterways without interruption, and larger vessels can sail into and trade at the port of Philadelphia.

The broader budget cuts included in this bill undermine the importance and viability of all of these programs and means that additional measures to improve the health of our communities, both in my district and others, will go undone.

Critically, this bill also fails to meaningfully confront the climate crisis. In southeastern Pennsylvania, we have already started to feel the effects of climate change, more intense and frequent storms have resulted in unprecedented, devastating flooding across our region.

For example, the Eastwick neighborhood of Philadelphia, which sits adja-

cent to a flood-prone marsh, has experienced increasingly dramatic floods in recent years. About 3 years ago, Tropical Storm Isaias damaged more than 300 homes in this low-lying area. We have seen tornados and flooding in the Brandywine River region in Norristown and elsewhere.

It is important for everyone here to realize that none of our districts are immune from the impacts of the climate crisis. Flooding, hurricanes, rising sea levels, wildfires, and other climate disasters, they affect us all.

My Republican colleagues' denial of this fact would only leave us extremely unprepared and will prevent us from doing anything proactively to address these growing threats and help our communities be more resilient.

Ultimately, it is our constituents and future generations of Americans who will suffer the consequences of these kind of policy failures.

Additionally, just as families have started taking advantage of provisions in the Inflation Reduction Act that reduce their home energy costs, this bill would increase energy bills for hard-working Americans.

For all my Republican colleagues' talk, it is clear that Democrats are the only ones here willing to take action to keep costs down for American families, because with this bill, the majority is trying to undo the work that we did with the Inflation Reduction Act. They want to slash funding for programs that help people to weatherize their homes, purchase efficient appliances, and be able to afford to heat their homes.

These programs have the potential to save Americans thousands of dollars a year. For the past several months, I have been holding meetings across my district to talk to constituents about these measures and help them access and improve their lives and their budgets. Now House Republicans want to take this away.

This bill also blocks funding for initiatives that direct investments to our underserved communities most overburdened by pollution. My region has long struggled with dangerous air quality and its negative health impacts leading to high rates of cancer and some of the highest rates of childhood asthma in our Nation.

Federal investment is needed to ensure that kids in my district and across the country can grow up healthy and have bright futures. In kneecapping this important work, it seems that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are more concerned with catering to polluters than the health of our children, and I find that incredibly disappointing.

We are also considering today H.R. 4364, the legislative branch funding bill.

Unfortunately, this legislation undermines the important work of this institution and threatens Congress' ability to move into the future and serve its constituents and America

today rather than in the 19th century or so.

I served on the bipartisan Select Committee on Modernization of Congress for 2 years. Since then, I have followed its subsequent work to produce recommendations on how to make Congress work better for the American people.

Ultimately, that committee passed over 200 bipartisan recommendations, including recommendations related to diversity and inclusion among our staff here in Congress. Leading businesses around the globe have embraced diversity and inclusion because they know that a diverse workforce is more effective.

Despite the successes we have seen in other sectors, it seems my Republican colleagues here in the House want to go backwards.

Troublingly, they want to eliminate the Office of Diversity and Inclusion here on Capitol Hill. A well-functioning legislative branch is critical our democracy, and I know our democracy is strongest when Members of Congress and their staff look like the America we are here to represent.

□ 1230

We should all want to serve our constituents in the best way we possibly can, and we can only do that if we give our institution the tools and the staff to achieve progress with the times and truly represent our modern Nation.

Unfortunately, this bill would undermine that goal.

Even after flirting with a disastrous shutdown, my Republican colleagues are still trying to force through spending bills written in back rooms with no bipartisan agreement and riddled with culture war poison pills and devastating cuts. They do so knowing that these bills are so extreme that their passage is imperiled here in the House, and it is a fiction if they think it is going through the Senate or that it will be signed into law by the President.

This continued dysfunction only hurts America and throws our country into chaos.

The bottom line is that the House needs to do better than this. The American people deserve better than this.

Madam Speaker, I strongly oppose both of these bills, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RESCIENTHALER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I have to share a story about Secretary Granholm because you just can't make up this stuff. NPR reported this story, which makes it even more rich.

Secretary Granholm took a 4-day EV propaganda road trip on the taxpayers' dime that turned into an absolute nightmare for the Secretary. At a stop in Georgia, there was only one available EV charging station for the Secretary's motorcade. What did she do? Well, they had the Department of Energy advance team—who were traveling in gas-powered vehicles, I might

add—they had that advance team go in and reserve a spot while others waited in long lines, battling the summer heat.

Rightfully, a family that was traveling with a baby actually called the police on Secretary Granholm and her advance team.

Earlier this year, Granholm stated, “We can all learn from what China is doing,” regarding climate policies. Let’s just talk about what China is doing because that is about as laughable as the story about her failed propaganda trip.

China emits 30 percent of the world’s global emissions. They emit more than the developed world combined. They emit more than the United States, the EU, and Japan combined. By far, they are the largest polluter in the world.

My friends across the aisle will say nothing to criticize China, by the way.

China’s coal-fired power plants generate more than 23 percent of all forms of U.S. energy combined, and they are allowed to increase their emissions through 2030 under the laughable Paris climate accord. We could all laugh at this if it wasn’t for the devastating effects that Democrats’ climate policy has on the working class in America and for our competitive edge on our number one adversary on the world stage, and that is China.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SCANLON. Madam Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), the distinguished ranking member of the Committee on Rules.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, let me say to the gentleman from Pennsylvania that nobody has been tougher on China than yours truly here. I take a back seat to no one, and I don’t want to be lectured.

Madam Speaker, I wasn’t going to speak on this rule today, but I feel compelled to say something because I see a pattern developing that I think needs to be called out. It needs to be called out, plain and simple.

They are taking their awful appropriations bills on agriculture and foreign policy, and now energy and water and the legislative branch, and as the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania pointed out, they all have these deep cuts, and then they are loading them up with MAGA culture war crap. I think people ought to understand in plain terms what they are doing.

Let’s focus on some specifics.

They say it is about woke Democrats this and woke Democrats that. I mean, give me a break. They want to get rid of an office here on Capitol Hill that promotes staff diversity and inclusion. Who wants less diversity? If you want everyone here to look the same, just say so.

They want to make it illegal to put up a Pride flag next to a U.S. flag, by the way, at an embassy during Pride Month. That is woke? What is wrong with them?

In one of these bills, they want to make it so that you can use taxpayer money to fire people for being gay. I mean, really? I mean, with all the problems in the world, this is what they focus on? This is what keeps them awake at night?

This is nuts. This isn’t about religious freedom. This is about giving people freedom to discriminate. If they want to be bigoted, so be it, but don’t use the United States Government and taxpayer dollars to reinforce and spread your backward views.

The reason I wanted to come down here is that this isn’t just about politics. Hate crimes against the LGBTQ community are going up. My colleagues come to the floor not only failing to denounce that but advancing ideas which signal to people that it is okay to discriminate, that it is okay to hate. It is sick.

I get it. This is popular in the extreme MAGA world, but I thought there were some moderate voices on the other side that might find this as offensive as I do. I guess I am wrong because Republicans continue to blindly come down here and support these hateful policies and vote for them time after time.

I hope that the next Speaker, whoever that may be—maybe we will find out today—will do a better job of preventing this garbage from coming to the floor, but looking at the Republican Party in 2023, I won’t hold my breath.

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Let me be clear about something. You can’t be anti-China and pro-EV. You can’t be anti-China and pro-Green New Deal. These things are completely incompatible.

Let me explain. Throughout the Biden Presidency, his administration has been dead set on advancing the foolish, reckless, and extreme Green New Deal agenda. This path forward has propped up our adversaries such as China, which we now rely on for critical minerals to build the expensive EVs that liberals like to parade around in in their affluent suburban neighborhoods. Biden’s officials openly acknowledge that fact.

During an Appropriations subcommittee hearing earlier this year, the Interior Secretary admitted that the Biden administration’s Green New Deal policies actually make our Nation more reliant on China. She admitted it at the hearing.

Do you know what? She is right.

China accounts for 63 percent of the world’s rare earth mining, 85 percent of rare earth processing, and 92 percent of rare earth magnet production. This plays a massive role in producing 70 percent of the global EV battery supply.

While Democrats cheer on these foreign green efforts, China is busy emitting more greenhouse gas than the U.S. and all other developed nations combined.

It has never been more clear. When President Biden and Democrats push for their green agenda, what they are really doing is empowering the Chinese Communist Party, and they are doing it at the expense of the American worker.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SCANLON. Madam Speaker, I wish that our colleagues across the aisle were as concerned about the fact that this bill would increase our dependence on Russian oil, Russian oil that is being used to fund their illegal, inhumane war against the Ukrainian people.

Madam Speaker, if we defeat the previous question, I will offer an amendment to the rule to provide for consideration of a resolution which clearly states that it is the people’s House’s duty to keep our promise to American workers and seniors to protect and preserve Social Security and Medicare and fight against any cuts to these vital programs.

Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of my amendment into the RECORD along with any extraneous material immediately prior to the vote on the previous question.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Ms. SCANLON. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE) to discuss our proposal.

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Madam Speaker, I have to tell you, there is a virus infecting this Congress, and it is not the ‘rona. It is Republican testosterone poisoning.

All year long, we have heard not one peep from Republicans about Social Security or Medicare—nothing. They have been passing legislation that erodes the health protections of Americans and then high-fiving after these horrible bills pass.

They won’t admit that 63 million seniors will be hurt by their cuts to Social Security—so watch out, granny, because they are coming for you—or that they will cut the lifeline of millions who depend on Medicare to survive.

Instead, we have been stuck in this Republican romper room.

The American people don’t want to hear your lies, and they don’t want to watch your Republican civil warfare meltdown.

They care about their healthcare, jobs, keeping the government open, growing the economy, and protecting us at home and abroad.

They care about being able to put food on the table and having a home to go to.

They care about having a Social Security check in the mail, one that they were promised for their years of work.

They care about what is real to them, and you are not it.

For this reason, I ask my colleagues to defeat the previous question so that we can bring up H.R. 178, an important piece of legislation affirming the House's commitment to protecting Social Security and Medicare.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their comments to the Chair and not to other Members.

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

It is quite the intellectual yoga exercise to somehow say that Republicans are encouraging Russian gas. It is the exact opposite.

Let's think about it. Do you know why there are Russian oil tankers in the harbor in Boston? It is because far-left radical activists, namely the entire Democratic Party, have decided to cancel a pipeline that should have been running from Philadelphia into New England called the Constitution Pipeline that would have brought clean natural gas from Pennsylvania into New England so the residents there have cheap, abundant natural gas and are not forced to buy dirty petroleum from Russian.

Again, the intellectual gymnastics and yoga are quite amazing.

Let's talk about some other far-left, radical policies of my friends across the aisle and how it has made us more dependent on Russia and more dependent on China.

For one, they have a new list of regulations on coal-fired power plants, making it harder for us to burn our clean coal here in the United States and forcing coal producers to ship coal to places like China, where they don't use scrubbers, by the way. Liberals across the aisle ended the Keystone XL pipeline, coincidentally killing tens of thousands of union jobs that they purport to support. They also canceled Federal oil and gas leasing on Federal land.

I ask you, which policies make us more dependent on Russia, ours or the radical left's?

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SCANLON. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania for her leadership and for managing this rule that we now have on the floor of the House.

I stand here in the name of so many Americans who live in cities and rural communities that are so dependent on the Federal funding that helps to bridge local government funding, and also those who are most vulnerable in our Nation.

As I rise today, we Democrats did come together to stop the shutdown. As I said earlier, there was applause across my district. At the same time, bills are passed that really shock me. Again, bills were passed that cut \$800 million from the women, infants, and

children program dealing with feeding babies. Then, one of the most talked about issues across America—we just saw something where Habitat for Humanity is building 39 homes under the name of the great President Jimmy Carter and his wife. Here we are cutting \$1 billion to \$500 million from the HOME Investment Partnerships Program that directly deals with the funding that is necessary.

Can you believe the cuts in Medicare? Can you absolutely believe that that is what is happening? The bills are being passed by the Republican majority.

Now, I thought they were concerned about Homeland Security—I served on this committee since 9/11—but border management funding has been severely cut for shelter and services programs, the very programs that are needed by those who come seeking asylum or even those who come whose asylum will be rejected, but the burden is on those local cities. The USCIS and the Transportation Security Administration are both receiving cuts.

Then, of course, we are dealing with this particular legislation, legislative branch and energy and commerce.

□ 1245

It is important to note that funding dealing with water, dealing with climate, and dealing with renewables are all being cut.

I offered amendments in particular to deal with water that were not accepted. I offered amendments to ensure that DACA residents could be hired, which we have done before. Those are individuals that did not spend any time in their foreign land, were brought here as children, and are now doctors, paramedics, lawyers, and teachers, and because of the DACA program we cannot hire them. How insensitive is that?

Then the attacks against the LGBTQ+ community, all of the amendments throughout the entire time that attack them. Then to get rid of the diversity office that we worked so hard for, to ensure that this Congress, the people's House, the United States Senate, reflects the wonderment of America, this wonderful experiment that the world looks to and says: How great this land is. "My country, 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty." That is what America is to people. How can we in appropriations after appropriations put in these poison pills?

We stopped the shutdown, but what I can say to you is there is more work to be done. We don't know what the vote will be on the floor today, but I want whatever happens, as I said before, to be for the best for the American people. That is Democrats leading.

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. LANGWORTHY), my good friend and fellow member of the Rules Committee.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Madam Speaker, the Biden administration, through the Department of Energy, is making life harder for Americans and jeopardizing our energy security.

Through gradually increasing efficiency standards, rebate programs, and other regulatory carrot-and-stick measures, this administration is determined to take perfectly reliable, affordable, and efficient appliances off the market and out of reach for ordinary Americans.

The regulatory agenda being carried out at the Biden Department of Energy is a death-by-a-thousand-cuts strategy that will leave Americans sincerely worried about how they will be able to afford to heat their homes in the coming years.

From gas stoves and furnaces to air-conditioners, the Biden administration is forcing Americans away from appliances and technologies that genuinely work and pushing them toward more expensive and less available options.

Time and again, the left tells us that this hardship is the price we all must pay for a so-called greener and cleaner future. In fact, these draconian measures do little to achieve that future while depriving Americans of a quality of life we once took for granted.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to support the underlying legislation, H.R. 4394, because it will put the brakes on the out-of-control, out-of-touch regulatory state that has been unleashed on the American people by the Biden administration.

This legislation rescinds billions of dollars in wasteful spending from the poorly named Inflation Reduction Act that was intended to force Americans away from affordable and reliable appliances toward more expensive and less reliable options.

Madam Speaker, I strongly encourage my colleagues to support this rule and this underlying legislation today.

Ms. SCANLON. Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ), a distinguished member of the Rules Committee.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Madam Speaker, just 3 days ago, Democrats voted to keep our government open. We told America how Republicans were slashing vital programs in their extreme appropriations bills.

We voted down the Republican plan to drastically cut programs that keep our babies, children, and their mothers from going hungry, cut public school funding, cut agricultural investments, and cut support for small businesses. That is what the Republicans wanted to do.

The American people heard our warnings, and their voices rang through Congress. Finally, we had a clean continuing resolution without those cuts on the House floor.

With support from the American people, Democrats led the way in keeping our government open. It is a continuation of our work from last Congress where Democrats passed laws to make investments in our future energy independence and in our vision for rural development that has been lacking for decades.

In Jeremiah 29:11, the Lord says: My plan is not for you to suffer, but for you to prosper, have hope and a future.

Democrats showed that we are ready and willing to make that prosperity plan a reality for Americans and especially for rural America.

For too long in rural America and in rural New Mexico, our families have been leaving the farms and ranches that give us our identity, our “herencia y cultura,” “heritage and culture,” and importantly, that give us the food we eat.

Last year, Democrats passed bill after bill to change this trend. We want to invest in rural America.

Through the Inflation Reduction Act and CHIPS and Science Act, we can build the next generation of innovation in places like rural New Mexico. I am looking forward to an enchanted innovation hub in New Mexico.

Now that Republicans are in charge, they want to gut those bills, making rural families pay more and get less.

The Republican energy bill we are considering today wants to gut rural projects, like the SunZia line in Corona, New Mexico, which just installed the largest wind farm in the country. I call it the Route 66 of renewable energy. These wind farms are generating revenues for multiple local ranchers.

Let me tell you something. Many ranchers in the country don’t make a profit. The USDA reported in 2020 that ranchers didn’t generate enough profit to cover their own living expenses and debt obligations for 9 out of 10 years.

The Democrat prosperity plan changes that equation and allows ranchers to earn revenue from clean energy and from food production.

What is more, a wind farm in a rural county like Lincoln, New Mexico, will provide \$1.3 billion in taxes in 30 years. Lincoln County has never seen such revenue before and can use it to invest in rural healthcare and behavioral health.

Rather than build on the transformational investments that Democrats made to support our rural communities, what are the Republicans doing? They are gutting our progress. They want to look backward.

Indeed, all the appropriations bills that the Republicans are putting forth hurt American competitiveness, they hurt rural areas, and they hurt families who need to save money.

Rather than incentivizing the programs that our children will need to save this planet and outcompete China, Republicans are taking us backward.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote for a future where the Democratic prosperity plan can become a reality.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote “no” on this rule.

Mr. RESCIENTHALER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Talking more about the Democratic fascination with helping China, let’s go back to 2022. In 2022, gas prices hit an

all-time record high. Instead of reversing the failed policies of the Biden administration that actually led to gas prices increasing at that rate, instead of doing that, Biden sold 180 million barrels from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to temporarily lower gas prices in a cheap political gimmick.

What did this do? This drained our emergency energy supply to its lowest level since the 1980s, the lowest level since I was born.

Who benefited the most from this? Well, it wasn’t the American worker. It was China. According to the Department of Energy, China’s state refining company bought 2 million barrels of Strategic Petroleum Reserve oil in 2022.

Instead of powering China’s economy, House Republicans are passing legislation this week that actually lowers energy costs, that ends radical Green New Deal programs, and restores our energy independence.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SCANLON. Madam Speaker, funding the Federal Government is not a game. The American people who elect us to Congress depend on us to solve real problems. They don’t send us here to play politics with their lives and our country’s future.

The incompetence, extremism, and infighting we have seen on display from our Republican colleagues is not serious governance. It is dangerous. It is destructive behavior, and it makes it wholly clear that there are Members of this body who care more about making headlines than the job they were sent here to do.

Madam Speaker, our budgets reflect our priorities. Democrats are here to put people over politics, and these bills make it clear that my Republican colleagues are prioritizing scoring political points over working for American families or strengthening this body and our democracy or protecting our planet.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to oppose the previous question and the rule, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RESCIENTHALER. Madam Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, it is clear, President Biden’s energy policies benefit our foreign adversaries, not the American worker.

The Biden administration has made our vehicle market heavily dependent on communist China. The administration has also cut deals with Iran. I might remind everybody that Iran is a state sponsor of terror. In fact, the Biden administration released \$6 billion in oil revenue that will fund terrorist operations against the United States and our number one ally in the Middle East, Israel.

Recently, the President drained our strategic oil reserve to the lowest levels. To what end? To fuel China’s economy.

Earlier this year, FERC Commissioner Mark Christie predicted in a Senate hearing that our energy grid is: “. . . heading for a very catastrophic situation. . . .”

Why is this? It is because of the far left’s rush to foolish green policies. This is the wrong path to go down.

This is why I am proud to support the underlying legislation which restores the Strategic Petroleum Reserves. It also helps our national security mission, increases funding for our ports and inland waterways, like the locks and dams that run through my district, and it invests in our Nation’s security.

After the previous majority spent \$3 trillion outside of the appropriations process, this legislation actually reins in billions of dollars to reduce our out-of-control national debt.

Under House Republicans, we have passed legislation to lower energy costs for the American family, reformed our permitting process, allowed the Mountain Valley pipeline to finish construction, and preserved vehicle choice in the marketplace. This legislation before us keeps up that commitment to the American people.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on the previous question and “yes” on the rule.

The material previously referred to by Ms. SCANLON is as follows:

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 756 OFFERED BY
MS. SCANLON OF PENNSYLVANIA

At the end of the resolution, add the following:

SEC. 8. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution, the House shall proceed to the consideration in the House of the resolution (H. Res. 178) affirming the House of Representatives’ commitment to protect and strengthen Social Security and Medicare. The resolution shall be considered as read. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the resolution and preamble to adoption without intervening motion or demand for division of the question except one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means or their respective designees.

SEC. 9. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H. Res. 178.

Mr. RESCIENTHALER. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CAREY). The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question are postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 58 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1330

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK) at 1 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Ordering the previous question on House Resolution 756; and

Adoption of House Resolution 756, if ordered.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the second electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4394, ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4364, LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on ordering the previous question on the resolution (H. Res. 756) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4394) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4364) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 218, nays 207, not voting 7, as follows:

[Roll No. 516]

YEAS—218

Aderholt	Bentz	Burgess
Alford	Bergman	Burlison
Allen	Bice	Calvert
Amodei	Biggs	Cammack
Armstrong	Bilirakis	Carey
Arrington	Bishop (NC)	Carl
Babin	Boebert	Carter (GA)
Bacon	Bost	Chavez-DeRemer
Baird	Brecheen	Ciscomani
Balderson	Buchanan	Cline
Banks	Buck	Cloud
Barr	Bucshon	Clyde
Bean (FL)	Burchett	Cole

Collins	Hudson	Nunn (IA)
Comer	Huizenga	Obenrolte
Crane	Hunt	Ogles
Crawford	Issa	Owens
Crenshaw	Jackson (TX)	Palmer
Curtis	James	Pence
D'Esposito	Johnson (LA)	Perry
Davidson	Johnson (OH)	Pfluger
De La Cruz	Johnson (SD)	Posey
DesJarlais	Jordan	Reschenthaler
Diaz-Balart	Joyce (OH)	Rodgers (WA)
Donalds	Joyce (PA)	Rogers (AL)
Duarte	Kean (NJ)	Rogers (KY)
Duncan	Kelly (MS)	Rose
Dunn (FL)	Kelly (PA)	Rosendale
Edwards	Kiggans (VA)	Rouzer
Ellzey	Kiley	Roy
Emmer	Kim (CA)	Rutherford
Estes	Kustoff	Salazar
Ezell	LaHood	Santos
Fallon	LaLota	Scalise
Feenstra	LaMalfa	Schweikert
Ferguson	Lamborn	Scott, Austin
Finstad	Langworthy	Self
Fischbach	Latta	Sessions
Fitzgerald	LaTurner	Simpson
Fitzpatrick	Lawler	Smith (MO)
Fleischmann	Lee (FL)	Smith (NE)
Flood	Lesko	Smith (NJ)
Fox	Letlow	Smucker
Franklin, C.	Loudermilk	Spartz
Scott	Lucas	Staubert
Fry	Luetkemeyer	Steel
Fulcher	Luttrell	Stefanik
Gaetz	Mace	Steil
Gallagher	Malliotakis	Steube
Garbarino	Mann	Strong
Garcia, Mike	Massie	Tenney
Jimenez	Mast	Thompson (PA)
Gonzales, Tony	McCaul	Tiffany
Good (VA)	McClain	Timmons
Gooden (TX)	McClintock	Turner
Gosar	McCormick	Valadao
Granger	McHenry	Van Drew
Graves (LA)	Meuser	Van Dwyne
Graves (MO)	Miller (IL)	Van Orden
Green (TN)	Miller (OH)	Wagner
Greene (GA)	Miller (WV)	Walberg
Griffith	Miller-Meeks	Waltz
Grothman	Mills	Weber (TX)
Guest	Molinaro	Webster (FL)
Guthrie	Moolenaar	Wenstrup
Hageman	Mooney	Westerman
Harris	Moore (AL)	Williams (NY)
Harshbarger	Moore (UT)	Williams (TX)
Hern	Moran	Wilson (SC)
Higgins (LA)	Murphy	Wittman
Hill	Nehls	Womack
Hinson	Newhouse	Yakym
Houchin	Norman	Zinke

NAYS—207

Adams	Connolly	Gonzalez,
Agullar	Correa	Vicente
Allred	Costa	Gottheimer
Auchincloss	Courtney	Green, Al (TX)
Balint	Craig	Grijalva
Barragan	Crockett	Harder (CA)
Beatty	Crow	Hayes
Bera	Cuellar	Higgins (NY)
Beyer	David (KS)	Himes
Bishop (GA)	Davis (IL)	Horsford
Blumenauer	Davis (NC)	Houlahan
Blunt Rochester	Dean (PA)	Hoyer
Bonamici	DeGette	Hoyle (OR)
Bowman	DeLauro	Huffman
Boyle (PA)	DeBene	Ivey
Brown	Deluzio	Jackson (IL)
Brownley	DeSaulnier	Jackson (NC)
Budzinski	Dingell	Jackson Lee
Caraveo	Doggett	Jacobs
Carbajal	Escobar	Jayapal
Cardenas	Eshoo	Jeffries
Carson	Espallat	Johnson (GA)
Carter (LA)	Evans	Kamlager-Dove
Cartwright	Fletcher	Kaptur
Casas	Foster	Keating
Case	Foushee	Kelly (IL)
Casten	Frankel, Lois	Khanna
Castor (FL)	Frost	Kildee
Castro (TX)	Galleo	Kilmer
Cherfilus-	Garamendi	Kim (NJ)
McCormick	Garcia (IL)	Krishnamoorthi
Chu	Garcia (TX)	Kuster
Clark (MA)	Garcia, Robert	Landsman
Clarke (NY)	Golden (ME)	Larsen (WA)
Cleaver	Goldman (NY)	Larson (CT)
Clyburn	Gomez	Lee (CA)
Cohen		Lee (NV)

Lee (PA)	Pappas	Sorensen
Leger Fernandez	Pascrell	Soto
Levin	Payne	Spanberger
Lieu	Perez	Stansbury
Lofgren	Peters	Stanton
Lynch	Petterson	Stevens
Magaziner	Phillips	Strickland
Manning	Pingree	Swalwell
Matsui	Pocan	Takano
McBath	Porter	Thanedar
McClellan	Pressley	Thompson (CA)
McCollum	Quigley	Thompson (MS)
McGarvey	Ramirez	Titus
McGovern	Raskin	Tlaib
Meeks	Ross	Tokuda
Menendez	Ruiz	Tonko
Meng	Ruppersberger	Torres (CA)
Mfume	Ryan	Torres (NY)
Moore (WI)	Salinas	Trahan
Morelle	Sánchez	Trone
Moskowitz	Sarbanes	Underwood
Moulton	Scanlon	Vargas
Mrvan	Schakowsky	Vasquez
Mullin	Schiff	Veasey
Nadler	Schneider	Vélazquez
Napolitano	Scholten	Wasserman
Neal	Schrier	Schultz
Neguse	Scott (VA)	Waters
Nickel	Scott, David	Watson Coleman
Norcross	Sewell	Wexton
Ocasio-Cortez	Sherman	Wild
Omar	Sherrill	Williams (GA)
Pallone	Slotkin	
Panetta	Smith (WA)	

NOT VOTING—7

Bush	Pelosi	Wilson (FL)
Carter (TX)	Peltola	
Luna	Sykes	

□ 1403

Mr. MURPHY changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the previous question was ordered.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK). The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 218, noes 208, not voting 7, as follows:

[Roll No. 517]

AYES—218

Aderholt	Calvert	Emmer
Alford	Cammack	Estes
Allen	Carey	Ezell
Amodei	Carl	Fallon
Armstrong	Carter (GA)	Feenstra
Arrington	Chavez-DeRemer	Ferguson
Babin	Ciscomani	Finstad
Bacon	Cline	Fischbach
Baird	Cloud	Fitzgerald
Balderson	Clyde	Fitzpatrick
Banks	Cole	Fleischmann
Barr	Collins	Flood
Bean (FL)	Comer	Fox
Bentz	Crane	Franklin, C.
Bergman	Crawford	Scott
Bice	Crenshaw	Fry
Biggs	Curtis	Fulcher
Bilirakis	D'Esposito	Gaetz
Bishop (NC)	Davidson	Gallagher
Boebert	De La Cruz	Garbarino
Bost	DesJarlais	Garcia, Mike
Brecheen	Diaz-Balart	Jimenez
Buchanan	Donalds	Gonzales, Tony
Buck	Duarte	Good (VA)
Bucshon	Duncan	Gooden (TX)
Burchett	Dunn (FL)	Gosar
Burgess	Edwards	Granger
Burlison	Ellzey	Graves (LA)

Graves (MO) Loudermilk
Green (TN) Lucas
Greene (GA) Luetkemeyer
Griffith Luttrell
Grothman Mace
Guest Malliotakis
Guthrie Mann
Hageman Massie
Harris Mast
Harshbarger McCarthy
Hern McCaul
Higgins (LA) McClain
Hill McClintock
Hinson McCormick
Houchin McHenry
Hudson Meuser
Huizenga Miller (IL)
Hunt Miller (OH)
Issa Miller (WV)
Jackson (TX) Miller-Meeks
James Mills
Johnson (LA) Molinaro
Johnson (OH) Moolenaar
Johnson (SD) Mooney
Jordan Moore (AL)
Joyce (OH) Moore (UT)
Joyce (PA) Moran
Kean (NJ) Murphy
Kelly (MS) Nehls
Kelly (PA) Newhouse
Kiggans (VA) Norman
Kiley Nunn (IA)
Kim (CA) Obernolte
Kustoff Ogles
LaHood Owens
LaLota Palmer
LaMalfa Pence
Lamborn Perry
Langworthy Pfluger
Latta Posey
LaTurner Reschenthaler
Lawler Rodgers (WA)
Lee (FL) Rogers (KY)
Lesko Rose
Letlow Rosendale

NOES—208

Adams Deluzio
Aguilar DeSaulnier
Allred Dingell
Auchincloss Doggett
Balint Escobar
Barragán Eshoo
Beatty Espaillat
Bera Evans
Beyer Fletcher
Bishop (GA) Foster
Blumenauer Foushee
Blunt Rochester Frankel, Lois
Bonamici Frost
Bowman Gallego
Boyle (PA) Garamendi
Brown Garcia (IL)
Brownley Garcia (TX)
Budzinski Garcia, Robert
Caraveo Golden (ME)
Carbajal Goldman (NY)
Cárdenas Gomez
Carson Gonzalez,
Carter (LA) Vicente
Cartwright Gottheimer
Casar Green, Al (TX)
Case Grijalva
Casten Harder (CA)
Castor (FL) Hayes
Castro (TX) Higgins (NY)
Cherfilus- Himes
McCormick Horsford
Chu Houlihan
Clark (MA) Hoyer
Clarke (NY) Hoyle (OR)
Cleaver Huffman
Clyburn Ivey
Cohen Jackson (IL)
Connolly Jackson (NC)
Correa Jackson Lee
Costa Jacobs
Courtney Jayapal
Craig Jeffries
Crockett Johnson (GA)
Crow Kamlager-Dove
Cuellar Kaptur
Davids (KS) Keating
Davis (IL) Kelly (IL)
Davis (NC) Khanna
Dean (PA) Kildee
DeGette Kilmer
DeLauro Kim (NJ)
DeBene Krishnamoorthi

Rouzer
Roy
Rutherford
Salazar
Santos
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Self
Sessions
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Strong
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyn
Van Orden
Wagner
Walberg
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (NY)
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

Ramirez
Raskin
Rogers (AL)
Ross
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Ryan
Salinas
Sanchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell

Bush
Carter (TX)
Luna

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1426

Mr. SHERMAN changed his vote from “present” to “nay.”

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RAISING A QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to a question of the privileges of the House and offer the resolution I previously noticed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the resolution.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 757

Resolved, That the office of Speaker of the House of Representatives is hereby declared to be vacant.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The resolution qualifies as a question of the privileges of the House.

MOTION TO TABLE

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to table at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Cole of Oklahoma moves to lay the resolution on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to table.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 208, nays 218, not voting 7, as follows:

[Roll No. 518]

YEAS—208

Aderholt
Alford
Allen
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Bacon

Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bean (FL)
Bentz
Bergman
Bice

Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Velázquez
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Tokuda

Pelosi
Peltola
Sykes

Wilson (FL)

Burlison
Calvert
Cammack
Carey
Carl
Carter (GA)
Chavez-DeRemer
Ciscomani
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Collins
Comer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Curtis
D'Esposito
De La Cruz
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Duarte
Duncan
Dunn (FL)
Edwards
Ellzey
Emmer
Estes
Ezell
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flood
Foxy
Franklin, C.
Scott
Fry
Fulcher
Gallagher
Garbarino
Garcia, Mike
Gimenez
Gonzales, Tony
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Harris

NAYS—218

Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crane
Crockett
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davidson
Davis (IL)
Davis (NC)
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DeBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
Dingell
Doggett
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Evans
Fletcher
Foster
Foushee
Frankel, Lois
Frost

Nehls
Newhouse
Norman
Nunn (IA)
Obernolte
Ogles
Owens
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Pfluger
Posey
Reschenthaler
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rouzer
Roy
Rutherford
Salazar
Santos
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Self
Sessions
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Strong
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyn
Van Orden
Wagner
Walberg
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (NY)
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

Gaetz
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Garcia, Robert
Golden (ME)
Goldman (NY)
Gomez
Gonzalez,
Vicente
Good (VA)
Gottheimer
Green, Al (TX)
Grijalva
Harder (CA)
Hayes
Higgins (NY)
Himes
Horsford
Houlihan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Huffman
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jackson (NC)
Jackson Lee
Jacobs
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Keating

Kelly (IL)	Napolitano	Sewell
Khanna	Neal	Sherman
Kildee	Neguse	Sherrill
Kilmer	Nickel	Slotkin
Kim (NJ)	Norcross	Smith (WA)
Krishnamoorthi	Ocasio-Cortez	Sorensen
Kuster	Omar	Soto
Landsman	Pallone	Spanberger
Larsen (WA)	Panetta	Spartz
Larson (CT)	Pappas	Stansbury
Lee (CA)	Pascrell	Stanton
Lee (NV)	Payne	Stevens
Lee (PA)	Perez	Strickland
Leger Fernandez	Peters	Swalwell
Levin	Petterson	Takano
Lieu	Phillips	Thanedar
Lofgren	Pingree	Thompson (CA)
Lynch	Pocan	Thompson (MS)
Mace	Porter	Titus
Magaziner	Pressley	Tlaib
Manning	Quigley	Tokuda
Matsui	Ramirez	Tonko
McBath	Raskin	Torres (CA)
McClellan	Rosendale	Torres (NY)
McCollum	Ross	Trahan
McGarvey	Ruiz	Trone
McGovern	Ruppersberger	Underwood
Meeks	Ryan	Vargas
Menendez	Salinas	Vasquez
Meng	Sánchez	Veasey
Mfume	Sarbanes	Velázquez
Mills	Scanlon	Wasserman
Moore (WI)	Schakowsky	Schultz
Morelle	Schiff	Waters
Moskowitz	Schneider	Watson Coleman
Moulton	Scholten	Wexton
Mrvan	Schrier	Wild
Mullin	Scott (VA)	Williams (GA)
Nadler	Scott, David	

NOT VOTING—7

Bush	Pelosi	Wilson (FL)
Carter (TX)	Peltola	
Luna	Sykes	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1443

So the motion to table was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 2(a)(2) of rule IX, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GAETZ) and the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOOD).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Before the gentleman speaks, may I remind my colleagues that all parties need to be heard. Would you please clear the well and clear the aisles, and any extraneous conversations need to be taken from the floor.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, like so many others, I deeply regret that we are here in what was a totally avoidable situation.

I must take you back to January, however, which for many of us was about not repeating the failures of the past and letting Republican voters across the country down once again, when in the past for many years, when Republicans have had majorities in this Chamber, we have passed our major spending bills predominantly with Democratic votes; something the other side of the House has never and would never do with majority control.

Back in January, I expressed my concern that the previous 2 years during my first term here in this House, we had not used every tool at our disposal to fight against the harmful, radical Democrat agenda that is destroying the country, bankrupting the country, and under which the American people are suffering.

Most in here wouldn't know that I helped persuade my five colleagues who comprised the remaining resistance in the wee morning hours of January 7 to switch our votes to "present" to let Mr. MCCARTHY become Speaker.

I went to him on this very floor to tell him that he was finally going to become Speaker on the next vote. In that moment, it was clear to me that I or we could have asked for anything in exchange for switching our votes to "present," but I and we asked for nothing.

The very next week, I requested and had a meeting with Speaker MCCARTHY to tell him he had my full support and that I wanted him to be successful because the country needed him to be successful.

In the ensuing months, I helped him narrowly pass the Parents Bill of Rights and the Limit, Save, Grow bill—I think both of those by just one or two votes—helping persuade some of my most conservative colleagues to come along despite some of the concerns they had with those bills.

We remained united as a Conference through the Limit, Save, Grow vote as we passed a bill that was cutting spending to pre-COVID levels for non-defense discretionary spending or just over \$100 billion, historic spending cuts, as the Speaker had committed to do in January. It also included a host of other conservative fiscal reforms.

Unfortunately, however, that unity and that commitment to significant year-one cuts and spending reforms were discarded in the failed responsibility act, as I call it, which passed overwhelmingly, once again, with a majority of Democrat votes, validating the concern many of us had in January.

Many of us had begged the Speaker, pleaded with the Speaker repeatedly, to utilize the debt ceiling to leverage spending cuts and reforms.

Instead, he negotiated an unlimited increase to the debt ceiling through January of '25, as much as we can come together and gleefully spend through January of '25, with no significant wins for the American people in that FRA or failed responsibility act.

The Speaker then said that we would use appropriations to bring the fight and finally reduce our spending.

He said the levels of the FRA were the ceiling and not the floor, and re-committed multiple times to go back to the \$1.471 trillion that was the Limit, Save, Grow levels, radically, historically saving \$100 billion and lowering the deficit this year under Republican majority from \$2.2 trillion to \$2.1 trillion. That is what we were asking the Republican House to do, to go to \$2.1 trillion.

Meanwhile, the Speaker had committed to bring a balanced budget vote to this floor, something that still has not happened despite the work that has been done in our Budget Committee to mark it up and have it ready to come to the floor.

He also promised that we would bring all 12 appropriations bills well before the September 30 fiscal deadline. We did not.

We simply, as Republicans, needed the Speaker to cast the vision, request the support of the entire Conference, all of whom voted for the Limit, Save, Grow levels, except for four who wanted to go even further, to lead us in joining him, sticking with him, supporting him, and sending the most conservative spending bills with the most conservative cuts possible to the Senate as the best starting position for negotiations with the Senate. Many of us begged and pleaded with the Speaker to do that over the past 5 months.

When the Speaker failed to lead us to pass our spending bills, bringing only 1 of 12 to the floor before the August district work period, Members began to negotiate amongst themselves without the Speaker to find compromise.

I was among those who reluctantly agreed last month to split the difference between failed responsibilities, \$1.526, and the Limit, Save, Grow, \$1.471. I reluctantly agreed to do that, to go to \$1.526, in order to pass our bills on to the Senate.

We then essentially forced the Speaker with the pressure of the shutdown threat of the calendar to bring those four bills to the floor last week, all of which I voted for, despite some of them not cutting to the levels we agreed to and other concerns I had with the bills.

I reluctantly voted for a 30-day conditional CR, continuing resolution, because it cut an additional \$10 billion in the month of October, going back to the pre-COVID \$1.471 levels for defense, nondefense discretionary, 30 percent, and it had border security. I voted for that.

However, when that vote failed, the Speaker, this past Friday in the Republican Conference meeting, made it abundantly clear that he was willing to do anything to avoid the temporary discomfort and the pressure of a pause in the 15 percent of the nonessential Federal Government operations, which would guarantee that we would lose to the Senate Democrats and the White House. If you are not willing to say no, then you are guaranteed to lose.

That was confirmed with the passage of the unconditional 45-day CR this past Saturday, once again with 209 Democrat votes. The Republican bill, 209-1 Democrats; 51-0 on the Senate side.

The Speaker fought through 15 votes in January to become Speaker but was only willing to fight through one failed CR before surrendering to the Democrats on Saturday. We need a Speaker who will fight for something, anything,

besides just staying or becoming Speaker.

If there was ever a time to fight with \$33 trillion in national debt, a \$2 trillion deficit this year, 40-year high inflation, 20-year high interest rates, a downgraded credit rating, and for the first time in modern history and despite all the help of the media blaming Republicans in the House, the polls showing that the public was blaming Biden and the Democrats for an imminent shutdown. If not fight now, when would we fight? Now is and was the time.

With the Democrats driving the fiscal bus off the cliff at 100 miles an hour, we cannot simply be content to be the party that slows it down to 95 just so we can sit in the front seat and wear the captain's hat.

Our current debt and our spending trajectory is unsustainable. We need a Speaker, ideally somebody who doesn't want to be Speaker and hasn't pursued that at all costs for his entire adult life, who will meet the moment and do everything possible to fight for the country.

A red line was crossed for me, I regret, on Saturday, and so it is with regret that I must vote against the motion to table, as I did, and vote to vacate the Chair.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I share one thing in common with my friend from Virginia. This is a very sad day and certainly a day I never expected to have to live through.

I think, broadly speaking, as I look across this floor, you can divide Members into three groups. I am very happy to be in the first group, the overwhelming majority of my party who supports the Speaker that we elected.

We are proud of the leadership he has shown. We are proud of the manner in which he has been willing to work with everybody in our Conference, and I believe in this Chamber.

There is a second group, a small group. Honestly, they are willing to plunge this body into chaos and this country into uncertainty for reasons that only they really understand. I certainly don't.

Then there are friends on the other side—I mean friends, honestly, with great sincerity—I have a lot of friends over there, and I recognize that my friends on the other side have a very complex set of partisan, personal, and political calculations to make.

I certainly wouldn't presume to give them any advice about that, but I would say think long and hard before you plunge us into chaos because that is where we are headed if we vacate the speakership.

I personally think there are really three reasons why we have come to this point, and that is because at each three of these critical minutes, the Speaker did the right thing.

First, there was a Speaker vote. He got 85 percent of the vote in our Conference; 90 percent of the vote from Republicans on this floor.

Yet, we had a small group that decided no, they would dictate what they want. He didn't let that happen. He fought. Now, he fought for himself, but he fought for 90 percent of us too that wanted him to be the Speaker, and I appreciate that.

Then, of course, we had the debt ceiling deal. Nobody here thought he could pass a bill. Nobody in America thought he could pass a bill.

He did what Speakers are supposed to do. He passed the bill. Then he sat down and negotiated with a Democratic Senate and a Democratic President and came back with a good deal, a deal that will limit spending. He did the right thing.

Finally, last Saturday on this floor, we were on the verge of a government shutdown, a government shutdown that the vast majority of Members in this Chamber did not want, a substantial majority on my side and an overwhelming majority on the Democrat side.

□ 1500

He put his political neck on the line, knowing this day was coming, to do the right thing—the right thing for the country without a doubt. My friends and I agree on that, whether or not we agree on the Speaker. He did the right thing. He did the right thing for this institution. He showed it could function in a time of crisis. Finally, he did the right thing for our party. He made sure that we could continue to negotiate and achieve some of the very objectives my friend from Virginia laid out, and achieve them in divided government, which calls for some degree of give-and-take.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud of this Speaker. I am very proud to stand behind him. Tomorrow morning, whether I win or lose, I am going to be pretty proud of the people I fought with and I am going to be extraordinarily proud of the person I fought for, the Speaker of the House, KEVIN MCCARTHY.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, my friend from Oklahoma says that my colleagues and I who don't support KEVIN MCCARTHY would plunge the House and the country into chaos. Chaos is Speaker MCCARTHY. Chaos is somebody who we cannot trust with their word.

The one thing that the White House, House Democrats, and many of us on the conservative side of the Republican caucus would argue is that the thing we have in common, KEVIN MCCARTHY said something to all of us at one point or another that he didn't really mean and never intended to live up to.

I don't think voting against KEVIN MCCARTHY is chaos. I think \$33 trillion in debt is chaos. I think that facing a \$2.2 trillion annual deficit is chaos. I think that not passing single-subject spending bills is chaos. I think the fact that we have been governed in this country since the mid-1990s by continuing resolution and omnibus is

chaos. The way to liberate ourselves from that is a series of reforms to this body that I would hope would outlast Speaker MCCARTHY's time here, would outlast my time here, and would outlast either of our majorities.

Mr. Speaker, these are reforms that I have heard some of the most conservative Members of this body fight for and some of the reforms that we have been battling for that I have even heard those in the Democratic Caucus say would be worthy and helpful to the House—like open amendments and understanding what the budget is.

We have been out of compliance with budget laws for most of my life and most of many of your lives. By the way, if we did those things, if we had single-subject bills, if we had an understanding on the top line, if we had open amendments, if we had trust and honesty and understanding, there would be times when my conservative colleagues and I would lose. There might be a few times when we would win. There would be times when we would form partnerships that might otherwise not be really predictable in the American body politic, but the American people would see us legislating.

These last few days, we have suspended the momentum that we had established the week earlier when we were bringing bills to the floor, voting on them, and staying late at night working hard. That is what the American people expect. It is something Speaker MCCARTHY hasn't delivered. That is why I moved to vacate the Chair.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. EMMER), my very good friend.

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, KEVIN MCCARTHY has earned this. Under Speaker MCCARTHY's leadership, our House Republican majority has actually defied all odds and overperformed expectations again and again and again.

It all started with the Speaker's race when our Speaker, KEVIN MCCARTHY, showed the American people how he would never give up. It carried over into the Speaker spearheading a Rules package to create the most transparent, Member-driven legislative process that I have ever seen since I have been here.

Since then, Speaker MCCARTHY's Republican majority has been successful in bringing common sense back to our Nation's capital by passing legislation to affirm a parents' right to be involved in their child's education, bolster American energy production, fully fund veterans' care and benefits, fight back against the regulatory state, and continue delivering on our promise to rein in Democrats' reckless spending by passing fiscally responsible appropriations bills.

We have also achieved historic conservative wins like passing the strongest border security legislation in history, passing the first Republican-only NDAA in history, and passing the first Republican-only State and Foreign Operations appropriations bill.

So many Americans are better off because of KEVIN MCCARTHY's leadership: American families, jobs creators, entrepreneurs, servicemembers, law enforcement officers, and the list goes on and on. These are just a few of our House Republican majority successes.

Make no mistake, we need KEVIN MCCARTHY to remain Speaker if we are going to stay focused on our mission of delivering commonsense wins for the American people. We have shown Americans what success looks like when we come together as a team.

Now it is time for us to stand together stronger than ever so we can get back to the work our majority was elected to do.

I am proud to support the Speaker as we continue championing conservative priorities that will put our country on a better path. Mr. Speaker, I thank Speaker MCCARTHY.

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, the opening line of my colleague's speech was that Speaker MCCARTHY always overperforms expectations, but after tweeting "bring it" and after engaging in profane-laced tirades at House Conference, he just lost a motion to table. I wouldn't necessarily consider that overperforming expectations.

Time and again, I have heard my colleagues say: Well, he deserves it because he went through a tough Speaker contest. Let me let everyone know, he prevailed in that Speaker contest because he made an agreement to fulfill certain commitments to make this an open and honest process, and he has failed to meet those commitments. That is why we are here.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JORDAN), my very good friend.

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 3 we said the 118th Congress is about three things: pass the bills that need passed, do the oversight work that needs to be done, and stop the inevitable omnibus that comes from the United States Senate right before the holidays.

KEVIN MCCARTHY has been rock-solid on all three. We have passed the bills we told the American people we would pass: the 87,000 IRS agents, that bill passed; Parents Bill of Rights, that bill passed; energy legislation, passed; border security immigration enforcement legislation, the strongest bill ever to pass the Congress, passed earlier this year.

We have done what we told them we were going to do. We can't help that the Senate won't take up those good commonsense bills. They will have to answer to the American people come election day.

Oversight. We have done the oversight that we are supposed to do. Because of our oversight, we know that parents were targeted by the Department of Justice. Because of our oversight, we know that 51 former intel officials misled the country weeks before the most important election we have.

Mr. Speaker, because of our oversight, the Disinformation Governance Board at the Department of Homeland Security is gone. Because of our oversight, the memo attacking pro-life Catholics has been rescinded. Because of over oversight, unannounced visits to Americans' homes by the Internal Revenue Service has stopped. That happened under Speaker MCCARTHY.

On the third one on this side, we know there is a big, old, ugly bill coming at the end of the year with all kinds of spending and garbage in it. We are still in that fight. Frankly, to Mr. GAETZ' point, we don't know how that one is going to shake out.

We do know this: On Saturday, we didn't take the Senate's bill. The Senate tried to send it over and shove it down our throats on Saturday, but we didn't take that bill. The Speaker was in a tough position.

There were five options on the table last week. Option one was to send a long-term CR over there that would have leveraged the 1 percent cut—something a bunch of us voted for, both parties. We couldn't get the votes for that one.

The second option was to focus on the one issue the country is now completely focused on, the border issue. We couldn't get the votes for that one either. When the Senate tried to send us that bill, he said "no" to it.

Mr. Speaker, I think the Speaker has kept his word. I know my colleagues and friends are saying different, but I think he has kept his word on those three things that we talked about on January 3 and, frankly, that entire week.

Mr. Speaker, he has kept his word, and I think we should keep him as Speaker.

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, the problem with my friend from Ohio's argument is that many of the bills he referenced as having passed are not law. We are on a fast track to an omnibus bill, and it is difficult to champion oversight when House Republicans haven't even sent a subpoena to Hunter Biden. It is hard to make the argument that oversight is the reason to continue when it sort of looks like failure theater.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS).

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, this is a serious time. My mind immediately goes to the young deputy from Cochise County who 2 nights ago, while trying to apprehend a runaway vehicle smuggling humans across the border, suffered major injuries. He was transported to Pima County where he is in a Tucson hospital fighting for his life.

I am talking about a border that remains wide open where drugs come through. The Tucson sector has the most got-aways known and unknown of any sector along the border. There are terrorists coming in, people conducting criminal conduct coming in, criminal gang members, human smugglers, and sex traffickers. They are coming across our border to the tune of hundreds of thousands every month.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my colleagues and their position, but I would suggest something: I don't think you can just skip to last weekend and say, oh, my goodness, a CR came out last weekend on Saturday. I think we need to go back to January.

I will say this. This body came together on the Republican side and we passed a good border security piece of legislation, H.R. 2. That is good.

Last week we passed the DHS bill and the DOD bills which had funding for our CBP, ICE, military leaders, and military men and women. Why were we successful in doing that? What happened to motivate us to get there?

Well, for one thing, we didn't bother to pass the 12 appropriations bills as required under the Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974. We didn't do it. Do you know how many times that has not been done?

That has not been done 25 years in a row.

Do you know how many CRs this body has passed in that same period of time?

It is 130.

Do you know what that gets you?

A \$2 trillion-plus structural deficit like we had in fiscal year 2023.

Do you know what that leads you to?

A \$33 trillion national debt, which is where we sit today. It leads you to somewhere north of \$700 billion in interest payments.

Do you know why that happened?

Because this body is entrenched in a suboptimal path and refuses to leave it. It refuses to leave that path. You cannot change if you are unwilling to change. We had every opportunity to change. We were promised change.

We were promised we were going to go ahead, and we were going to get those 12 bills done. If we got those 12 bills done—do you know why you do 12 bills?

Because it allows you to reduce spending and get rid of wasteful duplicative programs. It allows you to set an agenda to restore fiscal sanity. We chose to not do it again. We were promised we would do it. That is why at the end some people said: We will vote present. We will go ahead. We are going to put our trust in Mr. MCCARTHY to become the Speaker. That didn't happen. I suspected that would be the case. That was my struggle. That was my struggle last November and December. I iterated it to this body, our Conference anyway.

When we got to the debt ceiling, again, that seemed to spring upon everybody like a surprise. When that happened, I was in there for some of those

negotiations on where that number would be, and I was astonished how that \$1.5 trillion number was negotiated. Unbelievable. Unbelievable.

□ 1515

However, I will tell you this: To his credit, the Speaker told us one thing that I believe to be true. He said that is basically the ante in a poker game. You can sit down at the table.

I told my colleagues who supported that: That \$1.5 trillion in 8 months that you are willing to raise the debt ceiling, that is the opening marker.

Indeed, it was. Now, projections are many trillion dollars above that.

Yes, I think it is time to make a change. I am not the only one, and thus, it is somber. But what have we failed to accomplish? Why didn't we get this stuff done?

When we are campaigning, we are talking about an extension of the debt ceiling to January 2025.

We are talking about additional Ukraine funding. Maybe that is good in your districts. Maybe it is not. That money is not offset. We are not paying for it. We haven't designated how we are going to pay for that—the same with the disaster package.

The IRS remains 80 percent increased. I could go down the list, but I will just tell you why this happens. When you don't do your 12 budget bills and you rely ultimately on a CR—and I will get to the calendar in a second—what happens is, you cannot leverage this administration to actually enforce the border laws that you need to have enforced.

This is a lawless Biden regime. They will not enforce border laws. We can pass them until we are blue in the face, but until you leverage the budget and the spending, you will not see enforcement by this administration.

Now, take a look at the calendar that we were just provided last week. We are supposed to finish our 12 bills by November 3. By November 17 is when we are supposed to see that the conference committees have come together, both sides, and we have resolved this. I don't believe that that is going to happen.

It wasn't going to happen before. You were betting on the come again. At some point, I would urge you to stop betting on the come and bet on the reality. That is why I can't support the Speaker any longer, and I will be voting for the motion to vacate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN), my very good friend.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Selah, s-e-l-a-h, selah. This unique word, scattered throughout the Psalms, signals to the reader to pause, reflect, consider, and maybe take a deep breath before moving on.

Psalmists use selah to emphasize the significance of a statement. For exam-

ple, King David wrote: "Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears our burden, the God who is our salvation. Selah." That is a profound statement with huge implications. It deserves more than a cursory consideration.

Within the next hour, this House will vote "yea" or "nay" to vacate the Speaker's chair, a profound action with huge implications. This was last tried in 1910. Joseph Cannon won the vote. One hundred thirteen years later, my office is in the Cannon Office Building, and Uncle Joe Cannon's statue sits just outside this Chamber.

No living human has taken the vote we are about to take. It deserves that we pause and reflect, that we consider deeply the ramifications of our actions.

To my fellow Republicans who would consider voting "yes" to removing our Republican Speaker, please pause and ask yourself two questions: Will your "yes" vote make America stronger? Will your "yes" vote strengthen conservative policies?

If you believe "yes" is the right vote, please stand before this body and the American people and articulate your plan—not your grievances or your wishes, your plan. Convince the vast majority of the Republican Conference that strongly disagrees with you to follow you.

If you cannot do that, which you have failed to do so far, then voting "yes" is, at the least, a disruptive overreaction. In reality, it is selfish, bad for conservative policies, and bad for America.

That is why I strongly support Speaker KEVIN MCCARTHY and why, without hesitation or reservation, I will vote "no" on this disastrous resolution.

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, there is nothing selfish about wanting a Speaker of the House who tells the truth. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. MASSIE), my good friend and fellow member of the Rules Committee.

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Speaker, as the only still-serving coauthor and cosponsor of the motion to vacate Speaker Boehner, I can tell you this motion to vacate is a terrible idea. As the only Member who is serving here who took every chance to vote against Speaker Boehner and to vote against Speaker Ryan, I can tell you that this Chamber has been run better, more conservatively, and more transparently under Mr. MCCARTHY than any other Speaker that I have served under.

As a member of the Rules Committee, one of three conservatives who was placed there out of trust—the Speaker gave us a blocking position by putting three of us on there to keep an eye on the Rules Committee, to make sure the process was fair and even—I can tell you it has been fair and even. None of us are voting against the Speaker today.

Regular order is at odds with predetermined outcomes. Yet, the Speaker

is being accused of not holding to regular order and predetermined outcomes at the same time. It is not possible. You cannot be for both at the same time.

I was a party to the January agreement, and I can tell you that there were promises in there, but there was never a promise for an outcome. There was never a promise that you could force Joe Biden to sign something. There was only the promise that we would try, and try we have. We have tried in the Rules Committee. We have tried on the floor. We have been trying since this summer.

There is enough blame to go around for why we don't have 12 bills, but part of it was a relitigation of the debt limit deal.

By the way, there was no promise on the debt limit deal. There were no conditions on that in January—zero—whatsoever. I was in the room for that.

The 12 bills were delayed over what? \$100 billion. That is a lot of money, but it is nothing compared to the \$2 trillion that I came here to object to when Speaker PELOSI and President Trump pushed that bill through.

We have had over 500 amendments. Listen, this is a referendum on this institution. We have tried regular order. Speaker MCCARTHY has tried regular order. If regular order fails today, if you vote to vacate the Speaker, no one is going to try again. This institution will fail. Please do not vacate the Speaker.

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK), my very good friend.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, if there was ever a time for sobriety, wisdom, and caution in this House, it is right now.

If this motion carries, the House will be paralyzed. We can expect week after week of fruitless ballots while no other business can be conducted. The Democrats will revel in Republican dysfunction, and the public will rightly be repulsed. It will end when the Democrats are able to enlist a rump caucus of Republicans to join a coalition to end the impasse.

This House will shift dramatically to the left and will effectively end the Republican House majority that the voters elected in 2022. This, in turn, will neutralize the only counterweight in our elected government to the woke left's control of the Senate and the White House at a time when their policies are destroying our economy and have opened our borders to invasion.

There are turning points in history whose significance is only realized by the events that they unleash. This is one of those times. We are at the precipice. There are only minutes left to come to our senses and realize the grave danger our country is in at this moment. Dear God, grant us the wisdom to see it and to save our country from it.

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, there is nothing sober, wise, or cautious about the path we are on. We are on a path to financial ruin if this House does not take a different posture, a different procedure, and yield toward different outcomes and a better future. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GIMENEZ), my very good friend.

Mr. GIMENEZ. Mr. Speaker, I stand before my colleagues and the Nation as a proud Representative of the great State of Florida. I truly am beyond blessed to represent the paradise that is Miami-Dade County and the Florida Keys. I am beyond proud to represent my community before this Congress, to stand with a leader who has consistently demonstrated an unwavering commitment to our country and to the principles that define us as Americans, KEVIN MCCARTHY.

Today is historic for a lot of reasons. For one thing, this is the first time in over 100 years that this has been attempted, but it is also because we are part of a Congress with historically tight majorities for the Republicans in the House and the Democrats in the Senate, and we have a Democratic White House. Divided government is what we have.

The need to negotiate to find solutions to the issues facing this country, that is a reflection of the principles that are uniquely American, principles that make this country exceptional. They are principles that allowed me, an exile who came here from Cuba, fleeing Communist Cuba, to serve in this very institution.

I wasn't born here, but everything that I am, everything that I ever will be, is thanks to America. The best part about it is that my story, the story of the community I am so proud to represent, and the story of many in this body is that we are not the exception in America. We are the rule. That is the America that KEVIN MCCARTHY has fought for his entire career. KEVIN MCCARTHY is a champion for the American Dream, and he has proved it as our Speaker.

Thomas Jefferson once said: I predict future happiness for Americans if they can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people under the guise of taking care of them.

Let's keep KEVIN MCCARTHY as our Speaker. He is a great man, a great leader, and a great Speaker.

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to my remaining time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida has 9¼ minutes remaining.

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. HINSON), my very good friend.

Mrs. HINSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of our Speaker, KEVIN MCCARTHY.

Let's be very clear here. We would not have a House Republican majority

without the relentless efforts of this man, our Speaker.

Under his leadership, Joe Biden's policies have had a check and balance. His policies have created a horrific border crisis—10,000 illegal immigrants a day surging across our border. Under Speaker MCCARTHY, Republicans have passed legislation to secure our border.

Joe Biden has done everything to squash American energy, selling our oil reserves to China. Under Speaker MCCARTHY, Republicans have passed legislation to unleash American energy dominance.

Joe Biden has spent taxpayer dollars like there is no tomorrow. Under Speaker MCCARTHY, we have returned to passing single-subject appropriations bills and ending the status quo of omnibus spending.

One of the most valuable pieces of advice that I received was from KEVIN MCCARTHY when I got here to D.C. He told me to separate the signal from the noise. The noise is those who are causing chaos for their own personal benefit while ignoring the needs of their constituents and this country, grinding our work here to a halt. The signal is the many accomplishments that we have delivered for the American people with Speaker MCCARTHY at the helm. The signal is the failures coming out of the White House time and time again. The signal is the work that we must do today and going forward to save our country for my kids and yours.

My colleagues here today have a choice: Be a chaos agent or get back to work. I call on my colleagues: Let's separate the signal from the noise. Let's support our Speaker, KEVIN MCCARTHY, so we can get back to work for the American people.

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I think I have caught the signal, too. The signal is for \$33 trillion in debt, facing \$2.2 trillion annual deficits. Our fellow Americans may be watching and wondering, how does that happen? How does the greatest country in the world have a process so broken that it would be laughed out of the rooms in the halls of the State legislatures where many of us come from?

□ 1530

Here is how it works. The law says we are supposed to have the very single-subject spending bills that my colleague referenced in the summer; that we are supposed to have that and move it. But there is a dirty little secret in this town, and that is, if you delay, if you hold the bills, if you make multiple contradictory promises—as Speaker MCCARTHY has done—and you back everybody up against shutdown politics, well, nobody wants to shut the government down. No one cheers for a shutdown and, of course, when people are backed up against shutdown politics, the decision calculus changes.

So year after year, decade after decade, we break the law, and we do the same thing. We pass a continuing reso-

lution, then we pass another continuing resolution, and then it is either another continuing resolution or an omnibus bill or a series of minibuses that lump these disparate things together.

The American people want all of us to take votes on single-subject matters. They don't want to see these things all mushed together and logrolled. It was concerning to me to hear of a secret deal on Ukraine funding that would have logrolled more money with Ukraine with our southern border.

Now, how offensive is that to our Customs and Border Patrol, to our ICE, to the people that are suffering as a consequence of our border that some of my colleagues are only willing to stand up and fight for our border if they can send billions to Ukraine to fund their border, too?

Well, I have had enough of that, and that is why I brought this motion to vacate.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE), our distinguished majority leader and my good friend.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Oklahoma for yielding.

When we go back to January, as many people have, we knew that it was going to be a narrow majority. We also knew that it wasn't going to be easy. How many of us came here because we thought this job was going to be easy? How many of us thought the task ahead of us to address the problems of this country was going to be easy?

One thing we did know is that if we were going to finally start confronting problems that had been ignored for years and years and years, we had to change the way this place worked, and one thing Speaker MCCARTHY embraced from day one is to start making those kinds of changes to this institution, opening up the process, allowing Members to be more engaged, having amendments come to the floor, single-subject bills, doing appropriations bills.

Yes, making that happen overnight is not something that happens automatically, but it started to happen, and we are now seeing the fruits of it. Just last week, we had four different appropriations bills on this House floor, four different ones. Now, those bills took weeks and weeks to finally get to the floor, going through an open committee process, hundreds of amendments, each one of them where Republicans and Democrats could bring their ideas.

We debated those bills on the floor, some until after midnight where Members could actually participate in the process. This has been a broken process for a long time, but it is a process where we, if we are going to confront the problems that families are facing, we need to resolve our differences inside this House Chamber before we can then go and fight for those families who are struggling. Every single day

across America families are struggling with real problems that we are going to have to get back to solving.

Those problems are real for them. It is inflation. It is the economy. It is high energy costs. It is an open southern border that doesn't just affect the border States. It is affecting every State—Republican districts, Democrat districts. Everybody knows it, and it can be ignored by the White House, but this House is the only body that started to take action with H.R. 2 and then with the border bill last week. Plus, with the action we took last week, over 70 percent of government funding passed out of the House, however everybody voted, Republican or Democrat.

This House passed funding for over 70 percent of the Federal Government's operation, and it is sitting over in the Senate where they passed zero, and we are going to beat each other up and talk about our internal processes and we need to get our internal processes working better, but so does that other body over there and so does the White House.

Everybody in this town needs to be engaged in addressing these problems, but if we don't start here and if we don't focus these next 45 days—because that is what we have got in front of us, we have got two bills this week, we have got two more appropriations bills next week, and if we are going to be confronting those, we have got to stay focused on our mission.

What the other side does, let's continue to put pressure on them, but we also need to put pressure on ourselves to do our job. Speaker MCCARTHY has been leading at the top of the level to make sure that we have the tools to do our jobs in a different way than the House has done it before.

This House is going to have to continue to make those changes, but the American people sent us here to confront those problems. We are finally starting to. This isn't the time to slow that process down. We need to keep doing our work. We need to keep fighting for those families who are struggling, but so does the Senate and so does the White House, as well.

Let's keep doing this work that we were sent here to do.

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, I agree with everything that the majority leader said in those remarks, except one thing. It is astonishing to hear any colleague give Speaker MCCARTHY credit for moving on to the single-subject appropriations bills.

As you heard my colleague Mr. BIGGS say, that was never the plan from Speaker MCCARTHY. The week before we moved on to those single-subject appropriations bills, the plan was another CR. He pitched a CR. They tried to get us to vote for a CR, and a brave few said we are done governing by continuing resolution. We are here to eulogize the era of the continuing resolution. We will not do it. We will not pass it.

These bills can go. The spending may rise and fall as the years pass, but the notion that we are going to lump in the Department of Education and the Department of Labor with our military and our troops and our Border Patrol is fundamentally unserious, and I would suggest chaotic.

We cannot do that. It was only because we forced that to happen. By the way, if we continue with Speaker MCCARTHY, the appropriations process will go right back to what he wanted it to go back to—just a sideshow, just a puppet show, just something to keep the hamsters on the hamster wheel as they continue to back people up against a calendar, centralize power with the lobbyists and special interests that move all kinds of money through the leadership. That is how they get their way, and that is why the American people have been getting screwed decade after decade. I am not going to tolerate it anymore without a fight.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. MIKE GARCIA), my very good friend and fellow member of the Appropriations Committee.

Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, I want to recalibrate our minds on what is actually happening here today.

This proceeding looks important. It feels consequential, but let's look at what else is happening across America.

Today, about 300 Americans will die from fentanyl poisoning. Today, about 11,000 people will illegally penetrate our borders. Today's debt is approaching \$34 trillion. Today's mortgage rates just hit a 25-year high now approaching 8 percent. Our energy prices are again at backbreaking highs with gas approaching \$8 a gallon in my district. Today, China and the CCP grow stronger with an intent to go to war by 2027, and our military is experiencing record-low retention and record-low recruitment.

This is the reality of today for 335 million Americans under President Joe Biden. It is a dark and scary reality. This Republican majority here today in the House is the only firewall against the damaging far-left policies of the Biden administration.

The single-subject appropriations bills that we were supposed to be voting on this week will literally fight to reverse the darkness of these realities and fight inflation, cut spending, secure our border, while enhancing our Nation's security and investing in our soldiers at a meaningful level.

Today, this body filled with people in fancy suits led by a few Republicans who are running with scissors and supported by Democrats who have personal issues with the Speaker, have uncertain intentions and even more uncertain goals, and they have decided to make today about drama. Today is not about solving problems and helping our constituents but about drama.

We need to be the no-drama option for America—this party, this majority. I fear that this self-inflicted drama of today jeopardizes our majority and by definition removes the last layer of defense protecting America from this Biden administration.

Let's dispense with the drama, do our jobs, and move on with defending this beautiful country.

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, I am here to solve problems, too, but we have decade after decade of history showing us that you don't solve any problems with continuing resolutions and omnibus bills. That creates more problems, more debt, more inflation, more pain for American families.

So the way to solve problems is to break the fever dream of governing by continuing resolution and omnibus bills and instead return to the very single-subject spending bills that we will only get if my resolution passes to vacate Speaker MCCARTHY.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY).

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, every step of the way, Speaker MCCARTHY has been doubted.

After the first Speaker vote, he was mocked, right? After 15, they called him Speaker, and even then it was the media and the left that mocked him.

With the narrowest Republican majority in a generation, what did we achieve? We brought the President to the table when he stubbornly said for 100 days he would not negotiate on the debt ceiling. I took him at his word.

The Speaker said, no, we will get him to the table, and sure enough, we did. The result: The most conservative spending package we have seen in generations, the largest spending cuts year over year that any Congress has passed. Conservative outcomes.

I understand your position on the left. I understand that.

But my friends on the right, why?

Then this past weekend, I understand the frustration on the left at what happened on the continuing resolution, but why would we have conservatives object to that? Why would we have House Members object to that?

We rolled the Senate. We never roll the Senate as a House. Moreover, we never roll the Senate to get less spending, and we got it this weekend, so I understand why the left is mad. What I don't understand is why some Republicans think that that is a bad thing.

The frustration for me today—I understand where the liberals are. I know you support the constitutional order except in a moment like this when you are questioned on that. I understand that. You can't be counted on in a moment like this with the state of the speakership.

For Republicans, why would we give up a conservative working majority for better outcomes and hand the keys over to the Democrats? Why would we do that?

With this record of success that we have seen KEVIN MCCARTHY and the Republican majority produce in a Washington run by Democrats, we are going to throw that away, resulting in more liberal outcomes, not more conservative ones. I understand why the left is where you are today. You don't like an effective conservative majority.

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, it is lovely to hear from the principal architect of Mr. MCCARTHY's debt limit deal, but here is the reality: The only Republicans in America who believe that the debt limit deal was conservative are in this Chamber right now because all over America, Republicans think that when you negotiated that debt limit deal, they took your lunch money.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Oklahoma (Mrs. BICE).

Mrs. BICE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Speaker KEVIN MCCARTHY.

Under his leadership and a very small, five-seat majority, House Republicans have achieved, contrary to popular belief, numerous victories. We passed the Parents Bill of Rights; the Lower Energy Costs Act to lower the cost of gasoline and restore American energy independence; the Fiscal Responsibility Act, which was one of the largest enacted cuts with enforceable spending caps in American history; and H.R. 2, the most conservative southern border security bill in history—all of this while fully funding our military and our Nation's veterans.

Let me be abundantly clear: Attempting to remove Speaker MCCARTHY will put this House in a stalemate and paralyze our ability to fight for our constituents and instead create a fight amongst one another.

We have 43 days to restore fiscal responsibility and advance conservative appropriations priorities, which is exactly what my colleagues have asked for. Instead, we are threatening any House proceedings.

□ 1545

This is an unnecessary distraction. Working together under the leadership of Speaker MCCARTHY is of the utmost importance.

Mr. Speaker, I stand and strongly support KEVIN MCCARTHY for Speaker of the House, and I encourage my Republican colleagues to do the same.

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. STEFANIK), my very good friend, and our distinguished Conference leader.

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, anyone and everyone who knows KEVIN MCCARTHY, whether they are a friend or foe, knows that KEVIN MCCARTHY is a happy warrior. He is tireless. He has that uniquely American grit.

Under KEVIN's speakership, that lasted 15 rounds of him never giving up,

this Republican majority have exceeded all expectations:

We reopened the people's House.

We passed the strongest border security bill in our Nation's history.

We passed an energy plan to unleash American energy dominance.

We passed Defense bills to support our troops.

Under KEVIN's leadership, he has brought hundreds and hundreds of bipartisan Members of Congress to Israel, our greatest ally.

He elected the most diverse class of Republicans ever, with the largest number of Republican women ever in American history.

This boy from Bakersfield, he cares deeply about his constituents, his country, and the American people, and that includes each and every one of his colleagues.

He has been to our districts, toasted at our weddings, celebrated the birth of our children, mourned the loss of our loved ones, and has cheered us when we haven't believed in ourselves, which is why the Republicans strongly support Speaker MCCARTHY and are proud he is our Speaker.

Now more than ever, the Republicans must unify. The stakes are too high. We need to save our country, which is why this Conference is proud to strongly support KEVIN MCCARTHY as Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I will just say that if this House of Representatives has exceeded all expectations, then we definitely need higher expectations.

While it is heartwarming and kind that the Speaker calls people on their birthday and visits their district and congratulates them on their children, please know this isn't a critique of the individual. It is a critique of the job. The job hasn't been done. We have had multiple contradictory promises.

It is quite something, for those of you keeping track at home, the last three speakers you have heard opposing my resolution all voted for the debt deal. So if you believe that the debt limit deal that Speaker MCCARTHY brought into law was a good thing, maybe you agree with their perspective.

I think the debt limit deal was a terrible deal, and it really was the original sin of the McCarthy speakership, and it is one of the reasons I seek to vacate the Chair now.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES), my very good friend.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Oklahoma for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, we have been here for 8 months with one of the tightest majorities in modern history. Yet, look at the accomplishments of this majority, this conservative majority, with the majority of Republicans voting for:

The strongest border security in my lifetime.

Fighting against this incomprehensible energy policy that is driving up energy costs 40 percent, utility and gasoline payments, pushing Americans into energy poverty.

We passed legislation to unleash America's energy resources, pushing back this administration's brainless policies on energy.

We passed legislation to pull back, to stop spending, \$4.8 trillion, that—I want to make note—my friends that are carrying this motion to vacate opposed.

We passed legislation to streamline regulations permitting environmental laws for the first time in 40 years. Again, my friends here opposed.

We strengthened work requirements for welfare to get people back into the workforce. Again, my friends over here opposed.

I keep wondering, what is going on? Are we redefining what conservative is? What is going on in this country today? What is going on in this body?

We have FreedomWorks, Heritage, CHIP ROY and JIM JORDAN say something is conservative and these folks say it is not, and they are right.

All of a sudden, my phone keeps sending text messages, saying: Hey, give me money.

Look at that. Oh, look: Give me money. I filed a motion to vacate.

Using official actions, official actions to raise money; it is disgusting. It is what is disgusting about Washington.

Mr. Speaker, we have watched as these folks right here that have brought up this motion to vacate have refused to pay our military servicemembers, refused to pay them.

I would quote my delegation member, my Senator from Louisiana, JOHN KENNEDY. If we are not going to pay our servicemembers, if they are not going to be there to protect us, the next time someone invades America, "call a crackhead." Let me know how that works out.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Louisiana.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I have heard people talk about bad faith here. I have heard them make reference to this January agreement—my friends from Arizona, Virginia, and Florida.

Let me be crystal clear: Not a single one of them was in the room.

You know what? The Speaker didn't meet the targets of that January agreement, he exceeded them. The greatest savings in American history. The greatest savings in American history.

Mr. Speaker, this isn't about fundraising. This is about our country. It is about our children and our grandchildren.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has again expired.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Louisiana.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, we need to stand behind this majority. We need to stand behind the greatest Speaker in modern history that has delivered the best conservative wins for this country.

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, my colleague says we have passed the strongest border bills in history. Well, guess what? Look at the border right now.

We didn't use sufficient leverage in the debt limit or in any other thing to actually get results on the border.

The border is a disaster; really something I don't think you are going to be campaigning on that you fixed the border.

Second, the gentleman said he streamlined regulations. What the gentleman from Louisiana doesn't tell you is that all of the regulatory reform he was just bragging about is waivable by the stroke of a pen of someone in the Biden White House.

Do you really think you have anything for that? It is a total joke.

Finally, the Welfare-to-Work that the gentleman from Louisiana said we have, the welfare programs that they said they streamlined with their Welfare-to-Work stuff, they are actually going to grow. While they did work requirements, they blew out those programs of expanded eligibility.

I am really glad my colleagues didn't put work requirements on Medicaid. It probably would have resulted in Medicaid expansion.

When it comes to how those raise money, I take no lecture on asking patriotic Americans to weigh in and contribute to this fight from those who would grovel and bend knee for the lobbyists and special interests who own our leadership, who have—oh, boo all you want—who have hollowed out this town and have borrowed against the future of our future generations.

I will be happy to fund my political operation through the work of hard-working Americans, \$10, \$20, and \$30 at a time. My colleagues can keep showing up at the lobbyists' fundraisers and see how that goes for you.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Once again, the Chair would admonish those speaking from the floor to direct their comments to the Chair.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to the time remaining for each side.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Oklahoma has 3 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Florida has 3 minutes remaining.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. ARMSTRONG), my great friend.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Mr. Speaker, let's be clear why we are here: Because the incentive structure in this town is completely broken.

We no longer value loyalty, integrity, confidence, or collaboration. In-

stead, we have descended to a place where clicks, TV hits, and the never-ending quest for the most mediocre taste of celebrity drives decisions and encourages juvenile behavior that is so far beneath this esteemed body.

KEVIN MCCARTHY has done more in 9 months to restore the people's House than any Speaker in decades. We have done regular order. We have had open amendments. Every single Member of this Chamber has the right, the ability, and the opportunity to be heard on the floor.

It has been messy. It has been raucous, and at times, it has been chaotic. God bless every minute of it, because democracy is supposed to be hard. The alternative is a closed-door process where 2,000-page bills come out of the Speaker's office at midnight and are forced to the floor the next morning.

KEVIN MCCARTHY has broken that cycle. That alone is enough for him to remain our Speaker, but that doesn't deliver his opponents what they crave the most: attention.

We shouldn't stand for it. I won't stand for it. I will stand here with our Speaker, with our leader, that the overwhelming majority of our Conference supports. You need to look no further than where the opponents are sitting today in this Chamber.

They are not over here. They are over there.

Mr. Speaker, we are going to face these challenges together. I say bring whatever comes next because we believe in the job our Speaker has done. We believe in his vision, and, most importantly, we are proud to call KEVIN MCCARTHY our friend and our Speaker of the House.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, to be clear, I tried to get one of the three podiums on the Republican side, and my colleagues wouldn't let me have them, so they sent me over here.

Mr. Speaker, you know what, I will make this argument at any desk in this building, from the well, from the Chair. I will make it on every street corner in this country that Washington must change.

We have to break the cycle. We have to break the fever. I would hope, truly, that the reforms that we are fighting for are reforms that would last and be embraced and that would democratize power in this institution beyond the privileged few who back us up against shutdown politics and Christmases and deadlines in order to achieve their objectives.

Mr. Speaker, high inflation is on the verge of bankrupting American families. Our economy is breaking in half. A typical American family can't afford to buy a House in 99 percent of U.S. counties. Inflation is stealing more than \$700 a month from working Americans; nearly \$9,000 a year.

KEVIN MCCARTHY is the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and he

has failed to take a stand where it matters; so if he won't, I will. I make no apologies for defending the right of every hardworking American to afford a decent life for themselves and their families, and we have a greater opportunity to do that and to build coalitions under new leadership.

We have to rip off the Band-Aid. We have to get back on a better course.

Mr. Speaker, I don't know how this vote is going to go. Usually when a vote comes to this floor, it is pretty pre-determined. This one, I am not so sure.

I am sure that we have made the right argument: that this place deserves single-subject spending bills; that we should have 72 hours to read a bill; that something that spends more than \$100 million shouldn't be put on the suspension agenda such that we can't amend it; and there shouldn't be secret side deals made on a continuing resolution to lump Ukraine in with border security.

That is not right for Ukraine or border security because it fails to give either of those issues the dignity that they would require.

We can return that dignity to this House. We can get back on a better path. We can have single-subject appropriation bills. We can set a budget, a budget top line. We haven't had a budget in this place since I was in high school.

Let's get a budget. Let's get our act together. Let's get on with it. Let's vacate the Chair, and let's get a better Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the resolution.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on adoption of the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 3 of rule XX, the Chair directs the Clerk to conduct the vote by a call of the roll.

The Clerk will call the roll alphabetically by surname.

The following is the result of the vote, and there were—yeas 216, nays 210, not voting 7, as follows:

[Roll No. 519]

YEAS—216

Adams	Blumenauer	Carbajal
Aguilar	Blunt Rochester	Cárdenas
Allred	Bonamici	Carson
Auchincloss	Bowman	Carter (LA)
Balint	Boyle (PA)	Cartwright
Barragán	Brown	Casar
Beatty	Brownley	Case
Bera	Buck	Casten
Beyer	Budzinski	Castor (FL)
Biggs	Burchett	Castro (TX)
Bishop (GA)	Caraveo	

Cherfilus- McCormick	Jackson (NC)	Pingree	Ellzey	Kelly (MS)	Pfluger
Chu	Jackson Lee	Pocan	Emmer	Kelly (PA)	Posey
Clark (MA)	Jacobs	Porter	Estes	Kiggans (VA)	Reschenthaler
Clarke (NY)	Jayapal	Pressley	Ezell	Kiley	Rodgers (WA)
Cleaver	Jeffries	Quigley	Fallon	Kim (CA)	Rogers (AL)
Clyburn	Johnson (GA)	Ramirez	Feenstra	Kustoff	Rogers (KY)
Cohen	Kamlager-Dove	Raskin	Ferguson	LaHood	Rose
Connolly	Kaptur	Rosendale	Finstad	LaLota	Rouzer
Correa	Keating	Ross	Fischbach	LaMalfa	Roy
Costa	Kelly (IL)	Ruiz	Fitzgerald	Lamborn	Rutherford
Courtney	Khanna	Ruppersberger	Fitzpatrick	Langworthy	Salazar
Craig	Kildee	Ryan	Fleischmann	Latta	Santos
Crane	Kilmer	Salinas	Flood	LaTurner	Scalise
Crockett	Kim (NJ)	Sánchez	Foxx	Lawler	Schweikert
Crow	Krishnamoorthi	Sarbanes	Franklin, C.	Lee (FL)	Scott, Austin
Cuellar	Kuster	Scanlon	Scott	Lesko	Self
Davids (KS)	Landsman	Schakowsky	Fry	Letlow	Sessions
Davis (IL)	Larsen (WA)	Schiff	Fulcher	Loudermilk	Simpson
Davis (NC)	Larson (CT)	Schneider	Gallagher	Lucas	Smith (MO)
Dean (PA)	Lee (CA)	Scholten	Garbarino	Luetkemeyer	Smith (NE)
DeGette	Lee (NV)	Schrier	Garcia, Mike	Luttrell	Smith (NJ)
DeLauro	Lee (PA)	Scott (VA)	Jimenez	Malliotakis	Smucker
DelBene	Leger Fernandez	Scott, David	Gonzales, Tony	Mann	Spartz
Deluzio	Levin	Sewell	Gosar	Massie	Staubert
DeSaulnier	Lieu	Sherman	Granger	Mast	Steel
Dingell	Lofgren	Sherrill	Graves (LA)	McCarthy	Stefanik
Doggett	Lynch	Slotkin	Graves (MO)	McCaull	Steil
Escobar	Mace	Smith (WA)	Green (TN)	McClain	Steube
Eshoo	Magaziner	Sorensen	Greene (GA)	McClintock	Strong
Espallat	Manning	Soto	Griffith	McCormick	Tenney
Evans	Matsui	Spanberger	Grothman	McHenry	Thompson (PA)
Fletcher	McBath	Stansbury	Guest	Meuser	Tiffany
Foster	McClellan	Stanton	Guthrie	Miller (IL)	Timmons
Foushee	McCollum	Stevens	Hagaman	Miller (OH)	Turner
Frankel, Lois	McGarvey	Strickland	Harris	Miller (WV)	Valadao
Frost	McGovern	Swalwell	Harshbarger	Mills	Van Drew
Gaetz	Meeks	Takano	Hern	Molinaro	Van Dуйne
Galleo	Menendez	Thandekar	Higgins (LA)	Moolenaar	Van Orden
Garamendi	Meng	Thompson (CA)	Hill	Mooney	Wagner
Garcia (IL)	Mfume	Thompson (MS)	Hinson	Moore (AL)	Walberg
Garcia (TX)	Moore (WI)	Titus	Houchin	Moore (UT)	Waltz
Garcia, Robert	Morelle	Tlaib	Hudson	Moran	Weber (TX)
Golden (ME)	Moskowitz	Tokuda	Huizenga	Murphy	Webster (FL)
Goldman (NY)	Moulton	Tonko	Hunt	Nehls	Wenstrup
Gomez	Mrvan	Torres (CA)	Issa	Newhouse	Westerman
Gonzalez,	Mullin	Torres (NY)	Jackson (TX)	Norman	Williams (NY)
Vicente	Nadler	Trahan	James	Nunn (IA)	Williams (TX)
Good (VA)	Napolitano	Trone	Johnson (LA)	Oberholte	Wilson (SC)
Gottheimer	Neal	Underwood	Johnson (OH)	Ogles	Wittman
Green, Al (TX)	Neguse	Vargas	Johnson (SD)	Owens	Womack
Grijalva	Nickel	Vasquez	Jordan	Palmer	Yakym
Harder (CA)	Norcross	Veasey	Joyce (OH)	Pence	Zinke
Hayes	Ocasio-Cortez	Velázquez	Joyce (PA)	Perry	
Higgins (NY)	Omar	Wasserman	Kean (NJ)		
Himes	Pallone	Schultz			
Horsford	Panetta	Waters			
Houlahan	Pappas	Watson Coleman	Bush	Luna	Sykes
Hoyer	Pascrell	Wexton	Carter (TX)	Pelosi	
Hoyle (OR)	Payne	Wild	Gooden (TX)	Peltola	
Huffman	Perez	Williams (GA)			
Ivey	Peters	Wilson (FL)			
Jackson (IL)	Pettersen				
	Phillips				

NAYS—210

Aderholt	Bishop (NC)	Clyde
Alford	Boebert	Cole
Allen	Bost	Collins
Amodei	Brecheen	Comer
Armstrong	Buchanan	Crawford
Arrington	Bucshon	Crenshaw
Babin	Burgess	Curtis
Bacon	Burlison	D'Esposito
Baird	Calvert	Davidson
Balderson	Cammack	De La Cruz
Banks	Carey	DesJarlais
Barr	Carl	Diaz-Balart
Bean (FL)	Carter (GA)	Donalds
Bentz	Chavez-DeRemer	Duarte
Bergman	Ciscomani	Duncan
Bice	Cline	Dunn (FL)
Bilirakis	Cloud	Edwards

“nay” on rollcall No. 517, “nay” on rollcall No. 518, and “yea” on rollcall No. 519.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Office of Speaker of the House of the United States House of Representatives is hereby declared vacant.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 3, 2023.

TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: This is to notify you that the first name on the letter received by the Clerk, pursuant to clause 8(b)(3)(B) of rule I, is the Honorable Patrick T. McHenry of North Carolina.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Acting Clerk.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCHENRY). Pursuant to clause 8(b)(3) of rule I, I will now act as Speaker pro tempore.

The Chair will inform the Members of the House of the following:

The Office of Speaker was rendered vacant pursuant to the adoption of H. Res. 757.

Upon a vacancy in the Office of Speaker, clause 8(b)(3) of rule I provides that the next Member on a list submitted by the Speaker pursuant to the rule acts as Speaker pro tempore until the election of a new Speaker, and bestows the authorities of the Office of Speaker upon the Speaker pro tempore to the extent necessary and appropriate to that end.

In the opinion of the Chair, prior to proceeding to the election of a Speaker, it would be prudent to first recess subject to the call of the Chair in order to allow the parties to meet in Caucus and Conference.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 48 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

NOTICE

Incomplete record of House proceedings.

Today's House proceedings will be continued once the House reconvenes.



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Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.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.

O God, most holy, You are more ready to hear us than we are to pray, for You know our needs before we ask for help. Give us listening ears, responsive hearts, and willing spirits.

Bless our Senators. Fill their lives with meaning, and shower them with Your wisdom. Reveal the issues that matter most so their work will glorify You. Let Your love sustain them through the welter and variety of the legislative process.

And, Lord, empower Your new addition to the U.S. Senate: Ms. BUTLER.

We pray in Your marvelous 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 legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, October 3, 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 Sen-

ator 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.

CERTIFICATE OF APPOINTMENT

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Chair lays before the Senate a certificate of appointment to fill the unexpired—and unexpected—term created by the death of the late Senator Dianne Feinstein of the State of California. The certificate, the Chair is advised, is in the form suggested by the Senate.

If there be no objection, the reading of the certificate will be waived and it will be printed in full in the RECORD.

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

STATE OF CALIFORNIA CERTIFICATE OF APPOINTMENT

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that, pursuant to the power vested in me by the Constitution of the United States and the laws of the State of California, I, Gavin Newsom, the Governor of California, do hereby appoint Laphonza Butler a Senator from California to represent California in the Senate of the United States until the vacancy therein caused by the death of Senator Dianne Feinstein, is filled by election as provided by law.

Witness: His excellency our Governor Gavin Newsom in the City of Sacramento, and our seal hereto affixed in the City of San Diego, this 1st day of October, in the year of our Lord 2023.

GAVIN NEWSOM,
Governor.
SHIRLEY N. WEBER, PH.D.,
Secretary of State.

[State Seal Affixed]

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE

The VICE PRESIDENT. If the Senator-designate will now present herself at the desk, the Chair will administer the oath of office.

The Senator-designate, LAPHONZA BUTLER, escorted by Mr. PADILLA, advanced to the desk of the Vice President; the oath prescribed by law was administered to her by the Vice President; and she subscribed to the oath in the Official Oath Book.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Congratulations, Senator.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

WELCOMING LAPHONZA BUTLER TO THE SENATE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, it says, "Let me be the first to welcome our newest colleague," but I see she has had a lot of good welcomes already. So let me be the first majority leader to welcome our newest colleague to the U.S. Senate, Senator LAPHONZA BUTLER, sworn in moments ago as the next Senator from California.

Mr. President, I can't help but think how proud Senator Feinstein would be seeing someone as brilliant, as accomplished, as history-making as LAPHONZA BUTLER take her place. I know that our old colleague is looking down at this moment with pride now that her seat is in good hands.

Congratulations to Senator BUTLER on this immense honor. This is a historic moment for the Senate, for California, and for the entire country. Senator BUTLER is only the third Black woman in American history to serve in the U.S. Senate. She is the first openly lesbian Senator from California, 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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she is the first openly LGBTQ Senator of color to serve in this body. Today, the Senate takes another step toward fully reflecting our vibrant democracy.

Now, LAPHONZA's life story can be summarized in two words: serving others. By her own telling, service was practically a dinner table conversation growing up in Magnolia, MS. After losing her father to illness, LAPHONZA watched her mom sacrifice everything to put her kids first: working night shifts as a nurse, as a security guard, a classroom aide, anything to help her kids have a better life.

No surprise, that example left a mark on LAPHONZA for the rest of her days. Following in her mom's footsteps, LAPHONZA has dedicated her entire career to fighting for others: fighting for women, fighting for working families, and fighting for the cause of justice. I know she will do the same here in the Senate.

So, again, this is a proud moment for all of us. And I know this must be a proud moment for LAPHONZA's family.

I know you are not supposed to address members of the Senate Gallery, Mr. President, but let me say this to everyone who had attended here and who are still here: We are all very happy LAPHONZA's family could join us to share in this special day. We share in their joy too.

Finally, to our colleague LAPHONZA, I know these last few days have felt like a whirlwind. I know it seems like there is a million things to do and so little time to do them. But rest assured, we are here to help you.

I spent a great half hour, 45 minutes talking to LAPHONZA, and she is going to be one great Senator. We are ready to work with her. All of us who have stood where LAPHONZA stands now have felt the awesome weight of holding this office and are ready to help her. I urge you, if you permit me, to never let the sense of duty disappear, for in our hands rests the trust, the wishes, the hopes, and the burdens of the American people.

So to Senator BUTLER, congratulations on this honor and welcome to the Senate today. Today is a day of celebration.

As we celebrate, we also remember to give thanks to our late colleague and friend Senator Feinstein.

For the information of Senators, the floor of the Senate will close so Members can attend the memorial service of Senator Feinstein in San Francisco this Thursday. And on that day, it will be my honor to speak at Senator Feinstein's memorial to give thanks for all she did for this country and to honor the legacy she leaves behind.

I hope all my colleagues who worked with her all these years are able to attend so we can say a final goodbye to one of the greatest public servants to serve in this Chamber.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 5692

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk that is due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator is correct.

The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The legislative clerk read the following:

A bill (H.R. 5692) making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes

Mr. SCHUMER. In order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I would object to further proceeding.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

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

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

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. 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.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

WELCOMING LAPHONZA BUTLER TO THE SENATE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I would like to begin today by welcoming our newest colleague, Senator LAPHONZA BUTLER of California.

As the Senate continues to mourn our late friend and colleague Dianne Feinstein, I know the people of California are grateful for Senator BUTLER's willingness to serve. And I know our colleagues join me in welcoming her.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, now on another matter, last week, the Senate voted to prevent a domestic budget dispute from shutting down the Federal Government. Now, with straightforward, short-term funding in place, it is time for Congress to redouble our efforts on a number of unfinished priorities.

In the coming weeks, the Senate needs to continue making progress on full-year appropriations. And we will begin by funding important resources for military construction, veterans services, agriculture, housing, and transportation infrastructure.

But our work does not stop there. The Senate also needs to address urgent supplemental funding needs and

continue our work to bring the Biden administration's reckless spending and radical regulations to heel.

Many of our colleagues are particularly keen to deliver additional relief to communities rebuilding after devastating national disasters—from hurricanes on the gulf coast to wildfires in Hawaii, to flooding in Kentucky.

Bipartisan majorities in both Chambers continue to recognize that providing additional lethal assistance to Ukraine's defense against Russian aggression is in the United States' direct interest.

Across the country, as historic inflation continues to wreck household budgets, millions of working families are ready to turn the page on Bidenomics.

After three record-setting years of functionally open borders, folks in every State are eager for Congress to force the Biden administration to start cleaning up the southern border crisis. The fiscal year that just ended saw apprehensions at the southern border exceed 2 million for only the second time in history. The first time was just last year. Some reports expect that the last month's total could clock in as the highest on record. On President Biden's watch, illegal border crossings and asylum claims have stretched Border Patrol and ICE personnel to their breaking point.

Authorities are seizing hundreds of millions of lethal doses of fentanyl, although they also estimate that they are apprehending just a fraction—roughly a quarter—of all the fentanyl that is smuggled at the border.

Frankly, this is less about providing border personnel with new resources than it is about giving them the authority and direction to actually enforce the law. It is certainly not about bailing out blue State sanctuary cities while the tsunami of illegal immigration continues unabated. It is about the administration finally taking commonsense steps to end their wrong-headed policies that have encouraged illegal immigrants to cross our borders in the first place.

Every State is now a border State. Major cities like New York and Chicago are being overwhelmed by arrivals from the southern border. Finally, even blue State mayors and Governors are joining the chorus calling out the administration for its utter failure on border security.

Of course, across the country, liberal local governments and innocent residents are also facing the consequences of years of soft-on-crime policies, and once again our Nation's Capital leads the headlines.

Just last night, for example, Congressman HENRY CUELLAR was the victim of a violent carjacking a few blocks from the Capitol Building. Armed assailants threatened him at gunpoint and stole his car. Thankfully, our House colleague was not injured, and his car has been recovered.

It is not even the first time this year that a Member of Congress has been assaulted while in town for work. But this is what private American citizens are facing every single day, like the 22,000 people who had their car stolen in Chicago this year or the 20,000 victims of felony assault in New York City. This sort of brazen violence against anyone should be a wake-up call for local officials.

Last year, a 54-year-old man was murdered at a gas station in Washington by a group of teenagers attempting to steal his car. The city is now averaging two carjackings every day, and these crimes are increasingly being committed by young people.

At a certain point, the American people who visit our Nation's Capital by the millions every year might expect the city's liberal government to finally start getting serious about securing the streets, but even as senseless violence increases, local leaders are bent—bent—on undermining public safety.

One member of the DC Council—the same soft-on-crime panel that tried to weaken sentencing for repeat offenders earlier this year—proposed recently that local courts be required to provide a written explanation before releasing violent criminals before trial. The courts' response? Such a requirement was “not feasible” because it would “significantly increase” their workload. All this in a city where prosecutors declined to even prosecute two-thirds of the arrests last year.

American families deserve to feel safe in their homes and in their neighborhoods and certainly in the Nation's Capital. It shouldn't take another assault or carjacking or homicide to convince leftwing local leaders to start actually doing their jobs.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic whip.

CRIME

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, it is my honor to represent the State of Illinois and the city of Chicago. I cannot tell you how many times Members of the Senate and the House in the other party have gone to the microphones to condemn the city of Chicago and its crime rate.

Let me tell you point-blank, there is too much crime in the city of Chicago, but it is not the only city in America that suffers from that problem. Cities large and small have problems every single day with violent gun crime. My hometown of East St. Louis is a tiny little town of 20,000, 25,000 in comparison to the large metropolis of Chicago. Yet the rate of gun violence there is even higher in East St. Louis than it is in Chicago.

We have to do everything we can to deal with it. Let me tell you what “everything we can” means. It means we have to look at the flood of guns coming into these cities from out of State, primarily, without background checks, that are getting into the hands of

criminals, who are turning around and killing innocent people. To ignore this flood of guns in the United States of America and condemn crime is to basically take a position that you are not going to look at reality. And that is what we are faced with.

We have to have a sensible policy when it comes to background checks, universal background checks, to make sure guns are not ending up in the hands of people who will misuse them. When they confiscate thousands of guns every year, which they do in Chicago, they find that they come from the surrounding States, which have lax laws, if any, when it comes to checking the background of purchasers. That is a critical element. If you raise that issue on the floor of the U.S. Senate, you will have the whole side of the aisle—the other side—coming here and waving their arms about Second Amendment rights.

I want to tell you, we need common sense when it comes to guns and gun safety. I want that to be part of the conversation on making our cities safer.

The second thing I want to really raise is personal to the Senate. If you want to stop crime in the streets of Chicago or any city—Cleveland or Chicago, for example—one of the first things you need is a competent, aggressive criminal prosecutor, a person known as a U.S. attorney who works as part of the 85 U.S. attorneys across the United States enforcing the strong Federal laws we have enacted.

So why don't we have a U.S. attorney in the city of Chicago? Why don't we have a U.S. attorney in the city of Cleveland? Because of the objections of one Republican Senator who has come to the floor over and over again to stop these appointments from taking place. The nominees have been cleared. They have gone through background checks. Both sides, Democrats and Republicans, have approved them. They are sitting on the calendar, and they cannot move because one Senator from the State of Ohio, a Republican Senator, refuses to lift his hold and give us a chance to vote on them.

So you can give all the speeches you want on the floor of the U.S. Senate from every Member on the other side about how we have to end crime in the city of Chicago, but do me a favor. Speak to this one Senator and convince him that a competent, aggressive criminal prosecutor as U.S. attorney in the city of Chicago is one step toward that goal. To ignore that and to let him hold up this nominee is just unfathomable and inexcusable.

UKRAINE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, another point I would like to make is that over the weekend, we managed to avoid a government shutdown with a 45-day extension, a bipartisan continuing resolution. Keeping the lights on is a win for the American people. It used to be con-

sidered just normal procedure around here. Now it is a reason for celebration and victory because we have such a discordant and dissident group heading up Congress on both sides of the Rotunda.

I am disappointed that, unfortunately, the continuing resolution did not include critical funding for the war in Ukraine. It is impossible to explain to my constituency why, when the Ukrainians are in the midst of fighting and dying every single day for their nation against the war criminal Vladimir Putin, this Congress somehow or another managed to pass a spending bill for 45 days and not include more funding for the Ukrainian cause. This assistance is absolutely essential to make sure we stop the aggression of Russia against this tiny country.

A small group of isolationists and Russian sympathizers—largely MAGA extremists in the House—threatened to hold the entire country, the United States, hostage over this funding despite the overwhelming bipartisan support for Ukraine. Ronald Reagan and John McCain must be turning over in their graves.

I am glad that after the vote on Saturday, Senators SCHUMER, MCCONNELL, MURRAY, COLLINS, COONS, and GRAHAM released a joint, bipartisan statement reaffirming the Senate's commitment to supporting Ukraine and addressing the funding in the weeks ahead. I couldn't agree more.

Let's keep this in perspective. The American people have been generous to Ukraine, but this critical assistance that has halted and reversed Russian aggression accounts for only about one-half of 1 percent of all the Federal spending in our country. So for a modest investment by U.S. standards, we are keeping hope and freedom alive in Ukraine while they are offering their lives. Our European allies have stepped up and provided even more assistance than the United States, and I am glad they have. It is a joint effort.

Quite simply, Putin is willing to keep sending Russian conscripts to their death in the hopes that we in the democratic transatlantic alliance will get tired of his war of tyranny. I hope we never do.

Putin is counting on the West, NATO, the United States to grow weary of his Ukrainian war of attrition. We cannot let him prevail by this approach. We have to be organized and unified in our effort.

GENERAL MARK MILLEY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, on a separate issue, I would like to address the announced retirement of U.S. GEN Mark Milley.

On January 17, 1961, 3 days before he was to leave office, President Dwight Eisenhower addressed the American people. His political farewell to the Nation surprised a lot of people. They expected him to give the “old soldier's speech,” like Douglas McArthur. Instead, Eisenhower surprised many by

issuing a strong warning about the dangers of the “military-industrial complex.” He described that complex as a “conjunction of an immense military establishment and a large arms industry” and “[w]e must not fail to comprehend its grave implications” of that alliance.

His words were a warning to his successors of one of the many dangers they could face in the coming years. The words are often quoted because they were so surprising.

I thought of President Eisenhower’s warning just last Friday when I heard the parting words of another military leader who served our Nation with wisdom, courage, and unwavering devotion—GEN Mark Milley, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. In his farewell address, General Milley spoke of those in uniform who have died defending our freedoms, of the many who have shed blood and sacrificed limbs in that cause, and of brokenhearted Gold Star families who have lost loved ones.

Then he said that the U.S. military exists for one purpose, in his words: “to defend democracy.” “Our military,” he said, “is unique among the world’s militaries.” Why? Because, in General Milley’s powerful words, “We don’t take an oath to a country. We don’t take an oath to a tribe . . . to a religion . . . to a king, or queen, or a tyrant or a dictator. And we don’t take an oath to a wannabe dictator.” We take an oath, he said, to the Constitution, to the ideas, ideals, and values of democracy. That, he said, is our “moral North Star.”

Obviously, General Milley has a sense of history. He realizes that despite the strength of our military, the real strength of America is written in the Constitution, which we have all sworn to uphold. He rose to the occasion time and again, particularly under former President Donald Trump.

I had private conversations with him over the years. The question I had to ask him was very carefully scripted. I said to him: If you were given a choice between Commander in Chief or the Constitution, which one prevails? He said: That is simple—the Constitution. That was the North Star he lived by as general of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

He served our Nation in uniform for 43 years. He was a combat infantryman and Green Beret. General Milley served 5 years in combat zones, including Iraq and Afghanistan. He knows the meaning of service and sacrifice, and he knows the value of offering your life for this country and its Constitution.

He was appointed Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff by former President Trump and continued in the post under President Biden. His four years as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff were some of the most tumultuous in recent history. They included many successes. They included helping Ukraine to defend against Russia’s illegal invasion and helping to unite NATO. The NATO alliance has never been stronger. And we can thank Presi-

dent Biden, but also General Milley and all those in uniform who made that possible on our side of the Atlantic.

We need to make sure that that security alliance is stronger in the years to come to stop war criminals like Vladimir Putin. There were also grave dangers, including an armed insurrection against the government of the United States right here in this Chamber, under General Milley’s watch.

I know he measured carefully exactly what response we could bring to the occasion; that insurrection mob was a total surprise to so many. But his greatest test may have been containing the impulses of a former President who didn’t understand the role of the military—and I have to offer, I don’t think he basically understands the Constitution—a President who reportedly wanted to use troops, American soldiers, to suppress legitimate demonstrations by the public, exercises of their right to speech, and who prized loyalty to himself over loyalty to our Constitution. That was the force General Milley was up against.

In recent days, that former President has told his followers that in times past, General Milley’s actions would have resulted in execution. Can you imagine he said that, former President Trump said that of General Milley? Once again, a thinly veiled exhortation to political violence from the former President.

As members of this Senate, we take an oath to protect and defend not a party or a President, but the ideals and values of our Constitution. May we all honor that oath with the same dignity, courage, and strength of character as General Milley. And my parting word is gratitude to his family, to his wife Hollyanne, his son Peter, and daughter Mary. I thank the family. How many sleepless nights must have been a part of that household, wondering if the father and the husband would come home safely. Well, he did, and thank God he did, because he brought America home with him. He deserves some time off. He said he is going to try to get some rest. But I am sure he is going to be in demand. A man of his character and reputation deserves it.

I yield the floor.

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, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of James C. O’Brien, of Ne-

braska, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (European and Eurasian Affairs).

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Arkansas.

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF MOGADISHU

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, today is the 30th anniversary of the Battle of Mogadishu. At this very moment 30 years ago, nearly 100 Rangers and Delta Force operators were pinned down in the city, caring for the wounded and fighting off thousands of heavily armed Somali militiamen. Helicopter crews from the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment—the Night Stalkers—provided aerial fire support.

One of the most intense battles of modern times had been going for 7 hours. It would continue through the night for another 8 hours. In the end, 18 Americans died and more than 70 were wounded.

This epic battle was immortalized in the classic book “Black Hawk Down” by Mark Bowden and dramatized in the movie of the same name. What most Americans know about the battle comes from his excellent reporting. What Bowden made clear is sometimes overlooked: These warriors accomplished their mission.

The veterans of that battle should hold their heads high with pride, and the Gold Star families of those 18 fallen warriors in Mogadishu should know that their husbands, sons, and fathers were, indeed, heroes—no less than the men who jumped into Normandy or stormed Iwo Jima.

Unfortunately, their leaders in Washington failed these heroes. No modern battle better reflects some enduring truths we ought to keep in mind today. We should only commit our forces when our vital national security interests are at stake, when the mission is so critical that it justifies American casualties, if necessary.

Once committed, we should provide our troops with every last thing they need to fight and win, without tying one hand behind their backs. And we should be mindful of what dangerous lessons we teach our enemies when we handcuff our troops or squander their battlefield victories.

Let’s go back to how those Rangers, Delta operators, and Night Stalkers wound up fighting for their lives in the streets of Mogadishu. In 1992, an estimated 350,000 Somalis had starved to death in a famine of biblical proportion. The American media highlighted the atrocious suffering in Somalia, but the famine primarily resulted not from natural disaster but from rival warlords fighting a brutal civil war.

The warlords stole food-aid shipments to profiteer, feed their own clans, and starve their enemies. Hunger was just another weapon. After the election and with the approval of President-elect Clinton, President Bush decided to intervene. He acted against the counsel of many of his senior advisers. CIA Director—and, later, Secretary of Defense—Bob Gates summed

up their opposition by observing that “no vital American interest was at stake.”

Moreover, the humanitarian disaster was caused by the warlords; so intervening to ensure the safe delivery of food aid merely addressed the symptoms, not the causes, of the famine. Gates lamented “the first U.S. military intervention driven by CNN.”

In his diary, President Bush cited the shocking loss of life from the famine and the perception that America didn’t do enough to help Black and Muslim nations as justification for intervention—not exactly core national interests.

What everyone thinks of his decision, though, President Bush wisely used overwhelming force to pursue strictly defined and limited objectives. He deployed more than 25,000 troops to Mogadishu but only to secure the port and distribute food aid to needy Somalis. He refused the United Nations’ proposal to expand the mission to disarming the Somali warlords. Faced with such overwhelming power, the warlords backed down and allowed the aid to flow freely into Mogadishu.

Then-Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Colin Powell later reflected that “within weeks, we were so successful that we had upset the economics of the marketplace. So much free food came pouring into Somalia that it became tough to make a living by farming.”

When Bill Clinton took office in January 1993, he inherited a successful, narrow mission that was drawing down. Unfortunately, he snatched defeat from the jaws of victory.

He flipped President Bush’s approach of overwhelming force with limited and defined objectives on its head. By March, President Clinton turned over the primary responsibility to the UN, reduced the American presence to barely more than 4,000 troops, and expanded the mission to encompass the grandiose objective of nation-building.

Our UN Ambassador Madeleine Albright proclaimed that “we will embark on an unprecedented mission aimed at nothing less than the restoration of an entire country.” Gates later called the plan “a pipe dream” and “hopelessly unrealistic.” Powell scoffed that “since the catastrophe had been provoked by feuding 14th-century style warlords, the solution was a dose of 20th-century style democracy.”

What happened next was all too predictable. The warlords no longer feared the shrunken American force and renewed their fighting against each other and the UN peacekeepers. By June, the militia of the most powerful warlord, Mohamed Farrah Aidid, massacred two dozen Pakistani peacekeepers. Two months later, Aidid’s men killed four Americans and wounded another four in separate bombings. Faced with American casualties, the inexperienced President felt compelled to respond, but he only authorized half measures. He deployed 450 Rangers, Delta Force operators, and Night Stalkers to cap-

ture Aidid and destroy his command structure. Though these soldiers are among our Nation’s very best, the mission creep was extraordinary.

President Clinton simply asked too much of too small a force. Mogadishu was a dense city of more than 1 million residents, including thousands of Aidid’s clansmen and fanatical supporters, some of whom probably received training from al-Qaida operatives on how to shoot down our helicopters.

Yet the elite forces immediately set themselves to the task of rolling up Aidid’s network.

Their mission on October 3 was straightforward enough for these seasoned warriors. Intelligence reports placed key Aidid lieutenants in downtown Mogadishu. Rangers would fast-rope from Black Hawks to the street at the corners of the target house to establish a security perimeter. Delta operators would hit the house and detain the targets.

Meanwhile, a convoy of Rangers would stage nearby, ready to transport our troops and their prisoners back to the nearby American base. Helicopters would provide covering fire throughout the operation. All told, the mission was supposed to last only an hour.

But this operation occurred deep in the territory of Aidid’s clan, and the fighting was intense from the moment the helicopters hit the target house. Aidid’s militiamen and angry mobs rushed to the scene and the streets erupted in gunfire and explosions. The Rangers and Delta operators fought back ferociously, securing the house and beginning to set in the defensive perimeter.

Then disaster struck. First, one Black Hawk was shot down, killing the pilots. A downed helicopter was a contingency for which the task force had planned, but it still greatly complicated the mission. Now, rather than returning to base with the prisoners, the Rangers and Delta operators first had to fight their way to the crash site, secure it, and recover the dead.

And then another disaster struck. Militiamen shot down a second Black Hawk, a contingency for which the task force lacked sufficient search-and-rescue assets. Two Delta snipers, Gary Gordon and Randy Shughart, had been providing covering fire from another helicopter. Observing a mob rushing toward the downed helicopter, they repeatedly requested permission to be inserted to protect the crash site.

Once on the ground and with nothing more than small arms, they heroically fought back the mob until they ran low on ammunition and were overwhelmed. The injured pilot, Mike Durant, narrowly escaped death and was, instead, taken prisoner. For their willingness to give their lives for his in the face of impossible odds, MSG Gary Gordon and SFC Randy Shughart posthumously received the Medal of Honor—the only Medals of Honor awarded between Vietnam and Afghanistan, to give you a sense of the intensity of the battle.

Meanwhile, the Rangers and Delta operators had moved by foot to secure the first crash site and recover the remains of their fallen comrades. One pilot was trapped under tons of wreckage, complicating the recovery mission, but there was never any question that they would stay until they succeeded. Their creed permitting nothing else: Leave no man behind.

In any event, they had no way out because the supporting convoy was decimated in the maze of downtown Mogadishu, a rat’s nest of alleys, flaming roadblocks, and enemy fire. Rendered combat ineffective, the convoy had to return to base, leaving the dismounted Rangers and Delta operators isolated at the crash site.

Bloodied and staggered, they hunkered down and prepared for the long night ahead. With Night Stalkers heroically suppressing the Somalis from the sky, the Rangers and Delta operators defended their position, tended their casualties, and continued the efforts to recover the remains of their fallen comrades. Their commanders cobbled together a new and more heavily armed convoy from the nearby 10th Mountain Division and Pakistani and Malay UN peacekeepers.

This convoy reached their position early in the morning of October 4, as they still struggled to recover the pilot’s body.

Even the endgame was frightful for these warriors. Once they finally recovered the fallen and prepared to escape, nervous and poorly prepared foreign drivers sped away before all the American troops could load up, forcing several to run what became known as the “Mogadishu mile” to a different rendezvous point. Miraculously, given all they had been through, they nonetheless made it out alive.

It is hard to overstate the ferocity of the battle. Jeff Struecker was a young Ranger who received the Silver Star for his actions. Struecker had seen combat before Mogadishu and many times after.

Years later, he said of that night:

Nothing came close to Mogadishu. I mean not even close.

I once heard the saying from GEN Scott Miller, a legend with the Special Operations world and our last four-star commander in Afghanistan. He was a young Delta captain on the ground. He observed that “I’ve seen a lot of fire-fights these last twenty years, but nothing close to Mogadishu.” I have never spoken to a veteran of Mogadishu who said anything different.

Against all odds and in spite of all of the horror, these warriors—I want to stress again—accomplished their mission and returned bloodied but victorious. They captured their targets, and they brought them out. Tragedy indeed struck, with 18 troops killed in action and more than 70 wounded. But our troops inflicted far, far more casualties. Even conservative estimates put enemy deaths over 500 and casualties over 1,000. As one Delta operator

put it to Bowden, “they’d just fought one of the most one-sided battles in American history.”

But the shocking videos of the bodies of American soldiers being desecrated and an American pilot in captivity overshadowed everything else. Most Americans had no idea we even had troops in Somalia, much less that they were engaging in such ferocious battle.

President Clinton had failed to articulate what vital national interest justified his decision to massively expand the limited mission he inherited from President Bush. He neither deployed enough troops nor gave them enough firepower and engagement authorities to complete that expanded mission.

Now, faced with political controversy, he cut and ran. His decision left many of our troops in Mogadishu confused and enraged. Many asked: If the mission was worth 18 American lives, why would they abandon it now? And if it wasn’t, what were they doing there in the first place? And what about vengeance for the dead and wounded?

President Clinton didn’t trouble himself to answer these questions. He shut down Task Force Ranger. He announced that the American forces within the broader U.N. peacekeeping mission would come home by March. He released the prisoners that Task Force Ranger had captured, including the two targets from the raid on October 3.

President Clinton later wrote that “I knew how President Kennedy felt after the Bay of Pigs.” I suppose so. He knew what it felt like to bring humiliation and shame to a great and powerful nation—and grave danger, because, among the unanswered questions was another one: What kind of lesson would it teach our enemies if America packed up and left at the first moment of bloodshed? For it wasn’t just Americans and Somalis watching. The rest of the world was also watching.

Among those watching was the obscure leader of a nascent terrorist network called al-Qaida. Osama bin Laden concluded that America, in his words, was “a paper tiger and after a few blows ran in defeat.”

In fact, bin Laden regularly cited President Clinton’s frantic withdrawal from Somalia in his many fatwas, statements, and interviews about America over the next 8 years.

That dangerous lesson is also an important reminder for us today. We can control where we commit our forces, which we shouldn’t do absent a compelling national interest. We certainly shouldn’t commit them to quixotic, Wilsonian nation-building projects. But once American power and prestige is committed, the whole world is watching, especially our enemies, and, from Somalia to Kabul to Ukraine, they will learn dangerous lessons when our leaders are timid, irresolute, and weak.

But one lesson our enemies will always take away from the battle of

Mogadishu is never challenge the American soldier on the field of battle. Against all odds and despite political constraints, our troops in Mogadishu fought with unparalleled bravery and skill. They brought back their dead and wounded. They accomplished their mission. They made their country proud.

On behalf of a grateful nation, I want to thank the men who served and sacrificed so much 30 years ago. God bless them. God bless their families. May God continue to bless America with warriors just like them.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Texas.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, as the world now knows, over the weekend, Congress passed a short-term funding bill to prevent a government shutdown.

I want to commend Speaker MCCARTHY and the Members of the House on both sides of the aisle for finding a path forward to keep the government open for the next 45 days while the two Chambers advance full-year appropriations bills. The failure to advance those bills was, in fact, the reason why we came up against the end of the fiscal year deadline and had to resort to a short-term continuing resolution.

Now, I have made my feelings about government shutdowns crystal clear. They don’t save any money. They don’t solve any problems, and the same problems that caused you to shut down the government are still there staring you in the face when you reopen. They are not in anyone’s best interest, unless you are concerned primarily with politics and the blame game.

When the government shuts down, millions of federal workers are left without being paid. Now, that doesn’t mean they don’t have to continue doing their jobs. It just means they won’t get paid. That includes members of the military, our frontline border security personnel, and so many others. I am glad their families don’t have to confront the reality of a shutdown today.

Beyond the impact on individual workers, shutdowns impact critical functions of the Federal Government. Immigration court hearings are canceled, resulting in an even greater backlog of pending cases. The E-Verify system, which is designed to allow employers to determine whether somebody can lawfully work in the United States, is taken offline, meaning employers have no way to verify job applicants’ employment eligibility. In many cases, Federal investigators aren’t able to pursue leads of potential criminal activity, develop evidence, or even bring enforcement actions against bad actors. Programs that support our veterans, low-income families, and other vulnerable Americans are temporarily paralyzed.

So there are no winners during a government shutdown. The overwhelming majority of us—and, I believe, of the

country—understand that. So I am glad we were able to avert a crisis at the last minute. But the fact that we even landed in that situation represents a failure of Congress to govern, and it starts right here in the U.S. Senate.

At the start of the summer, it looked like the Senate would embrace the regular appropriations process, something it hadn’t done in a long time. The day this Chamber passed the legislation raising the debt limit, Leader SCHUMER and Leader MCCONNELL issued a joint statement about the process going forward. This is back when the debt ceiling legislation was signed. They said they asked the chair and vice chair of the Appropriations Committee to get regular order process started to move all 12 appropriations bills through the Appropriations Committee. The leadership also pledged to work in a bipartisan fashion to advance funding bills and noted that “expeditious floor consideration” would be key to preventing automatic funding cuts.

Well, there is no question that our colleagues on the Appropriations Committee did their job. As a matter of fact, they exceeded their expectations. Under the leadership of Chairman MURRAY and Ranking Member COLLINS, the Appropriations Committee passed all 12 appropriations bills before the end of July. Each bill received, as I said, broad bipartisan support. More than half of them passed unanimously.

So our colleagues on the Appropriations Committee, on a bipartisan basis, handed the majority leader 12 bipartisan funding bills on a silver platter. They put the Senate in the strongest possible position to return to a transparent, orderly, and full-participation process, where every Member of the Senate would get a chance to participate in shaping those bills—hopefully, maybe even improving them.

But, as we know now, that is not what happened. The majority leader, which, as we know—maybe not everybody knows—is the only person in the Senate—of all 100 Senators, the majority leader is the only one who can schedule legislation for votes on the floor. And he allowed the months of June, July, August, and half of September to pass before he even attempted to put a bill on the floor.

The minibus, or the package of three appropriations bills that the Senate majority leader, the Senator from New York, put on the floor for vote, wasn’t until 18 days before the funding deadline. Now, that is a far cry from the “expeditious floor consideration” that he promised earlier this year. He had ample time and countless opportunities to move those bills across the Senate floor and to pave the way for a thoughtful and on-time appropriations process.

Instead, as we all know, we were here on Saturday, September 30, scrambling to pass a short-term funding bill to avoid a shutdown. And I remember, speech after speech after speech, the

majority leader said: Oh, it is those Republicans in the House who are causing this problem. And he accepted no responsibility for his failure to move a single appropriations bill through the Senate before the end of the fiscal year.

Well, we were staring down the barrel of a government shutdown, and it was in large part because of his lack of leadership of the Senate. I am sure that Senator SCHUMER will not hesitate to claim credit for keeping the government open and blame the House for the problems, but I think it is important to remind everyone of the facts.

Mr. President, here we are, October 3, the Democrat-led Senate has still not passed a single one of the 12 regular appropriations bills. We haven't passed funding for the Defense Department, for Homeland Security, for Veterans Affairs—nothing. And what is even more astonishing is the majority leader, apparently, has no plans to move any appropriations bills across the floor this week or in coming weeks. The Senate is not even expected to address any appropriations bills before gaveling out tomorrow evening and returning about 2 weeks later.

Now, as we know, Congress passed, thanks to the House, a bipartisan stop-gap appropriations bill. We had 45 days from Saturday to fund the government on an ongoing basis, and the majority leader has chosen to send the Members of the Senate home for the next 2 weeks and to burn 2 weeks out of the 45 days, doing nothing. I fear that, 45 days from Saturday, we will have passed—since we passed the current continuing resolution, we will find ourselves exactly in the same place we found ourselves just a couple of days ago.

It is outrageous. It is irresponsible. The American people deserve better.

The House, by contrast, which the majority leader likes to point to as the problem, even though they saved our bacon by passing a short-term CR there—when the Senate had done nothing, all we could do was take up their short-term continuing resolution and pass it, which we did on Saturday night.

Meanwhile, the House has passed 5 of its 12 funding bills, with plans to advance even more during the coming days. Speaker MCCARTHY canceled the scheduled recess so the House can continue to process those bills.

The Senate majority leader should take a few lessons from Speaker MCCARTHY. He should start putting funding bills on the floor and take our responsibilities seriously. There is no excuse for burning 2 weeks out of the 45 days we just got last Saturday when there is so much work to be done.

But I guarantee one thing, I will bet you Senator SCHUMER will try to cast blame on House Republicans. But the facts speak for themselves. The only reason we are not in a shutdown today is because of Speaker MCCARTHY, because of his leadership. He managed to get a clean short-term funding bill

through the House with bipartisan support. All Senator SCHUMER had to do was schedule a vote in the Senate. MCCARTHY's clean continuing resolution passed with the vote of 88 Senators.

Well, I hope the majority leader will use the next couple of weeks—or the remaining weeks in that 45-day reprieve—far more wisely than he has used it during the last 3 months. He promised regular order, and now is his chance, once again, to deliver it.

In the next several weeks, I hope the Senate will have the chance to visit all 12 of those appropriations bills—maybe bundled as so-called minibuses, but to address them, nonetheless. But I expect the Senate will also, at the same time, have a thorough debate about our Nation's border security or lack thereof.

The Biden administration claims it is taking action to control illegal immigration, but the evidence plainly shows that their policies are making things worse, not better. According to news reports, September broke the record for the most border crossings in a single month. An estimated 260,000 migrants crossed the southern border last month.

CBS News has reported that the Department of Homeland Security has released most migrants into the interior—just released them—some even without a notice to appear in immigration court. The Department of Homeland Security has instructed them to undergo immigration court proceedings, which, potentially, are as much as 10 years away.

Law enforcement, nonprofits, and border communities have been under tremendous strain throughout the Biden administration, and it is time for Congress to take action to address the crisis, even if President Biden will not.

I was in New York yesterday and learned about the strain being placed on that great city, just trying to house all of the migrants who end up there.

I read that the Governor of Illinois is asking for more money to help pay for the housing and the feeding of these families.

So, clearly, we have got a problem, but, so far, the Biden administration hasn't cared to lift a finger to do anything about it.

One thing I can promise you is I, for one, am not going to vote for a penny of more money to fund the current broken system. So we are going to have a debate and a discussion, and we are going to have some votes on what the Federal Government needs to do to step up and fill the gap being filled right now by States like Texas and Arizona.

We need more agents. We need more detention space, more physical barriers, more immigration judges, and more flexibility to remove individuals who have zero legitimate claim to remain in the United States.

President Biden has proven his unwillingness to address this crisis. So it is time for Congress to do so.

As funding discussions continue, this is a top priority for Senate Republicans, and I know, from talking to my Democratic colleagues, they understand this is a problem. They understand that the problem that many thought was one that border States had to bear is now affecting the entire country. And we haven't even talked about the drugs that come across the border, smuggled by the same criminal organizations that smuggle people.

So I am glad Congress averted a government shutdown, but the real work has just begun. We have less than 7 weeks to advance a full-year appropriations bill and address urgent priorities like securing the border. I would urge the majority leader just to quit wasting time. You know, for many weeks now, Congress has not been in session—or the Senate has not been in session—on Mondays. So we come into session on Tuesday at about 3 in the afternoon, have a vote at 5:30, and then we leave after lunch on Thursday. The American people are not getting what they pay for when it comes to the Senate doing its job. But, again, the person who controls that schedule is the majority leader, and it is time to get serious and to get to work and to do our job.

I hope the majority leader will quit wasting time and allow the Senators to do the work we were sent here to do.

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.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. 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.

TIKTOK

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, last week, I came to the floor and brought forward the proof that the Biden administration allowed an Iranian influence operation to infiltrate our government, and they compromised one of the most sensitive weapons negotiations in our Nation's history. It was only after the media and Senate Republicans exposed this ongoing threat to our national security that the Biden administration agreed to investigate it.

So, as I said, last week, I sent a letter to the Pentagon, demanding to know why Biden administration officials granted these operatives top-secret security clearances and sent them to negotiate with the very adversaries that they once worked for.

But, today, I want to remind my colleagues of another influence operation that we have known of for a long time which requires no security clearance and no special access to government documents.

For years, TikTok has been under scrutiny for its ties to the Chinese Communist Party. We know that this company openly violates basic privacy

standards, puts user data in the hands of the CCP, and subjects U.S. users to Chinese influence operations. Almost 100 million Americans have this app on their phones.

And the Biden administration? They have very little to say about this. In fact, the President himself has embraced it as a tool to rehabilitate his failed policies with young voters. He has invited TikTok influencers to the White House.

Still, my colleagues and I have made it impossible for the Biden administration to totally ignore the threat. TikTok has been in negotiations with the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States. It is known as CFIUS. They are in negotiations on a potential framework called Project Texas that will supposedly keep Americans' data secure and make it impossible for Beijing to manipulate the flow of information in the app.

A core component of these discussions involves measures to separate TikTok from its Chinese parent company, ByteDance. But, of course, we are already seeing the CCP find creative ways to get around that firewall.

As you know, they have a habit of doing this with their propaganda schemes, whether it is Confucius classrooms, Confucius Institutes, Sister Cities programs, or a social media app, TikTok.

The Wall Street Journal reported last week that this year, TikTok has transferred many high-level executives from ByteDance to TikTok in the United States. These executives are leading major divisions at TikTok, which provides the CCP with a significant degree of influence over the way they do business.

The personnel changes undermine TikTok's independence from ByteDance, and there is no chance that this happened by accident.

It is clear what TikTok is doing. They are repurposing ByteDance employees to masquerade as TikTok employees, undercutting the guardrails against Chinese espionage.

We know that with the Confucius Institute, many of these professors who came our way were indeed connected and sent there by the Chinese Communist Party.

Over the past 3 years, it has become clear that we cannot rely on the Biden administration to follow through on its promises to protect and defend this country and the citizens of this country. They fall behind repeatedly, especially when it is politically inconvenient to do so.

So, today, Senator BLUMENTHAL and I sent a letter to the CEO of TikTok demanding to know how many of his employees are former ByteDance employees? What are their jobs? What are the security protocols and other rules that are going to be imposed on these transfers? These are questions that we need the answers to.

We also want to know if these personnel changes were disclosed to

CFIUS before the Wall Street Journal published its article.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have the letter printed in the RECORD.

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

U.S. SENATE,
Washington, DC, October 3, 2023.

Mr. SHOU ZI CHEW,
Chief Executive Officer, TikTok,
Culver City, CA.

DEAR MR. CHEW: We write regarding reports that TikTok has recently hired several high-level executives from its Chinese parent company ByteDance, further calling into question the independence of TikTok's operations and the security of its U.S. users' information.

The Wall Street Journal recently reported that "[s]ince the start of the year, a string of high-level executives have transferred from ByteDance to TikTok," moving from China to the U.S., including after the departure of U.S. executives. The former ByteDance executives have reportedly assumed influential roles overseeing TikTok's "advertising business, human resources, monetization, business marketing and products related to advertising and e-commerce initiatives" and have brought their own staff from Beijing." These changes were alarming enough that employees raised concerns about the lack of a true separation from ByteDance—reportedly joking that TikTok is solving its ByteDance problem by moving ByteDance to the U.S.

The relationship between ByteDance and TikTok poses a unique risk to the security and privacy of TikTok's users in the United States. TikTok executives, including personnel based in China, have been found spying on American journalists, and, in leaked recordings, its staff acknowledged that "everything is seen in China." As the intelligence community has repeatedly warned, Chinese national security laws provide the Chinese government significant legal control over any data within the reach of Chinese companies, thereby putting any data held by ByteDance in the reach of the Chinese government.

In response to these widespread concerns, TikTok has repeatedly made commitments and representations to the American public about the independent management of TikTok's operations, the limited role of ByteDance, and the security of U.S. users' information. You have attempted to distance TikTok from ByteDance and promised a separation that "amounts to a firewall that seals off protected US user data from unauthorized foreign access," with "American data stored on American soil by an American company, overseen by American personnel."

However, the recent move of many ByteDance executives to the U.S. seemingly undermines this assertion to Congress and the public. The personnel changes give the impression that TikTok is attempting to preserve ByteDance's influence over TikTok while avoiding suspicion. Once again, TikTok's actions appear to align with a pattern of misleading actions and broken commitments regarding serious matters related to users' safety and national security, which we noted in a previous letter to you.

We are concerned these personnel changes undermine the security of U.S. data and the representations TikTok has made about its independence from ByteDance. As such, please fully answer the following questions by October 13:

1. Prior to December 31, 2022, how many employees were hired by TikTok who had previously worked at ByteDance?

2. Since January 1, 2023, how many employees have been hired by TikTok who previously worked at ByteDance?

3. Please identify the roles of all current TikTok employees who previously worked at ByteDance?

4. Were these personnel changes disclosed to the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States prior to the report in the Wall Street Journal?

5. What security protocols are you imposing on ByteDance employees that transfer from China to the U.S.?

6. Are there any rules, restrictions, or controls on communications between TikTok employees who were previously employed at ByteDance and personnel based in China?

7. How does TikTok supervise or oversee communications between its employees who were previously employed at ByteDance and personnel based in China?

Sincerely,

MARSHA BLACKBURN,
U.S. Senator.
RICHARD BLUMENTHAL,
U.S. Senator.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, we know that popular opinion would have each and every one of us believe that the threat posed by TikTok just isn't that serious. And we know from experience that the White House dislikes challenging popular opinion. After all, we hear: This is just an app the kids like to use. This is just a silly app with videos. This is an app that is putting up challenges. There is nothing wrong here.

But what we do know is that TikTok gathers all of this information. They have insight into the virtual "you." Once they are on your phone, they are following where you go, what you do, gathering keystrokes, and building that profile. We know this information leaves the United States, and we know this information makes its way to Beijing.

Why do they think they need this information on U.S. citizens? Why do they think they need to follow U.S. citizens? All of this is a reason that CFIUS is reviewing TikTok.

This country can no longer afford to take the word of our adversaries at face value. Self-propaganda—that is what the Chinese Communist Party is all about. They see that as a way to infiltrate our society, to infiltrate public opinion, to infiltrate and to influence elections.

This is not the first letter Senator BLUMENTHAL and I have sent to TikTok demanding transparency, and I would imagine this is not going to be the last.

I know it is very difficult to accept that a silly video app that is liked by 100 million Americans could possibly pose a threat to our national security, but we believe that it does.

I would remind my colleagues—indeed, anyone who has not deleted this spy app from their phones—to, please, recognize the threat that is there and do not provide your information to one of our greatest adversaries.

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

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

NOMINATION OF JAMES C. O'BRIEN

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I come to the floor today in support of James O'Brien to be Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasia Affairs.

As Russia continues its brutal assault on Ukraine, as democratic backsliding continues to threaten Central Europe, as we continue to grapple with energy and food security, we must have a fully staffed and empowered diplomatic corps. Vacancies leave a vacuum, and they send the wrong message.

Ukraine is by far one of my highest priorities. It is very clear to me that making sure Russia does not succeed in Ukraine is in the United States' national security interest. Ukraine is not only fighting for itself; if Ukraine loses, Moldova and Georgia are next. Ukraine is on the frontline of our fight to defend democracy and our shared values.

Iran is watching. North Korea is watching. China is watching. When they see the resolve of the United States and our coalition of partners, it stops them from thinking about taking military action elsewhere. That is why we need to continue to show leadership when supporting Ukraine against Russia's aggression.

As the chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, I will do everything I can to show the international community that we stand with Ukraine today and tomorrow. That means ensuring Ukraine gets more air defense and long-range missiles. That means working with our European partners who continue to house and support Ukrainian refugees, supporting humanitarian assistance for those suffering, including children who have been abducted into Russia and families who have been torn apart. That means finding a path for the administration's supplemental request. And, yes, that means getting our nominees to their posts in the European Affairs Bureau.

Without our nominees confirmed and in their positions, who will advocate on behalf of American values in Ukraine and beyond? Who will advance America's national security interests? Who will work to lead our efforts from Washington to shore up our transatlantic alliance in pursuit of stability and peace?

President Putin is helping far-right political parties, individuals, and groups across Europe and beyond who support his agenda. He is attacking the human rights of Ukrainian citizens. He is laying waste to Ukrainian cities. I believe he is trying to commit genocide in Ukraine, and I support an international tribunal into Russian war crimes like the one we saw in Nuremberg after World War II.

Given these challenges, we need someone leading the diplomatic effort

on behalf of the American people to confront Russia's aggression. That is why we must confirm James O'Brien today.

Ambassador O'Brien had an impressive hearing at the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. He presented a compelling vision for how he would lead the Bureau of European and Eurasia Affairs. He laid out the importance of America's leadership on integrating Ukraine, as well as the South Caucasus and the Western Balkans, into the transatlantic economic and political structures. He was reported favorably by the Foreign Relations Committee by a bipartisan voice vote.

Ambassador O'Brien brings a wealth of experience to this position, having most recently worked as the head of the Office of Sanctions Coordination, targeting, among others, the Russian oligarchs who thrive on corruption—Russian oligarchs whose corrupt networks are continuing to fuel the war in Ukraine, which in turn impacts global energy and food prices for just about every single person in the world.

Beyond his most recent post, Ambassador O'Brien's professional resume reads like building blocks for this position. Having served as the Principal Deputy Director of Policy Planning and the Presidential Envoy for the Balkans, he will be up to speed if the conflict again erupts in Kosovo. He won't be afraid to call out bad actors in Bosnia and work with those advocating for peace, transparency, and prosperity. He helped establish the Office for Hostage Affairs and worked for the safe return of 100 American citizens. He dealt with scientific and environmental agreements and Russia and Ukraine's post-Soviet transitions. He has been part of initiatives to investigate and prosecute persons responsible for war crimes. He has received numerous awards of distinction from the State Department.

This is a seasoned professional who is ready to take on this high-profile challenge. Once he is confirmed, he will be able to hit the ground running. That sends a signal that the United States cares about what happens in Europe, and right now, we need to show our resolve.

Ukrainians are doing their part. Even as they fight a war to defend their country, they are making good progress on anti-corruption. We need to be there for them and make clear that our support is long term and bipartisan.

We need to stand with Ukraine to make sure it gets everything it needs to defend itself and succeed in this Russian war. Ukrainian success on the battlefield is what will bring Russia to the negotiating table—nothing else. That is why it is time for the United States and the international community to step up. We cannot take a pass on good versus evil.

I urge my colleagues to join me in voting yes on cloture for this nominee, yes to advancing our diplomatic efforts to confront Putin's war in Ukraine, yes

to promoting American values, and yes to advancing America's national security interests.

With that, I yield the floor.

I ask unanimous consent that the vote scheduled for 5:30 begin now.

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

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 clerk will report the motion to invoke cloture.

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. 319, James C. O'Brien, of Nebraska, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (European and Eurasian Affairs).

Charles E. Schumer, Robert Menendez, Benjamin L. Cardin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Christopher A. Coons, Jeanne Shaheen, Richard J. Durbin, Gary C. Peters, Richard Blumenthal, Christopher Murphy, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Edward J. Markey, Alex Padilla, Chris Van Hollen, Jeff Merkley, Margaret Wood Hassan, Peter Welch.

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 James C. O'Brien, of Nebraska, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (European and Eurasian Affairs), shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), and the Senator from Michigan (Mrs. STABENOW) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) would have voted "yea."

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 63, nays 32, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 248 Ex.]

YEAS—63

Baldwin	Gillibrand	Murphy
Bennet	Graham	Ossoff
Blumenthal	Grassley	Padilla
Booker	Hassan	Paul
Brown	Heinrich	Peters
Butler	Hickenlooper	Reed
Cantwell	Hirono	Ricketts
Capito	Kaine	Romney
Cardin	Kelly	Rosen
Carper	King	Rounds
Casey	Klobuchar	Sanders
Collins	Lujan	Schatz
Coons	Manchin	Schumer
Cornyn	Markey	Shaheen
Cortez Masto	McConnell	Sinema
Crapo	Menendez	Smith
Duckworth	Merkley	Tester
Durbin	Murkowski	Tillis

Van Hollen
Warner
Warnock

Warren
Welch
Whitehouse

Wicker
Wyden
Young

NAYS—32

Barrasso
Blackburn
Boozman
Braun
Britt
Budd
Cassidy
Cotton
Cramer
Cruz
Daines

Ernst
Fischer
Hagerty
Hawley
Hoeben
Hyde-Smith
Johnson
Kennedy
Lankford
Lee
Lummis

Marshall
Moran
Mullin
Rubio
Schmitt
Scott (FL)
Sullivan
Thune
Tuberville
Vance

NOT VOTING—5

Fetterman
Murray

Risch
Scott (SC)

Stabenow

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WARNOCK). The yeas are 63, the nays are 32.

The motion is agreed to.

The Senator from Kansas.

UKRAINE

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I don't expect this to be the best formed set of remarks that I have ever made on the floor of the U.S. Senate, and I would guess that they could be refined and improved—and maybe somebody will edit them and make them in a better form—but I didn't want to miss the opportunity to express my views in regard to several things that occurred in the U.S. Senate, in the Congress, in this country last week.

I think our country faces perhaps the greatest challenges ever faced in my lifetime, certainly in my time as an elected official. It seems to me that the array of challenges from our adversaries are real, are increasing, and are threatening.

I have always been an optimist. I expect us to be able to do the things necessary to change the course of history, to make sure that the United States remains the country that it is today.

Perhaps my fears arise because Robba and I are now grandparents. Perhaps it is this love of another generation and the desire to see that they experience the things that I have been able to experience in my lifetime.

I want to highlight a recent and important essay penned by a former Secretary of Defense, Robert Gates, a fellow Kansan, warns of our government dysfunction at a moment in history in which our Nation confronts graver threats to its security than it has in past decades—perhaps ever.

Our constituents, from time to time, pay attention to what we do here, but I want us to recognize that perhaps even more intently, our adversaries pay attention to what we do or don't do here.

What we do and how we do it either strengthens or harms the future of the United States. It can increase the trust placed in us by our allies or it can embolden our adversaries because if I am right, our future is in the balance, and we need to work to increase those who decide to be on the side of freedom and liberty, of stability, of a better life for all people. We need to be the leader of a coalition that understands the values and the American ideals and how they

alter lives, and we need to make certain that those who should be on the side of right are not sitting on the fence.

During my time in the U.S. Senate, I have never been more angry or more sullen than those few days that week or so in which our country left Afghanistan. Our unprepared actions and void of leadership resulted in the deaths of Americans, American servicemembers, and it stranded thousands of Afghans—Afghan allies—behind enemy lines. I raise this because I want to tie it to what may now be happening here. Those few days may have been among the most costly in emboldening those who seek our country's demise, and I fear today that we are about to again demonstrate to the world our feckless ambivalence to lead. I don't want us to lead as a superior or to be in the face of our allies, but I want people who care, countries that believe in peace and prosperity and freedom around the globe to be part of an alliance that the United States is an important component of.

Normally, when we think about the challenges we face from adversaries abroad, we would think: Well, it is time to increase defense spending. We need more assets. We need to make our military stronger. My view—and I believe the correct view—is that is true. But of equal importance, we need to demonstrate resolve, resolve in the support of allies and resolve in the resistance to enemies.

When I say that I fear today we are failing, I speak of the ambivalence of our commitment to support the efforts to repeal, repulse, remove the Putin invasion across the borders of Ukraine. Should we fail to live up to the necessary deeds and actions that need to be taken, in my view, we are once again replicating the message that we sent in our chaotic and unfortunate manner in which we withdrew from Afghanistan. To my colleagues who might criticize one but look the other way to the other, I think it is a view that cannot be sustained. Failure to do right, to do things right, is the same, and the consequences are the same. Leadership depends upon reliability.

Today, Americans cannot go it alone. We are not the only power in the world. The burdens of today's challenges are too immense to carry alone. Our allies are force multipliers, and failing to lead in Ukraine lets those most in danger—those in the neighborhood of Ukraine—change course and look elsewhere for a path forward.

It is always easier to duck responsibilities, but almost never is it the right course of action.

Our European allies and those elsewhere in the world continue to look to the United States of America for leadership. The end of American support to Ukraine would be another indication—just as I believe it was in our withdrawal from Afghanistan—that we are not the leaders that are necessary in today's dangerous world. Never do we

want to be seen by those waiting to pick a side—we would never want them to reach the conclusion that the United States cannot be relied upon.

Another Cabinet Secretary just like Robert Gates—this one is from Wichita, KS, as well—former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, and I penned a joint opinion piece. We made the case of helping Ukraine. While I pointed out how it matters to the world, what we pointed out is how it matters to America, to the American citizens and to the future of our country, and that we benefit, the United States, by the Ukrainians' success in their country.

All of this discussion last week about whether Ukraine should continue to receive funding was surrounded by another development in our body politic—in the way that we do business in this Congress and in the way that we make decisions about the right course forward. So let me tie to the concerns I have about the decision that was made in regard to Ukraine to the difficulties we had in what should be straightforward: funding the government into the future.

Every county commission, every school board, every city council in Kansas can come up with a budget and make decisions about the funding of their business, the funding of their purpose into the future, and we turned what should be routine decisions—I say "routine," but they are decisions made with care and thought. There is no question that the spending path we are on is not sustainable. We are on a different path. Even the appropriations bills—the 13 that have passed the U.S. Committee on Appropriations—are on a different path than what we have been on in increasing spending.

Those are important decisions, but we don't need to manufacture a crisis to make a point. The crisis doesn't solve the spending problem. Yet, in so many instances, we look for the highlight, the television time, the social media responses that sometimes seem to reward the behavior that is the most disruptive and the least effective.

The challenges we face require setting aside unnecessary disagreement and disunion. Last week demonstrated our system as creating disunion when we need unity and common ground in a dangerous world. Of all the times that I would expect Americans and their elected officials to come together would be when we see the actions, when we know the dangerous nature of our world: when we see what China is doing and what its intentions seem to be; when we know what is taking place in Iran and their efforts around the globe; when Russia invades a neighboring country's borders; when North Korea fires missiles.

We have united as a nation numerous times in our history, and we need to return to those circumstances. When things are so different, Americans need to pull together, and that can happen if there is leadership here in Congress to do so.

Again, one would think—if you believe those challenges are real, as I do, and if you care about the next generation for your own family and Americans whom you will never meet, it seems to me that now would be the time to lower the temperature and to find that common ground that puts us in a position that we can be optimistic about our Nation's future. It doesn't mean that we don't face challenges, and it doesn't mean that we don't have disagreement. It does mean that there is value in finding a solution as compared to accentuating the differences on the evening news. It means explaining to our constituents why, yes, we disagree with a colleague from another State, why we disagree with the Democrats and we disagree with the Republicans and we think we are right. It doesn't mean giving up what you believe in or what you know to be right, but it means, isn't there a path by which we can turn down the fire and pull people together?

So last week—I am giving these remarks because I spent the weekend rethinking what transpired last Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and really what has transpired over a much longer period of time. I concluded that, at the first opportunity, I wanted to make the case that our future is bright, but it is only bright when we work together.

I would say that it is incumbent upon us to send a message—but it is more than that—send a message that we are a reliable partner, to encourage allies around the world to be helpful to Ukraine. The Europeans are now a little bit ahead of us in the support that they now envision now that they plan for support for Ukraine. We have asked for that. They have now moved in that direction, but it will disappear and disappear quickly if we don't demonstrate that we are going to do what we set out to accomplish.

By the way, we had a conversation about our borders. Our borders need desperate attention, and it is another national security issue. As we work to right the cause for America's well-being, enhancing Ukraine's chance for success in defeating Putin, we should also resolutely move forward in ending the failure to protect our own country on our own border.

We have work to do. We can look the other way or we can decide that we are going to do what, over the long period of time, is right. We can decide that it would be nice to be popular at the moment but that it would be better to be right in the long term.

I am grateful for the opportunity I have to serve in the U.S. Senate, and I am grateful for the opportunity I have to serve with the colleagues I do. Last week was a discouraging moment in my time in public service, but I am an optimist. And this week and next week and the next week that follows—the next 47 days—can be times of good work for the American people and a safer and more secure United States and world.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I am grateful to follow my friend—and he is a friend—the Senator from Kansas, who stated very eloquently a number of challenges that lie ahead and the reasons we do have to come together on a bipartisan basis to make America and the world more secure.

Like him, I found last week to be both frustrating and discouraging, but I have been heartened, first, by the overwhelming bipartisan votes in this Chamber in favor of aid to Ukraine—in fact, in support of a bipartisan compromise that included aid to Ukraine and provided a temporary extension of funding, which eventually became the core of the measure adopted by the House.

I have been encouraged as well by the leadership of Senator SCHUMER and Senator MCCONNELL in coming together with Senator COLLINS and Senator MURRAY to say that we will fulfill our obligation to Ukraine and that we will do it promptly.

That is why I am on the floor of the Senate right now—to emphasize the urgency of making sure that we provide Ukraine with the tools, the financial support, the humanitarian assistance, and the arms that it needs to win. And it can win. It is making solid, steady progress. I have seen the maps. I have visited Ukraine four times in the last 18 months. Ukraine can win, and it will win if we provide Ukraine with the tools it needs, but it must be done now.

We owe it to the men and women who are in those trenches right now, bleeding and dying, and who are watching America.

We owe it to the leadership of Ukraine, President Zelenskyy, who has asked me on each of those four visits: Will the United States stay by our side? And I have assured him that, yes, we will be solid.

We owe it to our allies who are also watching—our allies and our adversaries. And, make no mistake, the Chinese have changed their view of whether they can count on the United States to fail and falter, because, so far, we have stood strong, sending a message to China about what we would do if China invades Taiwan.

The world is watching, and history is watching.

To my colleagues, there are few, if any, votes you will take or actions by which you will be measured more intently and importantly than what we do right now—not months away but days away—on what we must do in the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative.

I urge the administration to take whatever action is necessary—again, not just in statements, not just in words, but in deeds.

Ukraine is waiting for the longer range artillery, the ATACMS, that it needs to pound targets where the Russians gather intelligence, where they store supplies, where they conduct

their leadership. Those ATACMS are necessary—not just the HIMARS but the longer range artillery. We need to train the pilots. That can be done under existing authority and financial support. They need to provide munitions—we are producing more, but Ukraine continues to use them at a rate of roughly 10 times or 15 what we are providing; drones, which have become the new fulcrum of the battlefield not only to gather intelligence but to deliver the kind of ordnance that we need to provide.

These actions by the administration can be done with existing funding. But the fact of the matter is that, as of this week or just days afterward, the Pentagon may well run out of funding for new weapons platforms. Without an immediate replenishment, it cannot, over the longer term, provide Ukraine with critical systems, like the air defense platforms, that Ukraine needs to protect its civilians as well as its military targets. Winter is approaching, and Russia will continue to bombard its infrastructure unless it has that air defense. Those systems, the hospitals, the schools, the grid for electricity are now supremely susceptible to that kind of air bombardment.

We know Patriot air defense works. I have seen it myself in the midst of air raids on Kyiv, where I went to the bunker and Kyiv's air defense successfully fended off those missiles and drones that were coming after it.

We know the urgency of those ATACMS. We have heard it from the Ukrainians. We have heard it from our own military about how important they can be. I urge the administration to provide that longer range artillery as soon as it can do so.

But we have a larger task ahead of us. The supplemental at \$24 billion is a necessary start right now. We can take advantage of the bipartisan agreement that we have expressed in this Chamber and in the House to make it happen, to move quickly and promptly.

I recognize there is turmoil in the House of Representatives. I am clear-eyed about the possibility of growing fatigue among the American people. But it is on us in the U.S. Senate. It is on us as leaders to make the case and convince America that it is on us and in our interest because if we fail now to make this investment, the costs will be far greater when Putin wins.

We will have the need not just to provide weapons platforms but troops on the ground because that will be our treaty obligation if Putin then goes against Romania, Poland, Moldova, Finland, and Sweden. He will pick one of them.

We know he will be on the march if he wins in Ukraine, and we will have proved him right about our faltering and failing. It will encourage not only him but also China, and we will have a far greater cost. It is our national security on the line. Ukrainians are fighting for our future, not just theirs; for our independence and freedom, not just their own.

We have a national security interest in this fight, and we need to make the American people understand it.

Sometimes history is personal. Sometimes it is shaped by a leader who has the courage and strength to step forward and put his life on the line. That is what Volodymyr Zelenskyy has done. He has inspired the people of Ukraine and the people around the world by staying in Ukraine and providing that leadership that is so important.

I once asked him how he thought it would end. He said: In the end, it will be fine. And if it is not fine, it is not the end. They are determined, as he told me, to fight with pitch forks, if necessary. But we can't let them fight with pitch forks. We need to give them what they need to be successful and to vindicate the losses they have suffered.

I have seen them in Bucha, the mass grave sites, where women and children had hands tied behind their backs, shot in the head, hundreds of them—a repeat of Stalin and Hitler in their killing of innocent people in exactly those “bloodlands,” as Professor Snyder has called them.

We have all seen images of cities leveled, literally destroyed, not just Bakhmut but Mariupol. We have heard about children kidnapped from areas that Russia has occupied. I have talked to the prosecutor general about those thousands of children—literally thousands—taken from their parents, supposedly orphans, but their parents were still alive and parents taken away from children to Belarus.

There is a reason why the International Court of Criminal Justice has issued a warrant for the arrest of Vladimir Putin and why he would be judged a war criminal if he ever were brought to trial—because he has committed atrocities that have no match in recent history for their scale and scope and their brutality.

We are dealing with someone who has no respect for human life—either Ukrainian life or Russian life—because he will continue to send his people into the maw like cannon fire.

In the face of that evil, the Ukrainians are determined. But we need to match their courage and strength with the resources that they need and with the arms that they need.

Sometimes history is personal in what it means to us. My own dad left Germany in 1935. He came to this country at the age of 17. He spoke virtually no English. He had not much more than the shirt on his back. He knew no one. He left Germany alone at the age of 17 because he saw what was coming. He succeeded in bringing over his parents and his siblings and lost the rest of his family to the kind of brutality and atrocity that we are witnessing right now at the hands of Vladimir Putin.

History doesn't repeat, but it often rhymes. Evil often does repeat, even if it is not by the same people against the same people. What we are seeing now is

evil. There are very few places in the world or conflicts or circumstances where there is, in fact, no gray area—black and white, good and evil.

The world is watching now to see how we will keep faith: keep faith with our allies that have invested along with us at our side, keep faith with the people of Ukraine, and maybe most important, keep faith with ourselves and with our values.

We are being watched not just by the world but by history. And our values and our self-image, our ability to look ourselves in the mirror and say, “Yes, we did our job,” is now what is at stake.

History will remember us either as paragons of liberty or ineffectual bystanders.

We can't wait for 45 days. We need a supplemental now. The men and women in the trenches of Ukraine can't wait 45 days for bullets and bandages. The people in Kyiv facing this winter without, potentially, food and electricity can't wait 45 days to know that we will stand by them. They are fighting for their future, for the dreams of independence and democracy.

We are the most powerful, wealthiest, and the greatest Nation in the world not simply because of the example of our power but the power of our example.

There are a lot of folks—and I was one of them—who are discouraged and frustrated, as I said right at the start, about the ability of our democracy to work, given what we went through over these past days. But we can show our values and our democracy at its best if we help the Ukrainians at this moment of unparalleled crisis for them.

If we delay and falter, we lose time, and the loss of time and delay essentially means defeat.

I urge my colleagues to join me to find a way forward, a path to vote as soon as possible to make that aid available to Ukraine. It is our obligation and our opportunity, at this critical moment in our history, when the world is watching and when others, long from now, will look back and watch what we did or failed to do.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION BUREAU

Mr. REED. Mr. President, after hearing oral arguments earlier today, the Supreme Court will rule on a case that will determine whether average Americans will continue to have an independent Federal watchdog to push back against the abuses of big financial institutions.

The case I am speaking of is the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau—CFPB v. Community Financial Services Association of America. It deals with an outlandish ruling of the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals that would invalidate the congressionally approved funding scheme of the CFPB. If it stands, the ruling will starve the Bureau of funding and effectively prevent

it from working on behalf of the American people.

But let's take a step back to remember why the CFPB was created over a decade ago.

In the runup to the great recession, lenders were aggressively marketing subprime mortgages with predatory features to borrowers they knew had no ability to repay. Reckless Wall Street firms bundled those mortgages into securities and sold them to investors, including pension funds. And weak regulators stood by as all of this unfolded.

Borrowers ultimately discovered that they could not repay their mortgages. The securities backed by these mortgages took a nosedive, causing a meltdown of the banking system and taking down the entire economy.

While Wall Street got a lifeline from the Congress and the Federal Government, millions of Americans did not. They paid with their jobs, their homes, and their savings.

The unemployment rate peaked at 10 percent; nearly 7.5 million families lost their homes; and Americans lost \$20 trillion in household wealth.

At the time, people rightfully asked who was looking out for them. The truth was no one, really.

American families were ill-served by financial regulators and by the system. A half dozen Federal Agencies shared responsibility for making sure that working families didn't get ripped off, but they all failed. In many cases, they seemed to regard their primary mission as protecting the big players in the financial system. And they were hamstrung by the Bush administration, which used the appropriations process to starve Agencies, like the SEC, of the resources and personnel they needed to be effective.

So while these Agencies all had some responsibility for protecting consumers, none of them pursued it vigorously. The performance of regulators at the time put truth to the saying that “when everyone is responsible, no one is responsible.”

This weakness in our regulatory system and structure is why Congress created the CFPB and gave it a singular mission to protect Americans from the worst kinds of financial abuses, not just for mortgages but for every single consumer financial product.

The creation of this Agency is arguably one of the most important reforms made following the financial crisis.

I recognize that Wall Street and big financial companies have always feared the CFPB. That is because the CFPB is the only financial regulatory Agency that exclusively focuses on protecting consumers against abusive practices.

But Wall Street also fears the CFPB because its funding structure insulates it from regulatory capture, aggressive lobbying, and political pressure. Wielding its power judiciously and effectively, the CFPB has delivered results for American families. In a little more than a decade, the Bureau has obtained \$17.5 billion in relief for 200 million consumers.

And so, the industry has never given up on killing the CFPB. The industry hit pay dirt when an activist panel of judges on the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals issued a bizarre and potentially sweeping decision, which invalidates the CFPB's funding structure based on a distortion of the Constitution's appropriations clause. The court's reasoning is flimsy. It relies on a single concurring opinion and a series of law review articles, some of which were written by students.

(Mr. KELLY assumed the Chair.)

According to Georgetown Professor Adam Levitin, the argument about the CFPB's funding was a "throw-away point" in the litigation, with the parties dedicating a paltry 370 words apiece to this issue in their briefs.

Unfortunately, the results of the Fifth Circuit's decision are not academic. They are very real for the hard-working Americans whose financial well-being is now at risk. If upheld, the Fifth Circuit's ruling would call into question the validity of all the Bureau's past actions.

The work of the CFPB matters to ordinary people. It is the only Federal Agency that supervises nonbank mortgage lenders, private student lenders, credit reporting bureaus, debt collectors, international money remitters, and auto finance companies. Because there has been a CFPB for the last decade, people in Rhode Island and across the Nation have had someone who is working to make sure they will be treated fairly, that their banks and lenders will deal with them honestly, and that their interests would be protected whenever financial institutions try to take advantage of them.

That will change if the Fifth Circuit's ruling stands.

I want to particularly highlight what that means for military families because this has been an aspect of the CFPB's authority that I have been deeply committed to since the beginning. Simply put, without the CFPB, military families will be stripped of their financial protections under the Military Lending Act. The CFPB has brought 40 public enforcement actions involving harm to servicemembers and veterans, securing more than \$175 million in relief.

The Agency plays a unique role in watching out for our Nation's 2 million servicemembers and their families, whether they are deployed in the United States or overseas. The CFPB protects members of the Armed Forces from exploitation at the hands of unscrupulous lenders and debt collectors, who have charged servicemembers interest rates as high as 600 percent and who have threatened to derail their careers if they do not pay up.

More than recovering money, the CFPB, through its supervisory powers and by its simple existence, acts as a deterrent. If the Supreme Court shuts it down, predatory lenders will reoffend against our troops again and again and again, with little chance of being penalized.

The Presiding Officer understands this very well because, as a naval aviator and leader of troops, like myself, who was a paratrooper, executive officer, and company commander, we saw all the shenanigans that lenders were playing, selling trucks to the young enlisted people for a great bargain—nothing down but almost a 1,000-percent interest rate. We saw them come and take those trucks later when the young soldiers, sailors, and airmen couldn't pay—time and time again.

Finally, through the Military Lending Act and the CFPB, we stood up and said: This is not fair. And in one of the great ironies, of course, if you ever went off base, all of these car dealers and other service agencies proudly had the American flag waving red, white, and blue, while they were systematically, in many cases, stealing from the men and women who protect this country.

In a letter written to Banking Committee Chairman BROWN, Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman TESTER, Intelligence Committee Chairman WARNER, and myself, in February, the CFPB Director said:

I am gravely concerned that this trend could impact companies' compliance with the Military Lending Act and the Federal consumer financial laws that protect servicemembers and their families. The impact would be dire—effectively stripping servicemembers and their families of legal protections that are critical to maintaining military readiness. . . . In the Fifth Circuit alone, which covers Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi, this could affect 300,000 servicemembers and their families.

Mr. President, I would ask unanimous consent that a copy of the letter from the Director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau be printed in the RECORD.

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

CONSUMER FINANCIAL
PROTECTION BUREAU,
Washington, DC, February 6, 2023.

Hon. JACK REED,
*U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR SENATOR REED: Thank you for your letter regarding the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's (CFPB) work to protect servicemembers and their families in the consumer financial marketplace. As you note in your letter, a three-judge panel of the Fifth Circuit recently vacated the CFPB's 2017 payday lending regulation in *Community Financial Services Association v. CFPB*. The Fifth Circuit panel found that the statutory provisions funding the CFPB's operations violate the Constitution's Appropriations Clause, and as a result, vacated the payday lending rule that is the subject of that litigation.

I believe that decision was incorrect, and the Solicitor General has asked the Supreme Court to reverse it. In the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (Dodd-Frank Act), Congress established the CFPB as an independent bureau of the Federal Reserve System. Like the Federal Reserve Board of Governors and other federal banking regulators, Congress authorized the CFPB's funding through its organic statute rather than through annual spending bills.

This type of funding for banking regulators has long been a vital part of the nation's financial regulatory system, providing stability and continuity for the agencies and the system as a whole.

THE CFPB'S WORK TO PROTECT
SERVICEMEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

In the Dodd-Frank Act, Congress directed the CFPB to establish an Office of Servicemember Affairs. Since the CFPB's inception, the CFPB's Office of Servicemember Affairs has worked with the Department of Defense, state attorneys general, and other law enforcement agencies to ensure America's servicemembers, veterans, and their families receive the consumer protections they are entitled to by law.

Each year, the Office of Servicemember Affairs issues a report on the top financial concerns facing servicemembers, veterans, and military families, based on complaints they submit to the CFPB. In its most recent annual report, the Office of Servicemember Affairs noted a nearly 20 percent increase in complaints by servicemembers since 2019 and detailed how servicemembers credit reporting inaccuracies uniquely impact their housing, transportation, and security clearance. A separate CFPB report released in December 2022 found that servicemembers appeared to be underutilizing the protections and relief they are entitled to under the Servicemember Civil Relief Act, which include a six percent interest rate cap. Previous CFPB research compared servicemembers' credit usage to their civilian counterparts and identified debt trends among servicemembers during and after they leave active duty.

The CFPB examines supervised financial institutions for risks to active duty servicemembers and their families from conduct that violates the Military Lending Act (MLA). Additionally, when the CFPB identifies Servicemember Civil Relief Act (SCRA) violations or an absence of SCRA compliance policies and procedures, we refer the matter to appropriate federal and state regulators and assess whether the conduct may also violate other statutes we enforce, such as the Consumer Financial Protection Act. And when companies break the law and harm servicemembers, the CFPB brings enforcement actions to hold them accountable. To date, the CFPB has brought 38 public enforcement actions that involved harm to servicemembers and veterans, including five enforcement actions for violations of the Military Lending Act. These cases have thus far resulted in more than \$170 million in monetary consumer relief.

Here are a few recent examples that illustrate the impact of this work:

In September 2022, the CFPB filed a lawsuit against MoneyLion and its lending subsidiaries alleging they violated the MLA by charging consumers membership fees and stated interest rates that when combined exceeded the MLA's 36% rate cap, requiring covered borrowers to submit to arbitration, and failing to make required disclosures. The CFPB's complaint also alleges that MoneyLion's restrictive membership cancellation practices are deceptive, unfair, and abusive.

In November 2021, the CFPB filed a lawsuit against FirstCash, Inc. and Cash America West, Inc. The CFPB alleges that FirstCash and Cash America West made pawnshop loans to active-duty servicemembers and their dependents that violated the MLA. The CFPB alleges that between June 2017 and May 2021, FirstCash and Cash America West made over 3,600 pawn loans from four of its stores to more than 1,000 servicemembers in Arizona, Nevada, Utah, and Washington at rates that exceeded the MLA's 36% interest cap, as well as other violations.

In December 2020, the CFPB issued a consent order against Omni Financial of Nevada, Inc. The CFPB found that, among other things, Omni violated the MLA's prohibition against requiring repayment of loans by allotment. While Omni claimed that other payment options were available, the CFPB found that employees told servicemembers they were required to repay by allotment, and records show that 99 percent of active-duty servicemembers who took out loans repaid them via allotment. The CFPB uncovered these violations as part of a sweep of investigations of multiple lenders that were suspected of violating the MLA.

Also in December 2020, the CFPB sued LendUp for violating the MLA by charging interest in excess of 36 percent, requiring covered borrowers to submit to arbitration, and failing to make required disclosures. The parties entered into a stipulated judgment in that action in early 2021. In December 2021, the CFPB sued LendUp again for violating that order. The parties entered into a stipulated judgment that resulted in a court order that prohibited the company from making new loans and collecting on outstanding loans.

IMPACT OF THE FIFTH CIRCUIT RULING ON THE CFPB'S PROTECTION OF SERVICEMEMBERS

The Fifth Circuit's ruling has the potential to put the CFPB's work to protect servicemembers at risk. While that ruling only applied to the CFPB's payday lending rule, some entities are attempting to use that ruling to try to escape legal liability. For example, citing the Fifth Circuit's ruling, lenders FirstCash and Cash America West filed a motion seeking to dismiss the case and prevent the CFPB from obtaining relief for harmed servicemembers, and the case is stayed while CFSA is before the Supreme Court. Several other defendants, both within and outside the Fifth Circuit, have also sought to dismiss or delay CFPB enforcement actions based on the Fifth Circuit's ruling.

I am gravely concerned that this trend could impact companies' compliance with the Military Lending Act and the Federal consumer financial laws that protect servicemembers and their families. The impact would be dire—effectively stripping servicemembers and their families of legal protections that are critical to maintaining military readiness and preventing involuntary separations, goals which the Department of Defense reaffirmed when finalizing the 2015 regulations implementing the MLA. In the Fifth Circuit alone, which covers Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi, this could affect 300,000 servicemembers and their families.

The CFPB shares your commitment to protecting servicemembers in the consumer financial marketplace, and I appreciate your efforts to ensure that military financial protections such as the MLA are being implemented as Congress intended. Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Should you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or have your staff contact Janel Fitzhugh in the CFPB's Office of Legislative Affairs.

Sincerely,

ROHIT CHOPRA,
Director.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, the Military Officers Association of America and a dozen veterans organizations have validated the CFPB's strong track record. In their words:

All told, the CFPB has become an indispensable agency for protecting the legal rights and financial readiness of servicemembers,

veterans, and their families. The stability of the CFPB's funding is therefore vital to the tremendous work it does on [their] behalf.

Finally, let me add that it is not just average Americans who will be put at risk. Responsible lenders will lose the protections of the regulatory safe harbors created by the CFPB. These rules essentially protect the industry against the risk of enforcement, so long as they play by the rules and provide standardized disclosures in plain English. Those responsible actors in our financial system, who extend credit on fair terms and deal honestly with their customers, have a lot to lose.

It all adds up to this: The Fifth Circuit's decision prioritizes the interests of predatory lenders over responsible lenders, relies on falsehoods over facts, and chooses chaos over stability. That is certainly not what any court should be doing.

I hope sincerely that the Supreme Court reverses the Fifth Circuit's dangerous decision. I hope it recognizes that this is not about expensive lawyers and trade associations and big businesses. This is about Americans, many of them wearing the uniform of our country. They deserve the sympathy and the support of the Court.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING LISLE CORPORATION

• Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week it is my privilege to recognize Lisle Corporation of Clarinda, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week during National Women's Small Business Month.

Lisle Corporation was founded by C.A. Lisle in Clarinda, IA, in 1903 as a manufacturer of horse-powered water well drilling machines. During the

1920s, Lisle Corporation began producing tools, with their first tool being a valve refacer. They also began producing a master ignition vibrator for the Ford Model T during this time period. Prior to World War II, they made magnetic drain plugs which were used in military equipment during the war. In the decades after, Lisle Corporation's manufacturing has grown to include additional automotive tools and is now known for its mechanic's creepers, lubrication, and tire products, among their 700 specialty automotive products. Lisle Corporation also grew when it acquired EZ Way, Inc., a patient handling products company based in Clarinda.

Lisle Corporation is currently run by Lisle family member Mary Landhuis, who became president in 2018. She is also president of EZ Way, Inc. in addition to her duties at Lisle Corporation. While in this position, she has served on the Iowa State Workforce Development Board and the Statewide Career and Technical Education Advisory Council.

Lisle Corporation is an exemplary family business. They have had six generations of the Lisle family work at the company and have been awarded for their contributions to the tool industry. In 2019, former president Fred Lisle was posthumously awarded the Iowa Association of Business and Industry Manufacturing Legend award for his contributions to the industry and the Clarinda community. Fred was a board member of several organizations in the community to help grow Clarinda and encourage young residents to stay in the area, leaving a legacy of generosity and leadership. For their work during World War II, Lisle Corporation was awarded the Army-Navy "E" Award for their outstanding war effort productions. In 2023, Lisle Corporation celebrated its 120th business anniversary.

Lisle Corporation's commitment to providing high-quality automotive tools to customers throughout the United States while maintaining their Clarinda roots is clear. I want to congratulate the Lisle family and the entire team at Lisle Corporation for their continued dedication to providing affordable and high-quality tools to Iowans. I look forward to seeing their continued growth and success in Iowa.●

TRIBUTE TO SPECIALIST RACHEL RONEY-RIVERA

• Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, although she is just 25 years old, Specialist Rachel Roney-Rivera's life has been all about breaking barriers. A native of Beauregard, Rachel enlisted in the U.S. Army on her 18th birthday, using her interests to become a paralegal for the National Guard.

After finishing her military service as an E-4 specialist, Rachel decided to use her experience to pursue a career in law enforcement. She graduated top of her class at the police academy before

joining the Chambers County Sheriff's Office. Rachel has proven to be a vital part of the force, including becoming the first woman to be selected for the SWAT team. She now serves as a sex crimes investigator, helping families during some of the most difficult times in their lives. Chambers County Sheriff Jeff Nelson says that Rachel, "puts 110% into every case to bring resolution and justice."

Rachel's presence in the community extends far past her investigative work. She also serves as a self-defense instructor, where she helps empower women in East Alabama with confidence and defense training techniques. But that is not all—Rachel is also preparing to graduate with her bachelor's degree in psychology from Columbia Southern next spring. She is studying for the LSAT, hoping to become an attorney one day. In addition to being a full-time deputy and student, Rachel is also a proud full-time mom to a 4-year-old daughter.

Her story inspires Alabamians young and old about what can be accomplished with hard work and determination. I am honored to recognize Rachel as the October Veteran of the Month.●

TRIBUTE TO DYLAN CRONKHITE

● Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I rise today to spotlight the courageous spirit of Dylan Cronkhite, a 15-year-old in dire need of a kidney transplant. Dylan's journey began at just 19 months old when his mother, Leslie Cronkhite, rushed him to the hospital, sensing that something was gravely wrong. There, they received the devastating news that Dylan required a lifesaving operation to receive a kidney transplant.

Dylan's life was saved by the selfless act of his uncle, who became a living kidney donor. But today, Dylan confronts another formidable challenge as his transplanted kidney faces failure, like most young transplant recipients, compromising his health.

Living donors play a pivotal role in saving lives, offering a glimmer of hope to those desperately in need of an organ donation. Nevertheless, I remain hopeful that there are individuals who are willing and able to step up for the greater good, just as Dylan's family has. I commend the remarkable efforts of individuals like Philip Piety and his congregation in Silver Spring. Their initiative to organize an organ donation forum is an honorable step towards raising awareness about the dire need for organ donors. Encouraging people to select organ donor status on their driver's licenses can make a substantial difference in the lives of those like Dylan, who are fervently seeking a second chance at life.

Dylan's story serves as an urgent reminder that there are actionable ways we can support one another through even the most challenging times. Today, I ask my colleagues to assist in raising awareness of the importance of

organ donation so we can ensure that more individuals like Dylan receive the lifesaving organ transplants they so desperately need.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

(The message received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

REPORT RELATIVE TO THE DESIGNATION AS EMERGENCY REQUIREMENTS ALL FUNDING (INCLUDING THE TRANSFER AND REPURPOSING OF FUNDS) SO DESIGNATED BY THE CONGRESS IN THE CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024 AND OTHER EXTENSIONS ACT PURSUANT TO SECTION 251(B)(2)(A) OF THE BALANCED BUDGET AND EMERGENCY DEFICIT CONTROL ACT OF 1985, AS OUTLINED IN THE ENCLOSED LIST OF ACCOUNTS RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT OF THE SENATE ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2023—PM 24

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

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with section 114(c) of division A of the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2024 and Other Extensions Act (H.R. 5860; the "Act"), I hereby designate as emergency requirements all funding (including the transfer and repurposing of funds) so designated by the Congress in the Act pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as outlined in the enclosed list of accounts.

The details of this action are set forth in the enclosed memorandum from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.,
THE WHITE HOUSE, September 30, 2023.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 3:04 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by

Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 112. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to strengthen benefits for children of Vietnam veterans born with spina bifida, and for other purposes.

S. 2795. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend and modify certain authorities and requirements relating to the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5110. An act to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to clarify that the prohibition on the use of Federal education funds for certain weapons does not apply to the use of such weapons for training in archery, hunting, or other shooting sports.

At 3:08 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 292. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 24355 Creekside Road in Santa Clarita, California, as the "William L. Reynolds Post Office Building".

H.R. 996. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3901 MacArthur Blvd., in New Orleans, Louisiana, as the "Dr. Rudy Lombard Post Office".

H.R. 2379. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 616 East Main Street in St. Charles, Illinois, as the "Veterans of the Vietnam War Memorial Post Office".

H.R. 3944. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 120 West Church Street in Mount Vernon, Georgia, as the "Second Lieutenant Patrick Palmer Calhoun Post Office".

H.R. 4502. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to limit the use of educational requirements or qualifications in evaluating candidates for certain cybersecurity positions in the competitive service, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following resolution:

H. Res. 742. Resolution relative to the death of the Honorable Dianne Goldman Berman Feinstein, a Senator from the State of California

At 6:11 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 4665. An act making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 292. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 24355 Creekside Road in Santa Clarita, California, as the "William L. Reynolds Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 996. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3901 MacArthur Blvd., in New Orleans, Louisiana, as the "Dr. Rudy Lombard Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 2379. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 616 East Main Street in St. Charles, Illinois, as the "Veterans of the Vietnam War Memorial Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 3944. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 120 West Church Street in Mount Vernon, Georgia, as the "Second Lieutenant Patrick Palmer Calhoun Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 4502. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to limit the use of educational requirements or qualifications in evaluating candidates for certain cybersecurity positions in the competitive service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 5692. An act making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes.

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 4665. An act making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. PETERS, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 311. A bill to correct the inequitable denial of enhanced retirement and annuity benefits to certain U.S. Customs and Border Protection Officers (Rept. No. 118-101).

S. 1137. A bill to establish the Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Program, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118-102).

By Mr. PETERS, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, without amendment:

S. 1443. A bill to require an interagency strategy for creating a unified posture on counter-unmanned aircraft systems (C-UAS) capabilities and protections at international borders of the United States (Rept. No. 118-103).

By Mr. PETERS, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1464. A bill to restrict the flow of illicit drugs into the United States, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118-104).

S. 1822. A bill to require U.S. Customs and Border Protection to expand the use of non-intrusive inspection systems at land ports of entry (Rept. No. 118-105).

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. MANCHIN (for himself and Mr. ROUNDS):

S. 3004. A bill to specify control and management of Department of Defense data and to establish the Chief Digital and Artificial Intelligence Officer Governing Council, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

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

S. 3005. A bill to amend the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 to enhance the economic and strategic competitiveness of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MARKEY:

S. 3006. A bill to ensure comprehensive wraparound services for families impacted by substance use disorders, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HAWLEY:

S. 3007. A bill to allow States to authorize State and local law enforcement officers to enforce the provisions of Federal immigration law relating to unlawful entry into the United States and to authorize States along the southern land border to construct barriers on Federal lands to prevent unlawful entry into the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. SMITH (for herself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. WARNER, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. FETTERMAN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. WARREN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. CASEY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. WELCH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. CANTWELL, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 3008. A bill to provide back pay to Federal contractors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

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, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. MCCONNELL, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BRAUN, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BUDD, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. ERNST, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAGERTY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEE, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MORAN, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PETERS, Mr. REED, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr.

RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. VANCE, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. Res. 394. A resolution honoring the life of James L. Buckley, former Senator for the State of New York; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 89

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 89, a bill to provide that Members of Congress may not receive pay after October 1 of any fiscal year in which Congress has not approved a concurrent resolution on the budget and passed the regular appropriations bills.

S. 114

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 114, a bill to amend the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 respecting the scoring of preventive health savings.

S. 219

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 219, a bill to provide that Members of Congress may not receive pay after October 1 of any fiscal year in which Congress has not approved a concurrent resolution on the budget and passed the regular appropriations bills.

S. 260

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 260, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to permit nurse practitioners and physician assistants to satisfy the documentation requirement under the Medicare program for coverage of certain shoes for individuals with diabetes.

S. 265

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 265, a bill to reauthorize the rural emergency medical service training and equipment assistance program, and for other purposes.

S. 414

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 414, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve and to expand eligibility for dependency and indemnity compensation paid to certain survivors of certain veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 549

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 549, a bill to require enforcement against misbranded milk alternatives.

S. 793

At the request of Mr. LUJÁN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 793, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to add physical therapists to the list of providers allowed to utilize locum tenens arrangements under Medicare.

S. 956

At the request of Mr. KELLY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 956, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to improve dependent coverage under the TRICARE Young Adult Program.

S. 1119

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1119, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the maximum age for children eligible for medical care under the CHAMPVA program, and for other purposes.

S. 1183

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1183, a bill to prohibit discrimination on the basis of mental or physical disability in cases of organ transplants.

S. 1274

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) and the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) were added as cosponsors of S. 1274, a bill to permanently exempt payments made from the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Account from sequestration under the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

S. 1384

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1384, a bill to promote and protect from discrimination living organ donors.

S. 1631

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1631, a bill to enhance the authority granted to the Department of Homeland Security and Department of Justice with respect to unmanned aircraft systems and unmanned aircraft, and for other purposes.

S. 1829

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1829, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to persons engaged in the import of petroleum from the Islamic Republic of Iran, and for other purposes.

S. 2082

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2082, a bill to make technical corrections relating to the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act.

S. 2158

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2158, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for disciplinary procedures for supervisors and managers at the Department of Veterans Affairs and to modify the procedures of personnel actions against employees of the Department, and for other purposes.

S. 2372

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2372, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to streamline enrollment under the Medicaid program of certain providers across State lines, and for other purposes.

S. 2379

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 2379, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for certain cognitive impairment detection in the Medicare annual wellness visit and initial preventive physical examination.

S. 2496

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2496, a bill to amend the National Housing Act to include information regarding VA home loans in the Informed Consumer Choice Disclosure required to be provided to prospective FHA borrowers.

S. 2600

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) were added as cosponsors of S. 2600, a bill to establish a grant program to provide amounts to public housing agencies to install automatic sprinkler systems in public housing, and for other purposes.

S. 2626

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2626, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to the Supreme Leader of Iran and the President of Iran and their respective offices for human rights abuses and support for terrorism.

S. 2735

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of 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 ac-

tivities and instruction, such as archery, hunter safety education, or culinary arts.

S. 2757

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2757, a bill to limit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from modifying the rate of payment or reimbursement for transportation of veterans or other individuals via special modes of transportation under the laws administered by the Secretary, and for other purposes.

S. 2767

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2767, a bill to amend title XVI of the Social Security Act to update the resource limit for supplemental security income eligibility.

S. 2781

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2781, a bill to promote remediation of abandoned hardrock mines, and for other purposes.

S. 2797

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2797, a bill to ensure religious freedom and rights of conscience for health care workers and other government employees, and to protect health care workers and other government employees from various forms of compelled speech.

S. 2825

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2825, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the United States Army Dustoff crews of the Vietnam War, collectively, in recognition of their extraordinary heroism and life-saving actions in Vietnam.

S. 2860

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2860, a bill to create protections for financial institutions that provide financial services to State-sanctioned marijuana businesses and service providers for such businesses, and for other purposes.

S. 2880

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2880, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to expand the scope of practitioners eligible for payment for telehealth services under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 2925

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr.

BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2925, a bill to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to set the rate of pay for employees of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection in accordance with the General Schedule.

S. 2967

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2967, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the treatment of moving expenses to employees and new appointees in the intelligence community who move pursuant to a change in assignment that requires relocation, and for other purposes.

S. 2994

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2994, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to support upgrades at existing hydroelectric dams in order to increase clean energy production, improve the resiliency and reliability of the United States electric grid, enhance the health of the Nation's rivers and associated wildlife habitats, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 32

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) were added as cosponsors 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. 38

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 38, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Federal Highway Administration relating to "Waiver of Buy America Requirements for Electric Vehicle Chargers".

S.J. RES. 41

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 41, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and the Executive Officer for Immigration Review relating to "Circumvention of Lawful Pathways".

S. RES. 333

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 333, a resolution des-

ignating 2024 as the Year of Democracy as a time to reflect on the contributions of the system of Government of the United States to a more free and stable world.

S. RES. 387

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 387, a resolution designating October 12, 2023, as "National Loggers Day".

AMENDMENT NO. 1187

At the request of Mr. KELLY, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1187 intended to be proposed to H.R. 4366, a bill making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 394—HONORING THE LIFE OF JAMES L. BUCKLEY, FORMER SENATOR FOR THE STATE OF NEW YORK

Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. MCCONNELL, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BRAUN, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BUDD, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. ERNST, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAGERTY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEE, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MORAN, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PETERS, Mr. REED, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. VANCE, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. YOUNG) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 394

Whereas James L. Buckley—
(1) was born in Manhattan on March 9, 1923; and

(2) attended the Millbrook School in Millbrook, New York, Yale University, and graduated from Yale Law School in 1949;

Whereas James L. Buckley served honorably in the United States Navy during World War II from 1942 through 1946;

Whereas James L. Buckley bravely took part in the invasions of Leyte, Lingayen, and Okinawa, achieving the rank of lieutenant;

Whereas James L. Buckley won a victory before the Supreme Court of the United States as the plaintiff in the landmark First Amendment case *Buckley v. Valeo*, 424 U.S. 1 (1976);

Whereas James L. Buckley was elected to the Senate and served as Senator of New York from January 3, 1971, to January 3, 1977;

Whereas James L. Buckley became the first third-party candidate to secure a seat in the Senate since 1940;

Whereas James L. Buckley led the passage of numerous laws throughout his tenure, including—

(1) section 444 of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1232g, commonly known as the "Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974") that governs the use of student records; and

(2) section 445 of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1232h, commonly known as the "Protection of Pupils' Rights Act"), which requires parent notification, right to review, and consent for the administration of student surveys to minors;

Whereas James L. Buckley expressed his support for a gradual withdrawal from Vietnam and a ban on foreign aid to nations that did not cooperate with the fight of the United States against illegal drugs;

Whereas following his tenure in the Senate, James L. Buckley joined the Reagan administration, first as an Undersecretary of State for Security Assistance, managing military aid to strategically located countries, and then as president of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty in Munich from 1982 to 1985;

Whereas, on October 16, 1985, James L. Buckley was nominated by President Ronald Reagan to a seat on the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit;

Whereas James L. Buckley was confirmed by the Senate on December 17, 1985, and received his commission on December 17, 1985;

Whereas James L. Buckley wrote 4 books throughout his career—

(1) "If Men Were Angels: A View From the Senate" (1975);

(2) a memoir, "Gleanings From an Unplanned Life: An Annotated Oral History" (2006);

(3) "Freedom at Risk: Reflections on Politics, Liberty, and the State" (2010); and

(4) "Saving Congress From Itself: Emancipating the States & Empowering Their People" (2014);

Whereas James L. Buckley celebrated his 100th birthday on March 9, 2023; and

Whereas James L. Buckley is survived by—
(1) 6 children, Priscilla, Peter, Jay, William, David, and Andrew Buckley;

(2) 8 grandchildren; and

(3) 2 great-grandchildren: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the Senate—

(A) has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of James L. Buckley, former member of the Senate; and

(B) directs the Secretary of the Senate to—
(i) communicate this resolution to the House of Representatives; and

(ii) transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the family of James L. Buckley; and

(2) when the Senate adjourns today, it stands adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late James L. Buckley.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. REED. Madam President, I have one request for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. It has the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committee is authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, October 3, 2023, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

CALLING ON THE GOVERNMENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO RELEASE UNITED STATES CITIZEN PAUL WHELAN

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 96, S. Res. 156.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 156) calling on the Government of the Russian Federation to release United States citizen Paul Whelan.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution, which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations with an amendment to strike all after the resolving clause and insert the part printed in italic, and with an amendment to the preamble to strike the preamble and insert the part printed in italic, as follows:

Whereas United States citizen Paul Whelan is a resident of Novi, Michigan, and a veteran of the Marine Corps;

Whereas, on December 22, 2018, Paul Whelan traveled to Moscow, Russia, for the wedding of a personal friend;

Whereas, on December 28, 2018, the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation arrested Paul Whelan at the Metropol Hotel in Moscow and charged him with espionage;

Whereas the Federal Security Service has never provided any evidence of supposed wrongdoing with respect to Paul Whelan;

Whereas Paul Whelan was imprisoned in Lefortovo Prison and was held in pretrial detention at the prison for more than 19 months after his arrest;

Whereas a Moscow court extended Paul Whelan's pretrial detention multiple times without publicly presenting justification or evidence of wrongdoing;

Whereas even Vladimir Zherebenkov, the lawyer appointed by the Federal Security Service to represent Paul Whelan, said on May 24, 2019, "[The Federal Security Service] always roll[s] out what they have, but in this case, we've seen nothing concrete against Whelan in five months. That means there is nothing.";

Whereas then-United States Ambassador to the Russian Federation, Jon Huntsman, re-

sponded on April 12, 2019, to a question about the detention of Paul Whelan, "If the Russians have evidence, they should bring it forward. We have seen nothing. If there was a case, I think the evidence would have been brought forward by now.";

Whereas then-Secretary of State Mike Pompeo met with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on May 14, 2019, and urged him to ensure United States citizens are not unjustly held abroad;

Whereas the Kremlin has refused to provide Paul Whelan with full access to his lawyer, and the so-called evidence against Paul Whelan and any evidence he has seen is in Russian, a language Whelan does not read or speak;

Whereas the Lefortovo pretrial detention facility and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs refused to provide medical treatment for Paul Whelan's medical condition, despite being aware of its worsening state, resulting in emergency surgery on May 29, 2020;

Whereas Paul Whelan was wrongfully convicted on June 15, 2020, and sentenced to 16 years in a Russian labor camp by a three-judge panel, in a trial witnessed by then-United States Ambassador John Sullivan, who referred to the trial as "a mockery of justice" due to the denial of a fair trial and the exclusion of defense witnesses;

Whereas, in August 2020, on an unknown day, Paul Whelan was secretly transferred to camp IK-17, a penal labor camp in Mordovia, Russia, where he is forced to work 6 days a week in a garment factory;

Whereas then-Ambassador John Sullivan, while visiting Paul Whelan in September 2020 at the labor camp in Mordovia, stated that "Russian authorities . . . have never shown the world evidence of his guilt," and reiterated his call for the Russian authorities to correct this injustice and release Paul Whelan;

Whereas Secretary of State Antony Blinken spoke with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on February 4, 2021, and urged him to release United States citizens detained in the Russian Federation, including Paul Whelan and Trevor Reed, so that they are able to return home to their families in the United States;

Whereas, on July 23, 2021, the Senate unanimously passed a bipartisan resolution calling for Whelan's release;

Whereas, in August 2021, Whelan was released from a month-long stay in a solitary confinement at the IK-17 penal colony in the region of Mordovia;

Whereas Secretary Blinken pressed the Kremlin to accept an offer by the United States that would bring Paul Whelan and Brittney Griner home in July 2022;

Whereas, in November 2022, Paul Whelan was unable to contact his family for more than a week, during which time Russian authorities claimed Whelan had been sent to the hospital;

Whereas Russian authorities refused to release Paul Whelan as part of prisoner exchanges for Trevor Reed and Brittney Griner;

Whereas Secretary of State Antony Blinken stated that Whelan's "detention remains unacceptable, and we continue to press for his immediate release at every opportunity"; and

Whereas President Biden stated that his administration had "not forgotten about Paul Whelan," and promised to "keep negotiating in good faith for his release"; Now, therefore, be it Resolved, [That the Senate—

](1) implores the Government of the Russian Federation to immediately release Paul Whelan from imprisonment;

](2) implores the Government of the Russian Federation to comply with international treaty obligations and provide unrestricted consular access to Paul Whelan while he remains imprisoned in the Russian Federation;

](3) calls on the Government of the Russian Federation to provide Paul Whelan and all other political prisoners their constitu-

tionally afforded due process rights and universally recognized human rights;

](4) expresses the sincere thanks of the United States to the Governments of Canada, Ireland and the United Kingdom for their support in attempting to release Paul Whelan; and

](5) expresses sympathy to the family of Paul Whelan for this travesty to justice and personal hardship and expresses hope that their ordeal can soon be brought to a just end.]

That the Senate—

(1) implores the Government of the Russian Federation to immediately release Paul Whelan from imprisonment;

(2) implores the Government of the Russian Federation to comply with international treaty obligations and provide unrestricted consular access to Paul Whelan while he remains imprisoned in the Russian Federation;

(3) calls on the Government of the Russian Federation to provide Paul Whelan and all other political prisoners their constitutionally afforded due process rights; and

(4) expresses sympathy to the family of Paul Whelan for this travesty of justice and personal hardship and expresses hope that Whelan will soon be returned home.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment to the resolution be agreed to; that the resolution, as amended, be agreed to; that the committee-reported amendment to the preamble be agreed to; that the preamble, as amended, be agreed to; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The resolution (S. Res. 156), as amended, was agreed to.

The committee-reported amendment to the preamble was agreed to.

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JAMES L. BUCKLEY, FORMER SENATOR FOR THE STATE OF NEW YORK

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 394, which was 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. 394) honoring the life of James L. Buckley, former Senator for the State of New York.

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

Mr. REED. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, 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 resolution (S. Res. 394) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

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

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY,
OCTOBER 4, 2023

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned under the provisions of S. Res. 394 until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, October 4; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the O'Brien nomination,

postcloture; further, that all postcloture time be considered expired at 11:30 a.m. and that following the cloture vote on the Hurson nomination, the Senate recess until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings; that if cloture is invoked on the Hurson nomination, all time be considered expired at 2:15 p.m.; and that if cloture is invoked on the DeClercq nomination, all time be considered expired at 5:30 p.m.; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Wednesday's session, 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.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.
TOMORROW

Mr. REED. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, as a further mark of respect to the late James L. Buckley, former Senator from New York, the Senate, at 7:12 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, October 4, 2023, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nomination received by the Senate:

OFFICE OF SPECIAL COUNSEL

HAMPTON Y. DELLINGER, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE SPECIAL COUNSEL, OFFICE OF SPECIAL COUNSEL, FOR THE TERM OF FIVE YEARS, VICE HENRY KERNER, TERM EXPIRED.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2023

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present during Roll Call No. 514 and No. 515 on October 2, 2023. Had I been present, I would have voted:

Yes on Roll Call No. 514, and Yes on Roll Call No. 515.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF MRS. DONNA HIGH ADAMS

HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2023

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Donna High Adams. Donna passed away on September 10, 2023, surrounded by family and friends. Having been born in Rockland County, New York, on January 29, 1959, she moved to Columbus, Mississippi in 1975. In 1977, Donna graduated from Heritage Academy and attended the University of Mississippi. She graduated from the Mississippi University for Women in 1982. After graduation in 1982, she married Boyce Elkin Adams of Gulfport. Together they raised three children whom Donna called their "thrilling three." In 1992, her husband, Boyce, founded BankTEL Systems. With the support of Donna, they grew the business into a leading financial software company. Donna will be remembered for her love of others through endless thoughtfulness, generosity, joy of celebrations, and kindness. She was always willing to share her gifts with others through her service. Donna leaves behind a loving family, six adoring grandchildren, and friends who will cherish her legacy. She was an active member of the Junior Auxiliary of Columbus and was involved with Delta Gamma Fraternity. Donna made an impact on everyone she met and made the world a brighter place.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF MARK LOWRY

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2023

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mark Lowry, an exemplary member of the Orange County community, on receiving the Community Action Partnership National Advocacy Award.

The Orange County Community Action Partnership (OCCAP) strives to bring an end to poverty by building strong foundations for people to lean on in difficult times. For the past 37

years Mark Lowry has worked for the Orange County Food Bank, one of the excellent programs within OCCAP.

In the years since Mark became the director of the OC Food Bank, the amount of food distributed has grown exponentially; the quantity of food circulated by the Food Bank has grown from 2 million pounds per year to over 26 million pounds annually.

Under Mark's leadership, the OC Food Bank distributed an astounding 63 million pounds of food over the course of the program's 2020 COVID Disaster Response. Currently, 1,400 individuals and 250 charities throughout the community are recipients of the Food Bank's dedicated services.

Mark has worked in the organization's research team as well as in its leadership. He has worked with elected officials on various levels to improve the standing of agriculture and budget issues as well as access to federal nutrition programs. No matter the role he plays, Mark ensures that the needs of the community are represented.

Mark's desire to do good work and positively impact those in his community is admirable. Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mark on his achievement—the community thanks Mark for his continued dedication.

RECOGNIZING THE JEFFERSON COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS CENTER AUTHORITY OF COLORADO

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2023

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Jefferson County Communications Center Authority of Colorado (JeffCom911) for winning the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO) International's 2023 Technology in Leadership Award.

JeffCom911 is being recognized for its outstanding performance and exemplary levels of professional conduct in the line of duty. 911 call-takers and dispatchers contribute an essential service to our community by providing lifesaving emergency medical instruction, assessing scene safety for arriving responders, and maintaining situational awareness while facing numerous emergencies at one time. JeffCom911 protects 774 square miles of urban, rural, and mountainous terrain by providing public safety education and coordinating efforts between local fire, police, and emergency medical service providers to save lives.

JeffCom911 is the lifeline between emergency services and our community, processing over 700,000 calls every year. The agency's longstanding record of excellence represents the best of Colorado's public service members.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of Colorado's Seventh Congressional District, I

thank JeffCom911 for the important and challenging work they do every day to keep our residents safe.

HONORING MAYOR HAL ROSE FOR HIS SERVICE TO WEST MELBOURNE FLORIDA

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2023

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mayor Hal Rose for his service to residents of West Melbourne, Florida. Mayor Rose has served the people of West Melbourne, Florida for over 23 years.

When Mayor Rose entered office, he promised to encourage sustainable growth for the city of West Melbourne, while keeping the town an affordable place to live. Today, under Hal's leadership, West Melbourne is a thriving and prosperous city with very low property tax rates.

In addition to his many years of public service, Hal served as President of the Space Coast League of Cities, Chairman of the West Melbourne Library Board, and as a Board Member of the Field of Dreams and Promise in Brevard. Mayor Rose also served as a City Council Member for West Melbourne since his election in 2000. Seven years after, he began his service as Mayor of West Melbourne.

After many years of community involvement and leadership, Mayor Rose plans to retire alongside his wife Sue and spend time with their family.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Mayor Hal Rose on his retirement and saluting his passion, dedication, and commitment to the residents of West Melbourne. His decades of selfless service are inspiring to myself, and many others.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON ESTES

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2023

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for the following Roll Call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

Roll Call No. 514, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 2379, To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 616 East Main Street in St. Charles, Illinois, as the "Veterans of the Vietnam War Memorial Post Office", I would have voted YEA.

Roll Call No. 515 On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 4502, Modernizing the Acquisition of Cybersecurity Experts Act, I would have voted YEA.

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

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

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALEXANDER X. MOONEY

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2023

Mr. MOONEY. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 514, and YEA on Roll Call No. 515.

HONORING THE WORK OF LATINO HEALTH ACCESS

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2023

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the work and achievements of Latino Health Access.

Latino Health Access is a non-profit health organization founded with the mission to bring health, equity, and sustainable change to our community through education, services, consciousness-raising, and civic engagement.

Latino Health Access is committed to delivering culturally appropriate health-related services that address urgent health concerns, as well as engaging individuals in low-income, low-opportunity areas by providing the tools necessary to positively transform their environments.

Latino Health Access founder and CEO, America Brancho, MPH, drew from her experience working as a Medical Doctor in rural Venezuela alongside Promotoras, also known as community health workers. She brought that experience with her and established that same Promoter/Community Health Worker model in Orange County, California.

Latino Health Access relies on its team of trained Promotoras to proactively search for community members, strengthen relationships with the community, provide direct services, and advocate for transformative change to improve health. Promotoras engage with the community to combat serious public health problems that affect marginalized families.

This year, Latino Health Access is celebrating its 30th anniversary and the opening of its Promotor Learning Institute, which aims to provide a platform for advancing the Promotor model locally and worldwide via capacity-building, apprenticeships, and research. Through the Promotor Learning Institute, Latino Health Access will be able to grow the Promotor/Community Health Worker workforce in Orange County and continue its mission to reach more communities in the area.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the achievements of Latino Health Access.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2023

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I missed yesterday's vote series due to a family obligation. During that time, I was unable to make Roll Call votes No. 514 and No. 515. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

YEA on Roll Call No. 514—H.R. 2379, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass: To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 616 East Main Street in St. Charles, Illinois, as the "Veterans of the Vietnam War Memorial Post Office"; and

YEA on Roll Call No. 515—H.R. 4502, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended: Modernizing the Acquisition of Cybersecurity Experts Act.

RECOGNIZING MATTHEW LANDERS

HON. MARILYN STRICKLAND

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2023

Ms. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Matthew Landers, an elementary school educator at Pleasant Glade Elementary School in Lacey, Washington who empowers his students to be everyday stewards of our environment.

In response to his students' requests to have more of a hands-on role in confronting our climate crisis, Matthew established several programs to encourage composting and recycling on campus. Thanks to Matthew's programs, over 35,000 pounds of food waste have been saved from landfills and over 1,500 pounds of food have been redistributed. Matthew also spearheaded the school's switch from plastic to biodegradable utensils, signaling to students that seemingly small but practical changes can be high-impact solutions. To amplify student activists' voices, Matthew also helped his students present their ideas to supplement ongoing on-campus conversation efforts to the school board.

I'm inspired by Matthew's initiative to ground his students' awareness of environmental issues in actionable avenues for change, and I'm proud to spotlight him and all of the students of Pleasant Glade who have made Lacey cleaner, greener, and better.

COMMEMORATING BROOKSHIRE'S GROCERY COMPANY'S 95TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. LANCE GOODEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2023

Mr. GOODEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Brookshire's Grocery Company on its 95th anniversary and commemorate its service to the Texas community. In 1928, Wood T. Brookshire and his wife founded their grocery company at a small store in Tyler, Texas. The store began with four employees and has grown to over 200 stores across several other states. To this day, Brookshire's is led by the founder's grandson, Brad Brookshire.

Brookshire's has grown from its humble beginnings into a thriving enterprise known for its philanthropic efforts and dedication to its local community. Brookshire's has consistently led hunger relief efforts across the South, among other important initiatives. I extend my gratitude to Brookshire's not only for its commitment to excellent customer service, but consistently going above and beyond to deliver

the best experience for its customers. I have no doubt Brookshire's stores across Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Oklahoma will continue to prosper and serve as an inspiration for entrepreneurs. Texans certainly look forward to its positive impact on the community for many years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BEN CLINE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2023

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 514, and YEA on Roll Call No. 515.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EMILIA STRONG SYKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2023

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to attend yesterday's vote. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 514, and YEA on Roll Call No. 515.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2023

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I was unexpectedly detained during vote proceedings. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 514, and YEA on Roll Call No. 515.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF DR. NITIN SHAH

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2023

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of Dr. Nitin Shah, a compassionate and dedicated physician whose unwavering commitment to the well-being of his community has had a profound and lasting impact on the lives of thousands of individuals.

Dr. Nitin Shah's journey began in 1975, where he began his rotating medical internship in Vadodara, India before migrating to New York. There, he continued his career as a research fellow—and eventually moved to the City of Anaheim and continued to provide medical care as an anesthesiologist.

In 2006, Dr. Shah's deep sense of empathy and vision for a healthier and more equitable society led him to establish the Anaheim Free Health Clinic and Citizenship Fair, an event that provides free medical, dental, vision, and other health care services to Anaheim residents with the help of countless doctors and volunteers. Recognizing the pressing need for

accessible healthcare in our community, he made it his life's mission to provide quality medical care to those who were underserved and often overlooked.

From humble beginnings, the clinic has developed into a cornerstone of community health, with an impact that extends far beyond

the facility's walls. Countless lives have been changed because of his efforts. Families that could not previously afford crucial health visits now have access to these services. Children get the vaccinations they need to stay healthy, and those with chronic illnesses get the continuing care and assistance they need to man-

age their ailments. His tireless commitment to providing free health care services to those in need exemplifies the values of compassion, selflessness, and service.

Mr. Speaker, I call upon my fellow members of Congress to join me in recognizing the incredible work of Dr. Shah.

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

See Résumé of Congressional Activity.

Senator-designate Laphonza Butler, of California, was administered the oath of office by the Vice President.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S4901–S4920

Measures Introduced: Five bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 3004–3008, and S. Res. 394. **Page S4916**

Measures Reported:

S. 311, to correct the inequitable denial of enhanced retirement and annuity benefits to certain U.S. Customs and Border Protection Officers, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 118–101)

S. 1137, to establish the Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Program, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 118–102)

S. 1443, to require an interagency strategy for creating a unified posture on counter-unmanned aircraft systems (C-UAS) capabilities and protections at international borders of the United States. (S. Rept. No. 118–103)

S. 1464, to restrict the flow of illicit drugs into the United States, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 118–104)

S. 1822, to require U.S. Customs and Border Protection to expand the use of non-intrusive inspection systems at land ports of entry, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 118–105)

Page S4916

Measures Passed:

Paul Whelan: Senate agreed to S. Res. 156, calling on the Government of the Russian Federation to release United States citizen Paul Whelan, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute and the amendment to the preamble.

Page S4919

Honoring the Life of James L. Buckley: Senate agreed to S. Res. 394, honoring the life of James L. Buckley, former Senator for the State of New York.

Pages S4919–20

Swearing In of Senator Butler: The Chair laid before the Senate the certificate of appointment of Senator-designate Laphonza Butler, of the State of California, and the oath of office was then administered as required by the U.S. Constitution and prescribed by law.

Page S4901

Message from the President: Senate received the following message from the President of the United States:

A message from the President of the United States Transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the designation as emergency requirements all funding (including the transfer and repurposing of funds) so designated by the Congress in the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2024 and Other Extensions Act pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as outlined in the enclosed list of accounts received during adjournment of the Senate on September 30, 2023; which was referred to the Committee on the Budget. (PM–24)

Page S4915

O'Brien Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of James C. O'Brien, of Nebraska, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (European and Eurasian Affairs).

Pages S4904–14

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

By 63 yeas to 32 nays (Vote No. EX. 248), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.

Pages S4909–10

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination, post-cloture, at approximately 10 a.m., on Wednesday, October 4, 2023; that all post-cloture time be

considered expired at 11:30 a.m.; that if cloture is invoked on the nomination of Brendan Abell Hurson, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland, all time be considered expired at 2:15 p.m.; and that if cloture is invoked on the nomination of Susan Kim DeClercq, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan, all time be considered expired at 5:30 p.m. **Page S4920**

Nomination Received: Senate received the following nomination:

Hampton Y. Dellinger, of North Carolina, to be Special Counsel, Office of Special Counsel, for the term of five years. **Page S4920**

Messages from the House: **Page S4915**

Measures Referred: **Pages S4915–16**

Measures Placed on the Calendar: **Page S4916**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S4916–18**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S4918–19**

Additional Statements: **Pages S4914–15**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S4919**

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—248) **Pages S4909–10**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 3 p.m. and adjourned, as a further mark of respect to the memory

of the late James L. Buckley, former Senator for the State of New York, in accordance with S. Res. 394, at 7:12 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, October 4, 2023. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S4920.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

SHOP SAFE ACT

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Intellectual Property concluded a hearing to examine back to school with the SHOP SAFE Act, focusing on protecting our families from unsafe online counterfeits, including S. 2934, to amend the Trademark Act of 1946 to provide for contributory liability for certain electronic commerce platforms for use of a counterfeit mark by a third party on such platforms, after receiving testimony from Kari Kammel, Michigan State University Center for Anti-Counterfeiting and Product Protection, East Lansing; Daniel Shapiro, Red Points, Salt Lake City, Utah; and Steve Lamar, American Apparel and Footwear Association, and Matt Schruers, Computer and Communications Industry Association, both of Washington, D.C.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: There were no Public Bills or Resolutions introduced in today's Record.

Additional Cosponsors:

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H. Res. 756, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4394) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4364) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 118–242); and

H.R. 3843, to amend title III of the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize grants to address dental workforce needs (H. Rept. 118–243).

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Chavez-DeRemer to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H4953**

Recess: The House recessed at 11:14 a.m. and reconvened at 12 p.m. **Page H4961**

Recess: The House recessed at 12:58 p.m. and reconvened at 1:30 p.m. **Pages H4967–68**

Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024, Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2024—Rule for Consideration: The House agreed to H. Res. 756, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4394) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4364) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, by a recorded vote of 218 ayes to 208 noes, Roll No. 517, after the previous question

was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 218 yeas to 207 nays, Roll No. 516. **Pages H4962–67, H4968–69**

Question of Privilege: Representative Gaetz rose to a question of the privileges of the House and submitted a resolution. Upon examination of the resolution, the Chair determined that the resolution qualified. Subsequently, the House rejected the Cole motion to table H. Res. 757, declaring the office of Speaker of the House of Representatives to be vacant, by a yea-and-nay vote of 208 yeas to 218 nays, Roll No. 518. The House proceeded with debate on the resolution and after debate agreed to the resolution by a yea-and-nay vote of 216 yeas to 210 nays, Roll No. 519. The Chair announced that the Office of the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives was thereby declared vacant. **Pages H4969–78**

Communication from the Clerk: The Clerk notified the House that the Honorable Patrick T. McHenry is the first name on the letter he received pursuant to clause 8(b)(3)(B) of rule I. **Page H4978**

Speaker pro tempore designation: The Chair announced that pursuant to clause 8(b)(3)(B) of rule I, the Honorable Patrick T. McHenry was designated Speaker pro tempore and the authorities of the Office of Speaker were bestowed upon the Speaker pro tempore to the extent necessary and appropriate until the election of a new Speaker. **Page H4978**

Recess: The House recessed at 4:48 p.m. **Page H4978**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes and one recorded vote developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H4968, H4968–69, H4969–70, and H4977–78.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and recessed at 4:48 p.m.

Committee Meetings

No hearings were held.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D938)

H.R. 5860, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2024. Signed on September 30, 2023. (Public Law 118–15)

S. 475, to designate the clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Gallup, New Mexico, as the Hiroshi “Hershey” Miyamura VA Clinic. Signed on October 2, 2023. (Public Law 118–16)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2023

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Appropriations: to receive a closed briefing on United States assistance to Ukrainian Air Defenses, 10 a.m., SVC–217.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Michael G. Whitaker, of Vermont, to be Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, 10 a.m., SR–253.

Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine CHIPS and science implementation and oversight, 2 p.m., SR–253.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine the BUILD Act reauthorization and Development Finance Corporation oversight, 10 a.m., SD–419.

Subcommittee on East Asia, the Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy, to hold hearings to examine security on the Korean Peninsula, 2:30 p.m., SD–419.

Committee on the Judiciary: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Mustafa Taher Kasubhai, to be United States District Judge for the District of Oregon, John A. Kazen, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas, Shanlyn A.S. Park, and Micah W.J. Smith, both to be a United States District Judge for the District of Hawaii, and Jamel Semper, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey, 10 a.m., SD–226.

House

No hearings are scheduled.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of October 4 through October 6, 2023

Senate Chamber

On *Wednesday*, Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of James C. O'Brien, of Nebraska, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (European and Eurasian Affairs), post-cloture, and vote on confirmation thereon at 11:30 a.m.

Following disposition of the nomination of James C. O'Brien, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Brendan Abell Hurson, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland. If cloture is invoked on the nomination, Senate will vote on confirmation thereon at 2:15 p.m.

Following disposition of the nomination of Brendan Abell Hurson, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Susan Kim DeClercq, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan.

If cloture is invoked on the nomination, Senate will vote on confirmation thereon at 5:30 p.m.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Appropriations: October 4, to receive a closed briefing on United States assistance to Ukrainian Air Defenses, 10 a.m., SVC-217.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: October 4, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Michael G. Whitaker, of Vermont, to be Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, 10 a.m., SR-253.

October 4, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine CHIPS and science implementation and oversight, 2 p.m., SR-253.

Committee on Foreign Relations: October 4, to hold hearings to examine the BUILD Act reauthorization and Development Finance Corporation oversight, 10 a.m., SD-419.

October 4, Subcommittee on East Asia, the Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy, to hold hearings to examine security on the Korean Peninsula, 2:30 p.m., SD-419.

October 5, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Richard H. Riley IV, of California, to be Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Somalia, and Mark Toner, of Pennsylvania, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Liberia, both of the Department of State, David E. White, Jr., of New York, to be Deputy Director of the Peace Corps, and other pending nominations, 10 a.m., SD-419.

Committee on the Judiciary: October 4, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Mustafa Taher Kasubhai, to be United States District Judge for the District of Oregon, John A. Kazen, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas, Shanlyn A.S. Park, and Micah W.J. Smith, both to be a United States District Judge for the District of Hawaii, and Jamel Semper, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey, 10 a.m., SD-226.

Résumé of Congressional Activity

FIRST SESSION OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

The first table gives a comprehensive résumé of all legislative business transacted by the Senate and House.

The second table accounts for all nominations submitted to the Senate by the President for Senate confirmation.

DATA ON LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

January 3 through September 30, 2023

	<i>Senate</i>	<i>House</i>	<i>Total</i>
Days in session	131	134	..
Time in session	590 hrs, 52'	481 hrs, 30'	..
Congressional Record:			
Pages of proceedings	4,899	4,934	..
Extensions of Remarks .....	..	921	..
Public bills enacted into law	34	8	..
Private bills enacted into law .....	..	..	..
Bills in conference .....	..	1	..
Measures passed, total	268	235	503
Senate bills	46	8	..
House bills	11	127	..
Senate joint resolutions	5	3	..
House joint resolutions	7	12	..
Senate concurrent resolutions .....	..	..	..
House concurrent resolutions	6	11	..
Simple resolutions	193	74	..
Measures reported, total	*194	234	428
Senate bills	162	..	..
House bills .....	..	188	..
Senate joint resolutions .....	..	..	..
House joint resolutions .....	..	8	..
Senate concurrent resolutions	2	..	..
House concurrent resolutions .....	..	5	..
Simple resolutions	30	33	..
Special reports	17	2	..
Conference reports .....	..	..	..
Measures pending on calendar	182	118	..
Measures introduced, total	3,459	6,768	10,227
Bills	3,000	5,851	..
Joint resolutions	46	94	..
Concurrent resolutions	20	70	..
Simple resolutions	393	753	..
Quorum calls	2	1	..
Yea-and-nay votes	247	206	..
Recorded votes .....	..	306	..
Bills vetoed	3	5	..
Vetoed overridden .....	..	..	..

DISPOSITION OF EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS

January 3 through September 30, 2023

Civilian nominees, totaling 367, disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	115
Unconfirmed	246
Withdrawn	6
Other Civilian nominees, totaling 1,137, disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	925
Unconfirmed	212
Air Force nominees, totaling 5,732, disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	5,093
Unconfirmed	639
Army nominees, totaling 6,561, disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	6,406
Unconfirmed	155
Navy nominees, totaling 4,989, disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	4,897
Unconfirmed	92
Marine Corps nominees, totaling 1,102, disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	1,084
Unconfirmed	18
Space Force nominees, totaling 414, disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	399
Unconfirmed	15
<i>Summary</i>	
Total nominees carried over from the First Session	0
Total nominees received this Session	20,302
Total confirmed	18,919
Total unconfirmed	1,377
Total withdrawn	6
Total returned to the White House	0

*These figures include all measures reported, even if there was no accompanying report. A total of 100 written reports have been filed in the Senate, 236 reports have been filed in the House.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Wednesday, October 4

Senate Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of James C. O'Brien, of Nebraska, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (European and Eurasian Affairs), post-cloture, and vote on confirmation thereon at 11:30 a.m.

Following disposition of the nomination of James C. O'Brien, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Brendan Abell Hurson, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland. If cloture is invoked on the nomination, Senate will vote on confirmation thereon at 2:15 p.m.

Following disposition of the nomination of Brendan Abell Hurson, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Susan Kim DeClercq, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan. If cloture is invoked on the nomination, Senate will vote on confirmation thereon at 5:30 p.m.

(Senate will recess following the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Brendan Abell Hurson, until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Wednesday, October 4

House Chamber

Program for Wednesday: To be announced.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

Bergman, Jack, Mich., E928
Cline, Ben, Va., E928
Correa, J. Luis, Calif., E927, E928, E928

Eshoo, Anna G., Calif., E927
Estes, Ron, Kans., E927
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Pettersen, Brittany, Colo., E927
Posey, Bill, Fla., E927
Ruppersberger, C.A. Dutch, Md., E928
Strickland, Marilyn, Wash., E928
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