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No. 209

House of Representatives

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SMITH of Nebraska).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 19, 2023.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ADRIAN SMITH to act as Speaker pro tempore of this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

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

Holy God, we pray to You often for discernment, for the ability to see what we are to do in a day, to understand what we are to do when faced with decisions and discover how we are to do what You call us to do when the path isn't clear.

And the answer You give us is so simple. You call us to do one thing before You grant us the insight we yearn for. You call us to love and to allow our love for You to increase more and more. The answer, You say, to all our doubts and fears, uncertainty and anxiety, is love.

Open our hearts, our minds, and our wills that we would grow in our ability to discover and then live into the love You first give us and come to trust Your divine will for our lives, even when we cannot see what that is. And in receiving Your love, may our love for others abound. In this may we grow in knowledge and discernment of Your gracious plan for us and for all creation.

Loving God, we yield ourselves to You and to Your design for us this day.

May we receive the true vision that comes when we seek to see through Your eyes.

In the love that is found there and then shared when we pray in Your name, may we discover the joy that is found in You.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(z) of House Resolution 5, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

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

RESIGNATION FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 15, 2023.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I hereby submit my resignation, effective on December 31, 2023, as United States Representative of the 20th District of California. Attached is the letter I submitted to the Governor of California. It has been the honor of a lifetime to represent the great people and communities of Kern, San Luis Obispo, Los Angeles, Tulare, Fresno, and Kings counties over the past 17 years, and especially my hometown of Ba-

kersfield and the Central Valley of the great state of California.

Sincerely,

KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Member of Congress.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 15, 2023.

Hon. GAVIN NEWSOM,
Governor, State of California,
Sacramento, CA.

DEAR MR. GOVERNOR: I write to inform you that I will resign my seat in the United States House of Representatives, effective on December 31, 2023, as United States Representative of the 20th District of California. It has been the honor of a lifetime to represent the great people and communities of Kern, San Luis Obispo, Los Angeles, Tulare, Fresno, and Kings counties over the past 17 years, and especially my hometown of Bakersfield and the Central Valley of our great state of California. I have great confidence that you will schedule a special election forthwith to ensure that our constituents in the 20th District of California will have their voices heard in the People's House as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Member of Congress.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 18, 2023.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on December 18, 2023, at 3:13 p.m.

That the Senate passed S. 195.
That the Senate passed S. 382.
That the Senate passed S. 474.
That the Senate passed S. 2228.

☐ 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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H6995

That the Senate passed S. 3553.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 3315.

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H.J. Res. 62.

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H.J. Res. 63.

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H.J. Res. 64.

Appointment:

United States—China Economic and Security Review Commission

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Acting Clerk.

ENROLLED BILL AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS SIGNED

Kevin F. McCumber, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly an enrolled bill and joint resolutions of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 3315. An Act to exempt for an additional 4-year period, from the application of the means-test presumption of abuse under chapter 7, qualifying members of reserve components of the Armed Forces and members of the National Guard who, after September 11, 2001, are called to active duty or to perform a homeland defense activity for not less than 90 days.

H.J. Res. 62. Joint Resolution providing for the reappointment of Michael Govan as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

H.J. Res. 63. Joint Resolution providing for the reappointment of Antoinette Bush as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

H.J. Res. 64. Joint Resolution providing for the reappointment of Roger W. Ferguson as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(z) of House Resolution 5, the House stands adjourned until 9 a.m. on Friday, December 22, 2023.

Thereupon (at 2 o'clock and 12 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Friday, December 22, 2023, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

EC-2577. A letter from the President of the United States, transmitting notification that the National Emergency with respect to serious human rights abuse and corruption in Executive Order 13818 of December 20, 2017, is to continue in effect beyond December 20, 2023, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1622(d); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 202(d); (90 Stat. 1257) (H. Doc. No. 118-90); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

EC-2578. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 22-079 Certification of Proposed Issuance of an Export License Pursuant to Sec 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-2579. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, De-

partment of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 23-060 Certification of Proposed Issuance of an Export License Pursuant to Sec 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-2580. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 23-054 Certification of Proposed Issuance of an Export License Pursuant to Sec 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-2581. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 23-057 Certification of Proposed Issuance of an Export License Pursuant to Sec 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-2582. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 23-047 Certification of Proposed Issuance of an Export License Pursuant to Sec 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-2583. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 23-044 Certification of Proposed Issuance of an Export License Pursuant to Sec 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-2584. A letter from the Adjutant General, Veterans Of Foreign Wars, transmitting the proceedings of the 123rd National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, held in Kansas City, Missouri, July 16-21, 2023, pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 1332; Public Law 90-620, Oct. 22, 1968 (as amended by Public Law 105-225, Sec. 3); (112 Stat. 1498) (H. Doc. No. 118-91); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and ordered to be printed.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee: Committee on Homeland Security. H.R. 1516. A bill to establish Department of Homeland Security funding restrictions on institutions of higher education that have a relationship with Confucius Institutes, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-319). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee: Committee on Homeland Security. H.R. 4403. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to make improvements to the Securing the Cities program, and for other purposes (Rept. 118-320). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee: Committee on Homeland Security. H.R. 6174. A bill to improve the biodetection functions of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes (Rept. 118-321). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee: Committee on Homeland Security. H.R. 6231. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require a prioritized policy issuance review process for the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes (Rept. 118-322). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. MCHENRY: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 4811. A bill to prohibit Federal agencies from restricting the use of convert-

ible virtual currency by a person to purchase goods or services for the person's own use, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-323). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. MCHENRY: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 4767. A bill to make revisions to the Federal securities laws with respect to shareholder proposals, proxy voting, and the registration of proxy advisory firms, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-324). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. MCHENRY: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 4823. A bill to provide enhanced reporting requirements for Federal banking regulators, to amend the Federal Reserve Act to remove the designation of Vice Chairman for Supervision of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-325). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. MCHENRY: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 4655. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to prohibit the Securities and Exchange Commission from compelling the inclusion or discussion of shareholder proposals or proxy consent solicitation materials, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-326). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. MCHENRY: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 4768. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to instruct the United States Executive Directors at the international financial institutions to advocate for investment in projects that decrease reliance on Russia for agricultural commodities, with an amendment (Rept. 118-327). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. MCHENRY: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 4765. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to carry out a study on Chinese support for Afghan illicit finance, and for other purposes, with an amendment (Rept. 118-328). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. MCHENRY: Committee on Financial Services H.R. 6367. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Treasury to instruct the United States Executive Director at each international financial institution to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States to provide financial assistance to countries that receive an influx of civilian, non-combatant displaced persons stemming from the armed conflict that has resulted from Hamas's October 2023 terrorism in Israel, to be used for humanitarian aid for the displaced persons, with an amendment (Rept. 118-329). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. MCHENRY: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 6365. A bill to protect against illicit oil shipments, and for other purposes, with an amendment (Rept. 118-330). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 6408. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to terminate the tax-exempt status of terrorist supporting organizations, with an amendment (Rept. 118-331). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. MCHENRY: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 5921. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of the Treasury from authorizing certain transactions by a United States financial institution in connection with Iran, to prevent the International Monetary Fund from providing financial assistance to Iran, to codify prohibitions on Export-Import Bank financing for the Government of Iran, and for other purposes, with an amendment

(Rept. 118-332). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. MCHENRY: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 5923. A bill to impose restrictions on correspondent and payable-through accounts in the United States with respect to Chinese financial institutions that conduct transactions involving the purchase of petroleum or petroleum products from Iran, with an amendment (Rept. 118-333). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. MCHENRY: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 6245. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to report on financial institutions' involvement with officials of the Iranian Government, and for other purposes, with an amendment (Rept. 118-334). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri: Committee on Ways and Means. Submission to the U.S. House of Representatives of Documents Protected Under Internal Revenue Code Section 6103 (Rept. 118-335). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. CLINE:

H.R. 6847. A bill to impose limitations on the amount of indirect costs allowable under Federal research awards to institutions of higher education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. CRENSHAW:

H.R. 6848. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to prohibit institutions of higher education from requiring ideological oaths or similar statements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. CRENSHAW:

H.R. 6849. A bill to prohibit the establishment of a Civilian Climate Corps, American Climate Corps, or any similar program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. DESAULNIER (for himself, Ms. NORTON, and Ms. TITUS):

H.R. 6850. A bill to improve technology and address human factors in aviation safety, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. EDWARDS (for himself and Mr. NORMAN):

H.R. 6851. A bill to prohibit certain funding to sanctuary jurisdictions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ESPAILLAT:

H.R. 6852. A bill to designate Holcombe Rucker Park, in Harlem, New York, as a National Commemorative Site, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. FEENSTRA (for himself, Mr. DUNN of Florida, Mr. LATURNER, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. GUEST, Mr. BACON, Ms.

FOXX, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. YAKYM, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mrs. BICE, Ms. HAGEMAN, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. CAREY, and Mr. CARTER of Texas):

H.R. 6853. A bill to amend the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 to require the Congressional Budget Office to provide to Congress information on payments from the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Disability Insurance Trust Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mrs. FISCHBACH (for herself, Mr. LAMALFA, and Mr. THOMPSON of California):

H.R. 6854. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish 2 grant programs to sustain populations of species of migratory waterfowl through the deployment of tools and practices that complement habitat conservation; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. GALLAGHER:

H.R. 6855. A bill to ensure timely bills for patients; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GALLAGHER:

H.R. 6856. A bill to reform prescription drug pricing and reduce out-of-pocket costs by ensuring consumers benefit from negotiated rebates; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GALLAGHER:

H.R. 6857. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modernize health savings accounts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GALLEGRO (for himself and Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana):

H.R. 6858. A bill to amend the Social Security Act to limit the recovery of overpayments under titles II and XVI to a ten-year period; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE:

H.R. 6859. A bill to extend the Federal recognition to the Gabrielino/Tongva Nation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania (for himself, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. DUNN of Florida, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, and Mr. RUIZ):

H.R. 6860. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to clarify and preserve the breadth of the protections under the Medicare Secondary Payer Act; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KILEY:

H.R. 6861. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a refundable credit against tax for wildfire mitigation expenditures; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LAMBORN (for himself, Mr. MOORE of Utah, and Mr. NEWHOUSE):

H.R. 6862. A bill to amend the FAST Act to include certain mineral production activities as a covered project, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. LAWLER:

H.R. 6863. A bill to provide that members of the Armed Forces, firefighters, and law enforcement officers shall be eligible for the Good Neighbor Next Door Sales Program of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. LAWLER:

H.R. 6864. A bill to amend the Department of Housing and Urban Development Act to require the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to testify on an annual basis before the Congress; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. LEE of California:

H.R. 6865. A bill to provide for additional sanctions and other measures relating to Iran, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 6866. A bill to amend the District of Columbia Home Rule Act to permit the District of Columbia to establish the timing of special elections for local office in the District of Columbia; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. NUNN of Iowa (for himself and Ms. SPANBERGER):

H.R. 6867. A bill to create an Office of Conservation Innovation within the Natural Resources Conservation Service; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. NUNN of Iowa (for himself and Ms. CARAVEO):

H.R. 6868. A bill to require the Attorney General to conduct a review and submit a report to the Congress on grant and other assistance programs of the Department of Justice to support victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. OBERNOLTE (for himself and Mr. AGUILAR):

H.R. 6869. A bill to withdraw certain land within the San Bernardino National Forest in California from location, entry, and patent under mining laws, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. OGLES (for himself, Mr. TIFANY, Mr. CLYDE, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mr. DUNN of Florida, Mr. SELF, Mr. NORMAN, Ms. BOEBERT, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. MCCORMICK, and Mr. MOONEY):

H.R. 6870. A bill to amend the Equal Credit Opportunity Act to clarify creditor's rights and remedies with respect to the consideration of immigration status with respect to the extension of credit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. PORTER (for herself and Mr. BILIRAKIS):

H.R. 6871. A bill to require the Secretary of Transportation, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy, to establish a grant program to demonstrate the performance and reliability of heavy-duty fuel cell vehicles that use hydrogen as a fuel source, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Ms. PORTER (for herself and Mr. BILIRAKIS):

H.R. 6872. A bill to require the Secretary of Energy to establish a grant program to support hydrogen-fueled equipment at ports and to conduct a study with the Secretary of Transportation and the Secretary of Homeland Security on the feasibility and safety of using hydrogen-derived fuels, including ammonia, as a shipping fuel; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. RESCHENTHALER (for himself, Mr. KILMER, and Mr. VAN ORDEN):

H.R. 6873. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to include information relating to the rate of suicide among covered Reserves in each National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report of the Office Mental Health and Suicide Prevention of the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. ROSENDALE (for himself and Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas):

H.R. 6874. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to implement a system or process to actively monitor the veteran self-service and data transmission functions of the main internet website of the Department of Veterans Affairs for certain adverse events, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. SALAZAR (for herself and Mr. KIM of New Jersey):

H.R. 6875. A bill to amend the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act to make Uruguay eligible for designation as a beneficiary country under that Act, to include Uruguay in the list of foreign states whose nationals are eligible for admission into the United States as E1 and E2 nonimmigrants if nationals of the United States are treated similarly by the Government of Uruguay, and to require a report on the eligibility of Uruguay for the visa waiver program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. SLOTKIN (for herself, Mr. LUTTRELL, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS):

H.R. 6876. A bill to require a pilot program on the participation of third-party logistics providers in the Customs Trade Partnership Against Terrorism, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Ms. SPANBERGER (for herself and Mr. NUNN of Iowa):

H.R. 6877. A bill to amend section 1242 of the Food Security Act of 1985 to enhance and update conservation practice standards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mrs. SPARTZ:

H.R. 6878. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to exempt nonroad engines and vehicles that are used for agricultural purposes from the emission standards of that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. SPARTZ:

H.R. 6879. A bill to amend title 17, United States Code, to provide for the diagnosis, maintenance, and repair of certain digital electronic agricultural equipment; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TIFFANY (for himself and Ms. KUSTER):

H.R. 6880. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to award grants to promote the domestic hardwood industry, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia (for herself, Mr. ALLRED, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. NORTON, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. SCHOLTEN, Ms. TLAI, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. TITUS, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. COSTA, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. OMAR, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. EVANS, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. SEWELL, and Ms. JACKSON LEE):

H. Con. Res. 81. Concurrent resolution recognizing international days of peace, coexistence, and cooperation; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. ESPAILLAT:

H. Res. 940. A resolution recognizing the week of December 25, 2023, as the "Week of the Fight Against Black Slavery in the Americas"; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mrs. MILLER of Illinois (for herself, Mr. PFLUGER, and Mrs. HARSHBARGER):

H. Res. 941. A resolution condemning the final agreement at the United Nations Climate Change Conference that encourages "transitioning away from fossil fuels"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. RAMIREZ (for herself, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, and Ms. JACOBS):

H. Res. 942. A resolution honoring Wade Alfayoumi, a 6-year-old Palestinian boy, murdered as a victim of a hate crime for his Palestinian Muslim identity, in the State of Illinois, United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ (for herself, Mr. CASAR, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, and Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois):

H. Res. 943. A resolution calling for the annulment of the Monroe Doctrine and the development of a "New Good Neighbor" policy in order to foster improved relations and deeper, more effective cooperation between the United States and our Latin American and Caribbean neighbors; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY AND SINGLE SUBJECT STATEMENTS

Pursuant to clause 7(c)(1) of rule XII and Section 3(c) of H. Res. 5 the following statements are submitted regarding (1) the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution and (2) the single subject of the bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. CLINE:

H.R. 6847.

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

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill prohibits federal agencies from paying an indirect rate that is higher than the lowest rate paid to private organizations and requires reports on the indirect costs being awarded to provide more transparency to the process of federal grant making.

By Mr. CRENSHAW:

H.R. 6848.

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

Section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to prohibit institutions of higher education from requiring ideological oaths or similar statements, and for other purposes.

By Mr. CRENSHAW:

H.R. 6849.

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

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To prohibit the establishment of a Civilian Climate Corps, American Climate Corps, or any similar program, and for other purposes.

By Mr. DESAULNIER:

H.R. 6850.

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

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To improve technology and address human factors in aviation safety, and for other purposes.

By Mr. EDWARDS:

H.R. 6851.

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

Article I, Section 9, Clause 7

"No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time."

The single subject of this legislation is:

Prevents federal funds from being used for receiving migrants in a sanctuary city.

By Mr. ESPAILLAT:

H.R. 6852.

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

section 5 of Amendment XIV to the Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is: To designate Holcombe Rucker Park, in Harlem, New York, as a National Commemorative Site.

By Mr. FEENSTRA:

H.R. 6853.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the US Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Amends the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 to require the Congressional Budget Office to provide to Congress information on payments from the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Disability Insurance Trust Fund

By Mrs. FISCHBACH:

H.R. 6854.

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

Article I Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To enhance waterfowl habitat.

By Mr. GALLAGHER:

H.R. 6855.

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

The Interstate Commerce Clause: Clause 3 of Section 8 of Article I.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Patient medical bills

By Mr. GALLAGHER:

H.R. 6856.

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

The Interstate Commerce Clause: Clause 3 of Section 8 of Article I.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Pharmacy Benefit Managers

By Mr. GALLAGHER:

H.R. 6857.

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

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Taxation and health savings accounts

By Mr. GALLEGO:

H.R. 6858.

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

Article I Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Social Security

By Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE:

H.R. 6859.

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

This bill is introduced pursuant to the powers granted to Congress under the General Welfare Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl.1), the Commerce Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl. 3), and the Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. 1 Sec.8Cl. 18). Further, this statement of constitutional authority is made for the sole purpose of compliance with clause 7 of Rule XII of the Rules of the House of

The single subject of this legislation is:

to federally recognize the Gabrielino/Tongva Nation.

By Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 6860.

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

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

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill would restore the Medicare Secondary Payer Act's protections for End Stage Renal Disease patients by ensuring that private health plans do not discriminate against such patients or adversely classify dialysis as compared to other covered medical services.

By Mr. KILEY:

H.R. 6861.

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

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a refundable credit against tax for wildfire mitigation expenditures

By Mr. LAMBORN:

H.R. 6862.

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

Article I Section VIII of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Amending the FAST Act to include mineral production

By Mr. LAWLER:

H.R. 6863.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Housing

By Mr. LAWLER:

H.R. 6864.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Housing

By Ms. LEE of California:

H.R. 6865.

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

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To update and refine US policy to better support the human rights of the people of Iran.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 6866.

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

clause 17 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill would give the District of Columbia complete authority to set the date of special elections for local offices.

By Mr. NUNN of Iowa:

H.R. 6867.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To create an Office of Conservation Innovation within the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

By Mr. NUNN of Iowa:

H.R. 6868.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To require the Attorney General to conduct a review and submit a report to the Congress on grant and other assistance programs of the Department of Justice to support victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking.

By Mr. OBERNOLTE:

H.R. 6869.

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

the power granted under Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

related to Natural Resources and Federal lands.

By Mr. OGLES:

H.R. 6870.

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

Article I, Section VIII of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To ensure that financial institutions may consider an individuals immigration status when opening credit products and accounts

By Ms. PORTER:

H.R. 6871.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

To require the Secretary of Transportation, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy, to establish a grant program to demonstrate the performance and reliability of heavy-duty fuel cell vehicles that use hydrogen as a fuel source, and for other purposes.

By Ms. PORTER:

H.R. 6872.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

To require the Secretary of Energy to establish a grant program to support hydrogen-fueled equipment at ports and to conduct a study with the Secretary of Transportation and the Secretary of Homeland Security on the feasibility and safety of using hydrogen-derived fuels, including ammonia, as a shipping fuel.

By Mr. RESCENTIALER:

H.R. 6873.

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

Article 1 Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to include information relating to the rate of

suicide among covered Reserves in each National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report of the Office Mental Health and Suicide Prevention of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

By Mr. ROSENDALE:

H.R. 6874.

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

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

The legislation directs the Secretary of the VA to implement a system to monitor the functions of the VA website for any adverse events.

By Ms. SALAZAR:

H.R. 6875.

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

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Uruguay Trade

By Ms. SLOTKIN:

H.R. 6876.

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

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill requires the Department of Homeland Security to carry out a pilot program that assesses whether allowing certain entities to participate in the Customs Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (CTPAT) would enhance port security, combat terrorism, prevent supply chain security breaches, or otherwise satisfy the goals of CTPAT.

By Ms. SPANBERGER:

H.R. 6877.

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

U.S. Constitution, Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

A bill to streamline U.S. Department of Agriculture approval of conservation practice standards.

By Mrs. SPARTZ:

H.R. 6878.

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

Article I Section 8 of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Clean Air Act to exempt nonroad engines and vehicles that are used for agricultural purposes from the emission standards of that Act

By Mrs. SPARTZ:

H.R. 6879.

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

Article I Section 8 of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend title 17, United States Code, to provide for the diagnosis, maintenance, and repair of certain digital electronic agricultural equipment.

By Mr. TIFFANY:

H.R. 6880.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to award grants to research and promote the domestic hardwood industry.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

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

- H.R. 7: Mrs. CAMMACK, Mr. BUCK, and Mr. HERN.
- H.R. 39: Mr. TRONE.
- H.R. 40: Mr. SOTO.
- H.R. 132: Ms. SLOTKIN.
- H.R. 190: Mr. POSEY.
- H.R. 371: Mr. ARINGTON.
- H.R. 410: Mr. GALLAGHER.
- H.R. 427: Mr. BRECHEEN, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. PENCE, Mr. BEAN of Florida, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. MOONEY, Mr. ESTES, Mrs. CAMMACK, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. MOORE of Utah, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. EZELL, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, and Mr. HERN.
- H.R. 431: Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota.
- H.R. 522: Mr. MURPHY.
- H.R. 531: Mr. SMUCKER.
- H.R. 537: Mr. BURCHETT and Mr. SESSIONS.
- H.R. 561: Ms. WATERS.
- H.R. 618: Mr. VEASEY, Mr. CARSON, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. PHILLIPS, and Mr. VARGAS.
- H.R. 619: Mr. ALLRED.
- H.R. 767: Mr. COHEN.
- H.R. 865: Mr. KIM of New Jersey.
- H.R. 895: Mr. PFLUGER, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California, and Mr. OBERNOLTE.
- H.R. 913: Mr. MOLINARO, Mr. LIEU, Mr. RYAN, and Mr. NADLER.
- H.R. 953: Ms. BROWN and Mr. PANETTA.
- H.R. 1044: Mr. BUCHANAN.
- H.R. 1118: Mr. AGUILAR and Mr. IVEY.
- H.R. 1191: Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. COURTNEY, and Ms. WATERS.
- H.R. 1259: Mr. COHEN.
- H.R. 1277: Mr. MOLINARO.
- H.R. 1293: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
- H.R. 1358: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
- H.R. 1491: Mr. MOLINARO.
- H.R. 1565: Mr. BERGMAN.
- H.R. 1586: Ms. MALOY.
- H.R. 1610: Mr. MOORE of Utah, Mr. ARRINGTON, and Mr. FITZGERALD.
- H.R. 1624: Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas.
- H.R. 1634: Ms. ROSS and Mr. SCHNEIDER.
- H.R. 1705: Mr. MULLIN.
- H.R. 1721: Mr. PAPPAS.
- H.R. 1757: Mr. KIM of New Jersey.
- H.R. 1770: Mr. LATURNER.
- H.R. 1776: Mr. DELUZZIO and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
- H.R. 1818: Mr. BUCHANAN.
- H.R. 1831: Mr. ROUZER and Mr. MILLER of Ohio.
- H.R. 1833: Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, and Ms. DELBENE.
- H.R. 2412: Mrs. HAYES.
- H.R. 2573: Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. TRONE, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
- H.R. 2591: Ms. HOYLE of Oregon.
- H.R. 2602: Mr. MOLINARO.
- H.R. 2685: Ms. MALOY.
- H.R. 2693: Mr. THOMPSON of California.
- H.R. 2726: Mr. GARBARINO.
- H.R. 2742: Mr. NICKEL.
- H.R. 2768: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS.
- H.R. 2807: Mr. CASTEN.
- H.R. 2870: Mr. SMITH of Washington and Mr. GRIJALVA.
- H.R. 2871: Mr. GOTTHEIMER and Mr. RYAN.
- H.R. 2894: Mr. MOLINARO.
- H.R. 2915: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.
- H.R. 2923: Ms. BROWNLEY and Ms. KELLY of Illinois.
- H.R. 2941: Mr. CONNOLLY and Mr. LUETKEMEYER.
- H.R. 2962: Ms. MALOY.
- H.R. 3031: Ms. SALINAS.
- H.R. 3036: Ms. BONAMICI.
- H.R. 3049: Ms. MALOY.
- H.R. 3058: Mr. MOLINARO.
- H.R. 3090: Ms. MCCLELLAN.
- H.R. 3170: Mr. HORSFORD and Mrs. TRAHAN.
- H.R. 3186: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS.
- H.R. 3227: Mrs. FISCHBACH.
- H.R. 3228: Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina.
- H.R. 3312: Ms. DELBENE.
- H.R. 3359: Mr. STANTON.
- H.R. 3397: Ms. MALOY.
- H.R. 3433: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
- H.R. 3435: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania and Ms. SCHOLTEN.
- H.R. 3475: Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, and Ms. UNDERWOOD.
- H.R. 3539: Ms. UNDERWOOD.
- H.R. 3576: Mr. LAWLER and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
- H.R. 3639: Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina.
- H.R. 3722: Mr. GALLAGHER.
- H.R. 3730: Mr. BARR.
- H.R. 3781: Mr. LYNCH.
- H.R. 3804: Ms. SLOTKIN.
- H.R. 3851: Mr. MOULTON.
- H.R. 3862: Mr. MOLINARO.
- H.R. 3894: Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. CONNOLLY, and Ms. MALLIOTAKIS.
- H.R. 4079: Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina.
- H.R. 4094: Ms. MALOY.
- H.R. 4138: Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana.
- H.R. 4149: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
- H.R. 4227: Mr. GROTHMAN.
- H.R. 4274: Mr. SOTO, Ms. DEGETTE, and Mr. KEATING.
- H.R. 4293: Mr. KELLY of Mississippi and Ms. MALLIOTAKIS.
- H.R. 4335: Ms. KELLY of Illinois.
- H.R. 4384: Mr. MOLINARO.
- H.R. 4393: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
- H.R. 4439: Ms. OMAR.
- H.R. 4565: Mr. RESCHENTHALER.
- H.R. 4581: Ms. KUSTER.
- H.R. 4586: Mr. PAPPAS.
- H.R. 4612: Mr. FOSTER.
- H.R. 4646: Ms. PEREZ.
- H.R. 4682: Mr. BAIRD.
- H.R. 4704: Mr. MOLINARO.
- H.R. 4765: Mr. MOLINARO.
- H.R. 4769: Ms. BALINT, Mr. NEGUSE, and Ms. UNDERWOOD.
- H.R. 4904: Mr. ROUZER.
- H.R. 4937: Mr. MOLINARO.
- H.R. 4970: Mr. DESAULNIER.
- H.R. 5025: Ms. PORTER.
- H.R. 5027: Mr. BUCHANAN.
- H.R. 5041: Mr. SOTO, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. MCCLELLAN, and Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas.
- H.R. 5066: Mr. MOLINARO.
- H.R. 5074: Mr. ARRINGTON.
- H.R. 5102: Mr. COHEN.
- H.R. 5141: Mr. MOLINARO.
- H.R. 5145: Mr. DESAULNIER.
- H.R. 5150: Mr. MOLINARO.
- H.R. 5153: Mr. MOLINARO.
- H.R. 5155: Mr. SWALWELL.
- H.R. 5284: Ms. CARAVEO.
- H.R. 5302: Mr. CORREA.
- H.R. 5344: Mr. KILMER.
- H.R. 5399: Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. EVANS, and Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.
- H.R. 5403: Mr. NEHLS.
- H.R. 5456: Mr. RYAN.
- H.R. 5476: Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania.
- H.R. 5526: Mr. SCHNEIDER and Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina.
- H.R. 5545: Mr. MOLINARO.
- H.R. 5561: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.
- H.R. 5568: Ms. DELBENE.
- H.R. 5577: Mr. BURGESS, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, and Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana.
- H.R. 5611: Mr. PAPPAS.
- H.R. 5633: Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina.
- H.R. 5641: Mrs. RODGERS of Washington.
- H.R. 5669: Mr. MOLINARO.
- H.R. 5685: Mr. HUFFMAN and Mr. RUIZ.
- H.R. 5704: Mr. MOLINARO.
- H.R. 5710: Ms. SCHOLTEN.
- H.R. 5778: Mr. LAHOOD and Mr. CROW.
- H.R. 5796: Mr. BOST, Mr. CAREY, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. FEENSTRA, and Mr. KUSTOFF.
- H.R. 5804: Mr. MOLINARO.
- H.R. 5837: Mr. SHERMAN.
- H.R. 5928: Mr. CARBAJAL.
- H.R. 5967: Mr. BAIRD.
- H.R. 5995: Ms. BARRAGAN, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, and Mr. DOGGETT.
- H.R. 6012: Mr. MOLINARO.
- H.R. 6031: Mr. VASQUEZ.
- H.R. 6041: Mr. LAWLER.
- H.R. 6049: Mr. LEVIN and Mr. GRIJALVA.
- H.R. 6106: Mr. MOLINARO.
- H.R. 6132: Mr. WENSTRUP.
- H.R. 6156: Mr. MOLINARO and Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
- H.R. 6159: Ms. SEWELL.
- H.R. 6160: Mr. PAPPAS.
- H.R. 6175: Mr. ROUZER.
- H.R. 6179: Mr. MOLINARO.
- H.R. 6203: Ms. SCHRIER.
- H.R. 6226: Mr. MOLINARO.
- H.R. 6227: Mr. MOORE of Utah, Mrs. FLETCHER, Ms. LEE of Nevada, and Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.
- H.R. 6248: Mr. ALLRED.
- H.R. 6280: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.
- H.R. 6349: Mr. TURNER.
- H.R. 6388: Mr. PAPPAS.
- H.R. 6396: Ms. MALOY.
- H.R. 6407: Mr. POCAN, Mr. CASTEN, Ms. BARRAGAN, and Mr. BLUMENAUER.
- H.R. 6408: Mr. DIAZ-BALART and Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
- H.R. 6415: Ms. SCHOLTEN, Mr. DELUZZIO, and Mr. PHILLIPS.
- H.R. 6433: Mr. KIM of New Jersey.
- H.R. 6438: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York and Mr. MOLINARO.
- H.R. 6457: Mrs. FOUSHEE.
- H.R. 6470: Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. LAWLER, Ms. JAYAPAL, and Mr. KILDEE.
- H.R. 6504: Mr. ROY and Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas.
- H.R. 6516: Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. RUIZ, and Ms. PORTER.
- H.R. 6542: Mr. MCCAUL and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
- H.R. 6585: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. ALLRED, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. SABLAN, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. COURTNEY.
- H.R. 6592: Mr. CONNOLLY and Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
- H.R. 6652: Ms. BALINT.
- H.R. 6674: Mr. GRIJALVA.
- H.R. 6683: Mr. EZELL, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mrs. HINSON, and Mr. LAHOOD.
- H.R. 6687: Mr. ESTES.
- H.R. 6727: Mr. LAWLER, Mr. LATURNER, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mrs. KIM of California, Ms. TITUS, and Mr. LIEU.
- H.R. 6747: Ms. CHU.
- H.R. 6761: Ms. CHU.
- H.R. 6762: Mr. MURPHY.
- H.R. 6763: Mr. PAPPAS.
- H.R. 6782: Mr. COLLINS and Mr. WEBER of Texas.
- H.R. 6789: Mr. LAWLER.
- H.R. 6795: Mr. LAMALFA and Mr. NORMAN.
- H.R. 6806: Mr. HARDER of California.
- H.R. 6813: Mr. CRANE.
- H.R. 6816: Mr. FITZGERALD and Ms. TENNEY.
- H.R. 6827: Mr. PAPPAS.
- H.R. 6831: Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN and Mr. WEBER of Texas.
- H.J. Res. 54: Ms. ADAMS.
- H.J. Res. 69: Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas.
- H.J. Res. 72: Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. MCCLELLAN, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
- H.J. Res. 82: Ms. ROSS and Mr. TRONE.
- H.J. Res. 98: Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. ROUZER, and Mr. WOMACK.
- H. Res. 50: Mr. CRANE.
- H. Res. 110: Mr. TRONE.

December 19, 2023

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE

H7001

H. Res. 376: Mr. DOGGETT and Ms. STEVENS.
H. Res. 389: Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE.
H. Res. 439: Mr. CASAR and Mr. CASE.
H. Res. 616: Mr. CONNOLLY.

H. Res. 806: Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. JOHNSON of
Ohio, and Ms. MALLIOTAKIS.
H. Res. 883: Mr. KUSTOFF.
H. Res. 899: Mr. LYNCH.

H. Res. 921: Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ.
H. Res. 935: Mr. CARBAJAL and Mr. MCGOV-
ERN.



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of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 118th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 169

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2023

No. 209

Senate

The Senate met at 11 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable RICHARD J. DURBIN, a Senator from the State of Illinois.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Merciful God, you hear us when we call. You guide us with Your precepts, enabling us to honor You with our lives. As our Senators work to permit freedom to ring in our Nation and world, may they find joy in showing with their lives what they profess with their lips.

Lord, use these lawmakers for Your glory, as You illuminate our world through their witness. May they fearlessly contend against evil and make no peace with oppression, as You enable them to permit justice to roll down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream.

And, Lord, thank You for the trail-blazing legacy of Justice Sandra Day O'Connor.

We pray in Your great 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, December 19, 2023.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable RICHARD J. DURBIN, a Senator from the State of Illinois, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,
President pro tempore.

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Christopher Charles Fonzzone, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, Senate Democrats and Republicans understand there is more work to do to pass legislation protecting America's security and the security of the Western World. We have made important

progress. But negotiations have not been easy, and it is going to take more time.

But no matter how long it takes, we must succeed because the stakes are high—for America and for our friends in Europe, the Middle East, and around the world. We must send more aid to Ukraine to defeat Vladimir Putin. We must help our friends in Israel prevent another terrorist attack like October 7. We must send critical aid to innocent civilians in Gaza.

Republicans and Democrats must also continue negotiations on an agreement for securing our southern border. As the past few weeks have made abundantly clear, Democrats have always been willing to engage in good-faith, realistic negotiations about border security. We agree the border must be fixed, but not at the expense of our values.

Finding common ground on the border has been difficult—in fact, one of the most difficult issues Congress has faced in a good while. The details here matter immensely, and this is not a topic that Congress has tackled at this level in many years. While we have made important progress over the past week on border security, everyone understands that we have more work to do, and that it is going to take more time.

Later today, I will meet with colleagues at the weekly Democratic caucus lunch to give an update on border and supplemental negotiations.

Now, I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for working without rest on the supplemental package. I also thank staff from both sides who have been working morning, noon, and night to push us forward.

Again, we still have more to do. It is not going to be easy, and everyone understands it is going to take more time to figure this out. But we must—we must—succeed. Democrats remain committed to working with our Republican counterparts to reach an agreement.

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



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S6031

NOMINATIONS

Mr. President, on another matter, it will be a busy day here on the floor with votes on three highly qualified nominees to serve in the administration and on the Federal bench.

For the information of Senators, we will hold votes today on the nominations of Christopher Fonzzone to be Assistant Attorney General, Sara Hill to be U.S. district judge for the Northern District of Oklahoma—a member of the Cherokee Nation, Ms. Hill would make history as the first-ever Native American woman to serve as a Federal judge in the State of Oklahoma—and, finally, Elizabeth Richard to serve as President Biden's Coordinator for Counterterrorism, a position that has the rank of Ambassador at Large.

Before the Senate adjourns for the holidays, we must also pass a temporary extension of FAA funding or else funding will run out on December 31. A funding extension for the FAA is critical for minimizing chaos during the holiday season. So Congress must get this done as soon as we can.

MILITARY NOMINATIONS

Mr. President, finally, before we leave for the Christmas holiday, the Senate will also finish confirming the last of the military nominees held up by Senator TUBERVILLE. A few weeks ago, the Senate finally confirmed the vast majority of officers and military nominees who were on hold.

And at the end of last week, the Senate unanimously passed legislation providing for backpay for all military personnel affected by these damaging holds. Providing backpay for these military families was the very, very least the Senate could do to right this awful wrong. I am glad we did it.

But we are not done yet. There are still 11 nominees who are awaiting confirmation. We will not leave town until every last one of these delayed nominees is confirmed. I hope we can do so quickly.

NEW YORK

And, finally, Mr. President, one of the things I am best known for in New York is my commitment to visit all 62 counties every year. This year, we celebrated our silver anniversary—the 25th year of visiting every one of the 62 counties. And I love it every bit as much today as I did my first year. We finished our tour yesterday morning at Columbia Memorial Hospital in Columbia County.

When I visit the counties, I learn so much. I talk to people. I listen to their needs. When you are up close with people, you see their hopes and their joys, as well as their fears, their desires—so many different things. And when you sit up close with someone and talk to them and learn from them, it makes a huge bit of difference. You can't do your job as a Senator unless you are actually in touch with people, not simply talking on the telephone or reading something. And so I do it, and I love it. And I commit to the people of New York that I will visit every one of the

62 counties next year, at least for the 26th time.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

NATIONAL SECURITY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, as the Senate convened this week, our colleagues negotiating on border security were still at the table making slow and steady progress. They are chipping away at years of failure to enact basic commonsense border security policy. Reaching an agreement that can pass Congress and become law is easier said than done.

But I am very grateful to Senator LANKFORD for sticking with it. Our colleagues' effort to address the glaring national security challenge here at home is the foundation of our broader responsibility to meet the linked threats we are facing around the world, from the Indo-Pacific to Europe, to the Middle East.

Needless to say, it is a particularly dangerous time for nations that care about protecting their sovereignty from totalitarian thugs and savage terrorists. The headlines are filled with evidence that America's most dangerous adversaries are demonstrably not deterred, and it might have something to do with the Biden administration's penchant for deterring itself instead.

America is a global superpower, but far too often, our Commander in Chief has conducted our foreign affairs with hesitation and weakness. Remember his administration's overwrought fears of "escalation" that kept essential capabilities out of Ukrainian hands or the feeble half measures in response to an ongoing surge in attacks on U.S. personnel in Iraq and Syria.

Reports that the Biden administration now wants to constrain Israel's efforts to destroy Hamas are disappointing but not surprising. Two months ago, the administration was encouraging Israel to slow down its response before entering Gaza. Now, it is telling Israel to hasten its operations and wind them down to a close.

America cannot afford to lose sight of reality. We must not blur the bold-face line between a sovereign democracy that takes great pains to avoid civilian casualties and a terrorist organization that steals humanitarian aid from vulnerable Gazans to fuel its war of hate.

Israel did not choose this conflict. It ended the occupation of Gaza nearly two decades ago, but its policy of seeking to lower tensions was rewarded on October 7 when Hamas unilaterally shattered the cease-fire with rape, torture, terror, and murder: Hamas, the terrorists who diverted mountains of foreign assistance intended for civilian infrastructure to build miles of elaborate terror tunnels instead; Hamas, the cowards who intentionally hide their fighters and weapons in schools and hospitals.

Hamas has repeatedly faced the choice between improving the lives of Palestinians and killing Israelis. Every time, to date, it has chosen violence. And if Hamas survives with its military capabilities and leadership intact, it will make that choice again and again.

This is the reality Israel faces. Its war cabinet knows they must see this fight through. It is the same reality that recent American Presidents have confronted in the fight against al-Qaida and Isis. But for Israel, the determined terrorist threat is on its very borders and its own citizen soldiers are on the line.

So I will repeat what I have said so many times before. Our responsibility as an ally is to provide the time, space, and support Israel needs to finish the job, to condemn shameful attempts at moral equivalence to excuse the genocidal violence of Hamas terrorists and apply double standards to Israel and to offer counsel to our ally in private, not in front page genuflections to the President's leftwing base.

Administration officials and world leaders who care about the Palestinians would do well to focus less on constraining Israel in the short term and more on the challenge of ensuring Palestinian leaders and organizations in Gaza and the West Bank actually care about improving the lives of their fellow citizens in the long term.

Palestinians deserve better than Hamas's cult of death in Gaza. They deserve better than a corrupt and sclerotic Palestinian Authority in the West Bank.

ANTI-SEMITISM

Mr. President, on another matter, on Sunday, Jewish residents of our Nation's Capital were subjected to a disturbing episode of anti-Semitic hate. As a Torah class at a Washington synagogue concluded and attendees began to leave, they were met on the sidewalk by a man who sprayed them with a foul-smelling substance and yelled "Gas the Jews"—all while filming on his cell phone. This is just one example of the reality facing millions of American Jews.

In the same weekend, hundreds of synagogues across the country received false bomb threats, and thousands of incidents of anti-Jewish hatred have cropped up on American soil in the months since October 7, a rise that leading watchdogs say is the worst in more than 40 years.

The brazenness of this hateful deluge is horrifying by itself, but an even more alarming trend is just how dramatically the moral cancer of identity politics is laying the groundwork for a continued wave of anti-Semitism. According to one recent poll, a full two-thirds of Americans between the ages of 18 and 24 agreed with the following statement:

Jews as a class are oppressors and should be treated as oppressors.

That is the view of two-thirds of Americans between 18 and 24. This is

the scorched-earth Marxist nonsense that has quite publicly seized America's most elite universities.

As our former colleague, the President of the University of Florida, put it in a recent column, "In this upside down system, an oppressor's speech is violence. Sometimes an oppressor's silence is violence. But for the oppressed, even violence is just speech."

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to print President Ben Sasse's full comments in the RECORD. This is the ideology that is poisoning the new generation. This is the world's oldest form of hatred, and we cannot ignore it.

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

[From the Atlantic, Dec. 14, 2023]

THE MORAL DECLINE OF ELITE UNIVERSITIES

(By Ben Sasse)

In the spring of 1994, the top executives of the seven largest tobacco companies testified under oath before Congress that nicotine is not addictive. Nearly 30 years later, Americans remember their laughable claims, their callous indifference, their lawyerly inability to speak plainly, and the general sense that they did not regard themselves as part of a shared American community. Those pampered executives, behaving with such Olympian detachment, put the pejorative big in Big Tobacco.

Last week, something similar happened. Thirty years from now, Americans will likely recall a witness table of presidents—representing not top corporations in one single sector, but the nation's most powerful educational institutions—refusing to speak plainly, defiantly rejecting any sense that they are part of a "we," and exhibiting smug moralistic certainty even as they embraced bizarrely immoral positions about anti-Semitism and genocide.

Despite the stylistic similarity of these two images, they had a substantive distinction. Yes, both sets of presidents sat atop sectors experiencing a collapse of public trust. Higher education commanded the confidence of 57 percent of Americans a mere eight years ago, but only 36 percent of Americans by this summer, and a steeper decline is likely coming as a consequence of the grotesqueries of the past two months. And yes, both sets of testimonies—of the tobacco executives, and the elite-education executives—revealed a deep moral decline inside their respective cultures. But here's a difference: The tobacco executives were lying, and subsequent legal discovery showed how extensive their understanding of nicotine was. The three university presidents, however—with their moral confusion on naked display—were likely not lying; instead, we saw a set of true believers in a new kind of religion.

It is important to note that the three presidents who testified before Congress—Liz Magill, who subsequently resigned as president of the University of Pennsylvania; Sally Kornbluth, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; and Claudine Gay, of Harvard University—didn't open themselves up to perjury charges. Instead, they revealed themselves as having drunk the Kool-Aid of a new and cultlike worldview. Along with so much of higher education, especially outside the hardest of sciences, they have become acolytes of a shallow new theology called "intersectionality." This is neither a passing fad nor something that normies can roll our eyes at and ignore. As Andrew Sullivan presciently predicted a mere six years ago, the

tenets of this all-encompassing ideology have quickly spilled beyond trendy humanities departments at top-30 universities, and its self-appointed priestly class tried tirelessly to enforce its ideology.

At root, intersectionality teaches that the relative victim status of various groups is the deepest truth, and this framework must drive our interpretation of both natural and built reality. Truth, moral claims, beauty, dignity, the explanatory value of a research insight—all of these must be subjugated to a prior determination of the historical power or powerlessness of certain sociological categories. This victimology decrees that the world, and every institution therein, must be divided by the awakened into categories of oppressors and oppressed. Immutable group identities, rather than the qualities, hopes, and yearnings of individuals, are the keys to unlocking the power structures behind any given moment: All the sheep and goats must be sorted.

The bullying certainty of this belief system is indeed boring, but that is not to say that every move is predictable. For instance, depending on their skin tone, sexual orientation, or religious views, tenured Ivy Leaguers earning five times the median American income may be categorized as oppressed. Conversely, depending on their skin tone, sexual orientation, or religious views, janitors at Walmart may be considered, within the intersectionality matrix, to be irredeemable oppressors.

By way of disclosure: I am a university president turned United States senator turned university president again. The institution I now lead, the University of Florida, faces all sorts of challenges, and Florida is the site of important battles about the responsibilities of academia to our society. As a public university, our incredibly talented and dedicated faculty aim to provide an elite education that promotes resilience and strength in our students so that they are tough enough, smart enough, and compassionate enough to engage big ideas in a world where people will always disagree.

Growing up, I idolized Martin Luther King Jr., who championed universal human dignity with clear-cut moral authority. From memory, writing in a jail cell in Birmingham, he synthesized, refined, and applied the Western canon's greatest philosophers, from Socrates to Abraham Lincoln, to America's predicament. While damning the original sin of white supremacy, he consistently offered hope that our country could overcome injustice with love. It's gut-wrenching to think that America's greatest civil-rights leader—one of the greatest Americans in the country's entire history—would have his "Letter From Birmingham Jail" criticized and dismissed for citing only dead white males if it were written today. Too much of elite academia cares little for universal human dignity, leaves no space for forgiveness, and exhibits no interest in shared progress.

Today, free will, individual agency, forgiveness, personal improvement, and healthy cultural cross-pollination are all obliterated by omnipotent determinisms. This is why academics at the Smithsonian created a graphic for children that portrayed America as an irredeemably racist society, asserting that "rugged individualism," "the nuclear family," and "hard work" are "internalized . . . aspects of white culture." The message is clear: Success is always a privilege given, never the result of hard work; virtues such as self-reliance are unattainable for minorities.

These elites believe that the world must be remade. Since the beginning of time, oppressors—the "privileged"—ran roughshod over the oppressed or marginalized. Now oppres-

sors must be brought low to atone for history's sins. It is a faith without guardrails, without grace, and certainly without reconciliation. It requires a life of moral struggle against the devil and the world, but with no eschatology of hope. There is no heaven coming here.

This religiosity has colonized humanities departments across supposedly secular higher education. Institutions ostensibly dedicated to the search for truth, to the exploration of ideas, and to the advancement of human flourishing have, instead, devoted themselves to inquisitions and struggle sessions.

Students catalog microaggressions and conflate comfort with safety. Faculty who dare to treat students like adults with a bit of grit face professional consequences. Administrators police language. Hiring committees compel DEI statements. Academic conferences provide safe spaces instead of thought-provoking forums. Admissions officers devise formulas to rank students based on race, class, and gender. Universities respond haplessly to mobs wielding the heckler's veto to shut down thoughtful deliberation.

The moral confusion on too many campuses after the October 7 massacre of 1,200 Israelis fits a familiar pattern. The acceptability of the speech depends on the speaker. Individuals from oppressed groups are given leeway to target oppressor groups through disruptions and threats. This victimology allows Palestinians and their supporters (the oppressed) to target, intimidate, and harass Jews (the oppressors).

In the morally backward universe of American campuses: The terrified Jewish students at Cooper Union, locked in the library while a mob banged on doors and spat anti-Semitic chants, are the bad guys. A group of Harvard students who surrounded and harassed a Jewish student are the good guys. It's not hard to see why the Harvard students who occupied University Hall in a pro-Palestinian demonstration were offered food instead of being arrested.

Three fundamental tenets of a free society are that beliefs are not necessarily true merely because they are held by a majority, or wrong because only a minority agree; that while we seek to eliminate violence, we do not seek to suppress diversity of views; and that souls cannot be compelled. The reigning orthodoxy on supposedly elite campuses is that the first two theses are retrograde, and the third is naive because souls don't even exist.

In this upside-down system, an oppressor's speech is violence. Sometimes an oppressor's silence is violence. But for the oppressed, even violence is just speech.

The university presidents who testified before Congress were not wrong that the line beyond protected speech is action—this is the well-established American tradition. But having so selectively applied that standard in the institutions they wield, they forfeited any claim to be motivated by protecting speech; they are simply in the business of choosing allies and outcasts based on a dogma of victimology. Harvard's freshman orientation specifically instructs students that failing to adhere to new dogmatic linguistic constructions that didn't exist a few years ago is abuse, and students anticipate consequences.

These academic leaders did not arrive at this dogma of victimology recently. They built their careers on it, funded it, celebrated it openly. When the rape of Israeli women cannot be unequivocally condemned because of their status as Jews, when calls for genocide require additional "context," it is clear that many of country's putatively best minds are unable to make basic moral judgments.

A 2019 conversation with some highly degreed Ivy Leaguers still rings in my ears. A number of white academic advocates of the term Latinx told me, when I still represented Nebraska in the Senate, that it would be “racist” not to teach newly arrived El Salvadoran immigrants to rural Nebraska to refer to themselves by this newly invented word. To recall the aphorism attributed—probably apocryphally—to George Orwell: “Some ideas are so stupid that only intellectuals believe them.”

Harvard, Princeton, and Yale were originally founded as seminaries. They are seminaries once again. The doctrine they embrace is both insecure and oppressive in its prohibition of insiders and outsiders from pursuing free inquiry. Rather than wrestle with hard questions about human dignity, individual agency, and speech, many in the Ivy League seem poised to double down on fanaticism.

Cults tend to excuse their failures: The world is ending, but our mystic math was a little off. As this crisis unfolds, America’s elite academics are tinkering with their doctrinal formulas. Rather than abandon their theology, they’re attempting to rejigger the charts and reweight the numerology.

We cannot heal these declining institutions simply by recalculating the grid so that Jewish people are moved from the “powerful” square to a “powerless” slot. The problem is the tyranny of the power grid itself, and its disinterest in both ideas and universal human dignity.

Changing one president here or there isn’t enough. Intersectionality is a religious cult that’s dominated higher education for nearly a decade with the shallow but certain idea that power structures are everything, the Neanderthal view that blunt force trumps human dignity.

The nonsense we’ve seen seeping off campuses this fall is jarring but not surprising, given that the absurdities inside this worldview have not been pressure-tested. This is because its adherents, those who wield the power of some of our society’s most prominent institutions, have prohibited anyone from asking questions, demanding that their religion remain immune to challenge.

Rebellion against this arrogant worldview was inevitable. Many of us have long expected a correction against the certainties of this campus creed, and I suspect that the public’s They can’t say what? reaction to Kornbluth, Gay, and Magill might prove to be a breaking point. While populists have always found the bashing of elites fashionable, this moment calls for something more constructive. It also calls for something deeper than free speech for free speech’s sake.

We ought to dispense with the laughably absurd notion that these university presidents are somehow steadfast champions of free speech. Where was this commitment when MIT canceled a speech from a climate scientist who voiced opposition to affirmative action? Where was this obligation when a lecturer said she felt pushed out of Harvard for suggesting that sex is a biological fact? Where was this duty when Penn tried to fire a law-school professor who made odious comments about minority groups and immigration policy? These elite institutions make the rules up as they go and stack the deck against disfavored groups. Ask conservative students how many loopholes they have to jump through to reserve spaces or invite speakers. Ask the students who report holding back their views in class or paper—topic selection for fear of facing consequences. For that matter, ask anyone who has been paying attention for the past 20 years. These universities aren’t doggedly committed to free speech; they’re desperately trying to

find some cover. The expensive public-relations firms they’ve hired for crisis management are grasping at straws.

This is not merely—or primarily—a free-speech issue. Yes, of course, universities ought to be informed by speech. At the University of Florida—where, despite the Ivy League’s hegemony of the national conversation, we award twice as many bachelor’s degrees each year to extraordinary students as Harvard, Yale, and Princeton combined—we are proud to uphold the First Amendment rights of all our students. America’s First Amendment gives everyone the right to make an abject idiot of themselves, and we will defend that right as we also defend our students from violence, vandalism, and harassment. But this is deeper than those speech issues. What’s at stake is nothing less than the mission of a university. Our campuses are meant to be communities of scholars pursuing truth together, in a community built to discover, teach, share, and refine. A foundational commitment to human dignity is essential to the very purpose of education. Unfortunately, the presidents of Harvard, MIT, and Penn abandoned that commitment in front of Congress last week. At a perilous moment, they failed the test.

Higher education is facing a crisis of public trust. The simple fact of the matter is, fewer and fewer Americans believe that universities are committed to the pursuit of truth. Understanding why isn’t hard at a time when elite institutions make excuses for illiberal mobs. The perception that ideologues and fanatics are running the show on campus is, sadly, based in reality. The public sees it. Donors see it. Boards see it. Alumni see it. We recognize callousness and indifference—we saw it from Big Tobacco in 1994 and we’re seeing it from the Ivy League now. The public is not about to forget it.

As administrators, donors, faculty, and trustees of institutions around the country, this is our moment. It is up to us to rebuild trust in higher education. It is our responsibility to speak plainly, defend our students, defend pluralism, and tend to the high calling of educating.

The only way forward is for universities to embrace classical liberalism—with its values of freedom, tolerance, and pluralism, all grounded in human dignity. Recasting oppressors and oppressed is a dead end. As the cult of intersectionality implodes before our eyes, it is time for higher education to commit itself to earnestly engaging new ideas and respectfully participating in big debates on a whole host of issues. Universities must reject victimology, celebrate individual agency, and engage the truth with epistemological modesty. Institutions ought to embrace open inquiry. Education done rightly should be defined by big-hearted debates about important issues.

More curiosity, less orthodoxy. Explore everything with humility, including views of sex and gender that were standard until the previous decade, classical traditions, America’s promise and progress, and the concept of universal human dignity—the very thing that Hamas and its apologists reject. Engage the ideas. Pull apart the best arguments with the best questions. Do it again and again and again. Build communities that take ideas seriously, so that scholars and students can grow in both understanding and empathy.

Self-government makes high demands of its citizens. Today’s students will be called to lead in a complicated world where not everyone will agree, where trade-offs will be necessary, where basic values inform the work of navigating complex realities. The current illiberal climate on campuses is the kind of tragedy that could doom a republic. We cannot let that happen.

To keep America’s universities the envy of the world, we need to make our institutions welcoming homes for those who are passionate about the glorious mission of education and the communities of free thought it requires. If you entered academia because you share that joy, find institutions that are serious about renewing higher education and are serious about stewarding this incredible calling. Those of us—left, right, or center—who value human dignity, pluralism, and genuine progress and who want to make sure that we pass these blessings to the next generation cannot abandon institutions to post-liberals on the left who would destroy them from within or post-liberals on the right who would tear them to the ground. At our best, the academy promotes human flourishing in ways that no other sector can. If we commit ourselves to the work of creating, discovering, and serving—not enforcing impersonal hierarchies of power or stifling inquiry—we’ll rebuild public trust.

Those of us called to higher education—members of boards, presidents, administrators, professors, and donors—owe it to future generations to build something better.

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

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

The majority whip.

ISRAEL

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, it has been 2 months since the horrific Hamas attack that killed 1,200 innocent Israelis and saw another 240 people taken hostage—some of them Americans, including Hersh Goldberg-Polin with family in my State of Illinois.

For anyone who watched 60 Minutes this past weekend, the ordeal shared by one of the released hostages was harrowing and almost unimaginable. These hostages have been subjected to brutal physical and psychological torture. Some 115 hostages are believed to still be held, and I have long called for a humanitarian pause by both sides that includes the release of all the hostages as quickly as possible.

I believe this remains the right path forward, and I hope our government will pursue this goal. But make no mistake, this Hamas attack was a reminder that there are still those who do not recognize Israel’s right to exist. I do; and I understand their right to self-defense.

But what has happened since October 7 raises larger questions about how Israel should defend itself, how it should retaliate and address the long-term need for two neighboring people to learn to live in peace.

Early in this conflict, I urged Israel to learn from our mistakes in the United States after the deadly attacks on September 11, to not make the mistakes in the fog of their rage and pain that we made. I fear some of the important lessons we learned the hard way may not have been heeded by this Israeli Government.

While Israel has every right to defend itself, the humanitarian toll inflicted on the people of Gaza has been of historic magnitude and increasingly becomes counterproductive to Israel's long-term security.

We are nearing an estimated 20,000 deaths in Gaza. A significant majority of those are not Hamas fighters—they are innocent women and children.

Last week, the leaders of some of the world's top relief organizations wrote in the *New York Times*:

More children have been reported killed in this conflict than in all major global conflicts combined last year.

Hospitals have had to try to treat civilians without the most basic medicines, using only Tylenol for pain management—even in amputations—and vinegar as a disinfectant of last resort.

There are growing fears that disease outbreaks will soon replace the war as the primary cause of death in Gaza. This is simply not an acceptable strategy.

Over the last few weeks, I have spoken to UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, UN Under Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs Martin Griffiths, and Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry about reopening hospitals under third-party monitoring.

I have also raised the humanitarian toll directly with Israeli officials. Basic medical needs, beyond treating the wounded, are staggering and include curbing a potential infectious disease outbreak and caring for thousands of expectant mothers.

As such, I again call on Hamas and Israel to stand down from all military actions around Gaza's hospital and allow them to function and be resupplied under a credible, third-party monitor.

I also continue to remind our Israeli allies that any U.S. military assistance must be used in accordance with the laws of war; and, as such, I have joined Senator CHRIS VAN HOLLEN of Maryland on an amendment to the proposed National Security Supplemental reinforcing this basic point.

The burden is higher in times of war for democracies, but adherence to such norms is what makes democracy distinct.

This horrible conflict has caused so much suffering and is a wake-up call to the need for a two-State solution that allows for a viable Palestinian State living in peace side by side with a secure Israel.

For years, I have warned that despite heroic efforts at such an agreement, spoilers on both sides have repeatedly undermined progress. So we have two challenges, one very immediate: End the suffering and release the remaining hostages immediately; and the second, finally commit to finding a two-State peace agreement.

This will take leadership from both Palestinians and Israelis. And let me be blunt: I do not see the current leadership of either having the vision or political will to take this desperately needed step.

But it is the only way forward. It is the only way that the region and international community will fully commit to helping rebuild Gaza and support a unified Palestinian leadership. It is the only way to end the threat of violence and bring a future of hope to both Israel and the Palestinian people.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

The Senator from Ohio.

CONFIRMATION OF MARTIN O'MALLEY

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, everything we do here should come back to the dignity of work, the idea that hard work should pay off for everyone, no matter who you are, no matter where you live, no matter what kind of work you do. When work has dignity, people have good jobs, a secure retirement. They can count on Medicare. They can count on Social Security to be there for them.

That is why we, 2 years ago, saved the pension of 100,000 Ohioans who worked their whole lives to earn a pension and peace of mind in retirement. That is why we are still fighting for Delphi retirees who lost their pensions through no fault of their own. That is why we will always—always—fight back against attacks on Social Security. Making sure that all Americans have a secure retirement shouldn't be a partisan issue.

Social Security and Medicare are two of the most popular and unifying institutions in the country. Social Security is our government's promise to working men and women—a promise that they will, in fact, be able to retire with dignity.

Support for Social Security cuts across party lines, geographic lines, and racial lines. Americans want not only to protect Social Security and Medicare, they want to make it stronger. Martin O'Malley, whom we confirmed last night, understands this. As Commissioner, he will make sure that the Social Security Administration is accessible and responsive. He will ensure we are keeping this bedrock promise to the American people.

We need to do our part in this body too. It means passing my Social Security Fairness Act to repeal restrictions from two old laws that are preventing more than 3 million Americans—about 250,000 people in my State alone, including Ohio law enforcement—from receiving the Social Security benefits they have earned.

Ohio first responders put their lives on the line to protect our communities. They paid into Social Security just like everyone else. All these Ohio workers are asking for is what they

have earned; that is, the dignity of a secure retirement.

We need to pass my bill to reform the supplemental security income—so-called SSI—program's outdated restrictions that punish people for working and saving, preventing 8 million Americans with disabilities from building a better life for themselves. It hasn't changed in 40 years. We should update it.

If these Americans have even \$1 more than \$2,000 in their savings account or \$3,000 for married couples—not very high, frankly—all their SSI benefits are taken away. With these outdated rules, there is no way to save for an emergency or plan for the future or, in essence, have agency over your own life.

There is broad support for this; it is not partisan; it is not ideological. At the committee I chair, the Banking and Housing Committee, I asked the CEOs of the eight largest banks if they supported this change, and every single one of them said yes. Every single one endorsed my bill. The big banks and I don't agree on much of anything, but we do agree on this.

By passing our bipartisan bill to update this outdated program, we also can fix the root cause of the SSI overpayments and clawbacks that have been hitting too many Ohioans. This has gone on for far too long and has hurt too many Ohioans, who—again, through no fault of their own—have been forced to deal with the issue of overpayments because of the SSA's outdated policies. Ohioans shouldn't be paying for the government's mistakes.

Martin O'Malley, our new Commissioner, made it clear to me in a one-on-one meeting that he is committed to working with us to finally address the root causes of these overpayments; and by increasing the asset limit, we are addressing what the SSA calls the leading cause of overpayments—stopping them before they ever go out in the first place.

These bills are bipartisan. They provide real fixes to real problems for hard-working Ohioans. People who don't have special interests are speaking out on their behalf. They have us, and it is what we should be—those who are speaking out for them. For years, they have watched politicians give corporate tax cuts; they have watched Wall Street bailouts, in many cases in this body while plotting to cut their Social Security.

In the end, it is about whose side you are on. I will always fight to protect Social Security and to make sure Americans get the retirements that they have earned.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

CONFIRMATION OF JULIE A. SU

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, as 2023 comes to a close, I rise to mark a year of historic progress for working people in our country.

Since President Biden took office, we have created more than 14 million jobs,

including 1.5 million jobs created in manufacturing, construction, and engineering. Meanwhile, unemployment has been under 4 percent for 22 months in a row—the longest stretch in over 50 years. And, across the country, we are seeing the labor movement reclaim its strength.

After decades of declining union membership, working people are coming together to demand their fair share of the economic success our country is experiencing—success they make possible. None of this is happening by accident. These victories are thanks, in large part, to the commitment of the Biden-Harris administration and, to give credit where credit is due, to the work of Acting Secretary of Labor Julie Su.

Since assuming the top role at the Labor Department earlier this year, Acting Secretary Su has played a critical role in supporting workers and finding consensus to move our economy forward. In June, just months after taking over the Department, she helped avert a potentially disastrous strike at ports all along the west coast. Had major ports come to a screeching halt, our country would have experienced massive supply chain disruptions, costing our economy billions of dollars. Such a shutdown would have been particularly chaotic for Hawaii, where the vast majority of our goods is shipped to the State.

Gene Seroka, the director of the Port of Los Angeles, the busiest container port in the country, said Julie was “a constant and reassuring voice of reason that has helped to keep both sides at the bargaining table and focused on resolution.”

In October, Acting Secretary Su helped settle a labor dispute between Kaiser Permanente and nearly 75,000 of its union employees who staged the largest healthcare strike in our Nation’s history. After weeks of bargaining, Kaiser and its employees had failed to reach an agreement, endangering the care they provided to millions of Americans across our country. At the invitation of both parties, Acting Secretary Su flew to California to sit at the bargaining table and encourage both sides to continue talking in good faith. To help bridge the gap between labor and management and keep the lines of communication open, Acting Secretary Su was regularly moving from room to room, serving as a critical liaison in the negotiations.

With her help, Kaiser workers reached a historic deal that included a record 21-percent wage increase over 4 years. Both sides agreed she was critical to reaching a deal, with the union calling her support “instrumental” and Kaiser’s senior vice president of labor relations saying that Julie was “able to get us to articulate where we have commonalities, not about a particular package, but about our interests in the employees, and in healthcare.”

That is what Julie does. She helps people find common ground, setting

workers, businesses, and our economy up for success.

But, even after that historic success, many continue to doubt Acting Secretary Su’s acumen, with one labor economist going so far as to question her skills as a mediator. Let’s face it: It is not unusual for so-called experts to question the leadership qualities of women, with little evidence to substantiate their criticisms.

In spite of her detractors, just weeks later, Julie Su helped mediate a truly historic deal between the United Auto Workers and the Big Three auto companies, resolving the most significant auto strike in modern American history. Like Kaiser workers, with Acting Secretary Su’s support, autoworkers secured a transformational contract—a contract that will see UAW salaries rise more in the next 4 years than they have in the previous 20.

Shawn Fain, the newly elected UAW president, showed his mettle in these negotiations as the country watched. Significantly, he, too, praised Julie Su’s leadership, citing her work to build trust between labor and management and encouraging them to focus on their shared goals.

In addition to these and many other settled labor disputes, Acting Secretary Su is leading major initiatives to make life better for working people in our country and grow the middle class—from expanding overtime protections to strengthening apprenticeships and work training programs and much more.

Julie Su’s work speaks for itself. She listens; she finds consensus; and she helps those around her stay the course for as long as it takes. What more could we ask of a Secretary of Labor?

Still, there are those who question Julie’s ability to do the job, either ignoring or willfully dismissing her track record of successes. To be blunt: Sexism, racism, and double standards applied to women of color are all too common in spite of their denials all around. Julie Su has been doing the job of the Secretary of Labor for months, and she has been doing it well. But still, some of our colleagues cling to baseless criticisms, insisting she is unfit to serve. It is unfair to Acting Secretary Su and to the millions of workers whose lives she has helped to improve. Like the committed public servant she is, Julie perseveres, focusing on the important work of her Department.

Along with millions of working people all across our country, I am grateful for all she and the Biden-Harris administration have done for workers, businesses, and our economy. This administration and Acting Secretary Su understand that workers are the force that keeps our country moving forward. With their continued leadership, I look forward to more wins for workers and our economy in the years ahead.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican whip.

SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, President Zelenskyy visited Washington, DC, last week to ask for the United States’ continued support for Ukraine as it defends itself against Russia.

As someone who strongly believes that it is in our national security interest to aid Ukraine as well as our allies Israel and Taiwan, I am disappointed that we have not already passed the aid Ukraine needs. But let’s be very clear: The reason the Senate has not already passed a national security supplemental is that Democrats, so far, have chosen to prioritize an open border over aid for our allies.

Democrats have known for months that border security was going to be a part of the national security supplemental. After all, the President himself requested border funding in his supplemental request. Republicans have had a border security proposal on the table literally since the beginning of November, but Democrats wasted weeks, refusing to engage in substantive negotiations even though they were well aware that border security was going to be a requirement for getting this supplemental through both Houses of Congress. Now the supplemental will be pushed to January because Democrats have run out the clock to the point where getting a substantive border security deal passed before Christmas is impossible.

Last week, President Biden said that failing to pass the national security supplemental before the holidays would be a Christmas gift to Putin. Well, I would like to point out, once again, that the only reason we haven’t passed the national security supplemental already is because of the Democrats and President Biden. Only one of the two parties has been dragging its feet on negotiations, and it has not been the Republicans. A lot of us Republicans are eager to get Ukraine the aid that it needs, but we cannot—and I say we cannot—tend to our national security interests abroad while ignoring the national security crisis right here on our doorstep.

President Biden wants to talk about a gift to Putin? Well, let’s talk about the gift the President has been giving to terrorists and criminals and cartels for 3 years now with the chaos we have at our southern border. We have had three successive, record-breaking years of illegal immigration at our southern border on President Biden’s watch; and the President is no closer to getting this crisis under control than when it first started.

During October, the latest month for which we have data, U.S. Customs and Border Protection encountered 240,988 migrants at our southern border, which is the highest October number ever recorded. I might add that among those numbers in October, there were almost 1,600 convicted criminals, 50 gang members, 90 people who have warrants out for their arrests, and 12 people on the Terrorist Watchlist. That was just in

the month of October. The past 24 hours alone saw a record-breaking 12,000-plus migrant encounters at the southern border and, I would say, the highest—highest—daily total ever recorded. And those numbers don't count the "got-aways," the individuals the Border Patrol saw but was unable to apprehend.

Let's be very clear: While many of these individuals may simply have headed to the United States in search of a better life, there is no question that there are dangerous individuals who are trying to make their way into our country.

During fiscal year 2023, the Border Patrol arrested 169 individuals on the Terrorist Watchlist at the southern border—169. That was a substantial increase over fiscal year 2022, which was itself a substantial increase over fiscal year 2021. Needless to say, that is not a good trajectory. Again, these numbers only refer to individuals the Border Patrol has actually apprehended. There were 670,000 known "got-aways" during fiscal year 2023.

How many of them were terrorists, criminals, or other dangerous individuals?

Well, the answer is, we really don't know. We really don't know.

One thing we do know is that the chaotic southern border and the chaos that we have experienced there cannot continue. Our country cannot be secure while we have 10,000 people a day pouring across our southern border and hundreds of thousands of unknown individuals taking up residence in our country. Think about it. With the record that we had yesterday—as I mentioned, well over 12,000, which is the single highest—single highest—day that we have ever had on record in terms of people being apprehended illegally at the southern border, if you analyze that number, you are talking about more than 4.5 million people a year—4.5 million a year. That is way more people than the majority of the States in this country, in the entire United States of America.

The Federal Government is charged with the responsibility for our Nation's security, and we owe the American people nothing less than a secure border. So while I believe it is essential that we get aid to our allies, any supplemental must include measures to address our national security here at home at the border as well as our national security interests abroad.

I want to thank Senator LANKFORD for his patience and tenacity in working to bring Democrats to the table. After weeks of Democrat intransigence, it is encouraging that the White House is finally—and I say "finally" because, as I said, we had a proposal on the table at the beginning of November, and the White House finally engaged last Tuesday—finally has stepped up to take on a role in the negotiations. It is just too bad that they didn't do it weeks ago.

But I hope that the President and Democrats understand that the only

acceptable outcome of negotiations is a solution that meets the challenge at our southern border. Cosmetic measures and superficial tweaks are not going to cut it. So the ball is in the Democrats' court.

We need to get aid to allies like Ukraine, but we cannot pass legislation to do that without addressing the situation at our southern border. I would like to think that Democrats would see the necessity of addressing our border crisis irrespective of what is needed to get this bill through Congress, but at the very least, I hope that Democrats' concern for our national security interests abroad will lead them to finally—and again I say "finally"—get serious about working with Republicans to address the national security crisis here at home.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following Senators be permitted to speak prior to the scheduled recess for 5 minutes: Senator MURRAY for 5 minutes, Senator COLLINS for 5 minutes, and me for 5 minutes.

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

ISRAEL

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, it has now been over 70 days—70 days—since hundreds of people were kidnapped by Hamas. In that time, more than 100 have been released, including 4 Americans, but 8 Americans remain in captivity. And from what we have heard from those who have been released and rescued, it is likely they are enduring unimaginable suffering.

One of the released Americans, 4-year-old Abigail Mor Edan, was kept with four other hostages in above-ground apartments. She shared—shared—one piece of pita bread per day with four others and did not have a shower in the entire 50 days in captivity. Her hair was cut because it was filled with lice.

We have heard from others that they were kept in complete darkness for days. Some became psychotic and experienced hallucinations. A child was given ketamine for weeks, while others were given sedatives like Valium. We have heard reports of self-harm among the hostages, while some who have returned have suicidal ideations.

Many were subjected to psychological torture. A 12-year-old boy was forced to watch videos of the October 7 attack and threatened with a gun when he cried. I have seen those videos. You cannot unsee them once you have seen them. I cannot imagine the nightmares that will plague that boy for the rest of his life.

One man was told his wife was dead when she actually was alive. Others were convinced Israel no longer existed. A doctor who was treating hostages says that they were told that "nobody cares about you. You are here alone. You hear the bombs falling?"

They don't care about you. We're [the ones] here to protect you."

Most children lost between 10 to 15 percent of their body weight. These kids were starved. They had skin rashes and infections from being held in unsanitary conditions. Other children were branded—literally branded—with a motorcycle exhaust pipe to help identify them if they escaped.

Many came back speaking only in a whisper because they were warned not to make any noises in captivity. Many hostages were deprived of medicine and proper medical care. One woman who was shot in the hand says a veterinarian performed surgery on her. Others were beaten with electric cables.

Now, as the fighting in Gaza intensifies, the lives of hostages remain in jeopardy. I can't imagine what it must be like to live on only a piece of a pita a day for months. I can't imagine what it would be like to endure constant physical, psychological, and emotional torture for 70 days.

We know that at least one American hostage, Hersh Goldberg-Polin, had his lower arm blown off by a hand grenade. His mother says his injury could have easily resulted in him bleeding to death.

The treatment of these hostages are crimes against humanity. They are war crimes. And for those who remain in captivity, we are running out of time. We cannot give up hope. We cannot abandon them. We must go to the ends of the Earth to bring them back. These are American hostages, hostages from our ally Israel. We cannot stand quiet while they suffer.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

I-5 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I come to the floor today, thrilled to announce major progress on something that I have been working on since my earliest days here in the U.S. Senate: replacing the I-5 bridge between Vancouver, WA, and Portland, OR.

Late last week, the administration began the notification and review process for grants from the brand new Mega Grant Program we all worked together to establish in the bipartisan infrastructure law, and I was proud to help write the provisions that made sure the Mega Program was funded when we passed that law. So I am ecstatic that the I-5 Bridge Replacement Project will be receiving \$600 million in Federal funding from the Mega Grant Program to move us forward on a project that is hugely important to Washington State, to the Pacific Northwest, and really the entire country.

This has been a long time coming, and I should know because I have been there for just about every step of this journey. I remember meeting with Senator Hatfield from Oregon when I was first elected to talk about the need to replace the I-5 crossing between our States—Washington and Oregon—which was already in bad condition in

the 1990s. We sat down with folks to hold one of the first of many, many, many conversations about what needed to be done and how we could make it happen.

Then, in 2003, as the top Democrat on the Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, I held a hearing in Vancouver to discuss why this project was so important. Back then, I was raising the alarm about predictions that peak congestion for traffic would hit 10 hours by 2020. And wouldn't you know it, today, we are dealing with 7 to 10 hours of slow-moving traffic during the morning and evening rush hours.

Ever since I held that field hearing 20 years ago, I have continued to champion this project at every possible opportunity and every juncture over the years—from securing tens of millions of dollars in Federal funding for the early stages of this project back when it was known as the Columbia River Crossing to sitting down with stakeholders and community leaders dozens of times and holding countless conversations on the thorny issues of moving ahead with a massive project like this, to passing a new provision into law to ease the FTA's evaluation process for multimodal projects and make the I-5 Bridge Replacement Project more competitive for Federal funding, and of course pressing hard to keep this dream alive when previous efforts fell apart. It has not been easy.

As anyone who has been involved in this process over the years knows, there have been no shortage of challenges and setbacks. And, make no mistake, we still have a lot more work to do to see this project through, but failing to replace the I-5 bridge has never been an option to me because I know how important this is to Southwest Washington and, really, to the entire region.

Let me just spell out the stakes for everyone here because too often we take our infrastructure for granted and ignore it until it completely fails. In just about every conversation I have had about the I-5 replacement project over the years, I have been clear we cannot afford to forget about this because, if we keep kicking the can down the road, one of these days, that entire bridge will collapse.

I am not about to sit back and let that happen. We are talking about infrastructure that dates back to World War I. We have over 130,000 cars a weekday and nearly \$100 billion of goods a year driving bumper to bumper across an antique that is at serious risk of collapse in the event of an earthquake, which is not exactly unheard of in our region. That is a recipe for disaster. It is frightening for everyone who has to drive across that bridge every day, and it is a huge economic liability for the businesses and communities who rely on the goods that are trucked over it.

And beyond the risk of collapse in the future, there are losses caused by

traffic we are seeing today, which is hampering billions of dollars in trade and commerce and stealing one of people's most precious and irreplaceable resources: their time. It is wasting hours of their lives every day, making them late for work, making them get home late, and keeping them away from their family and friends and loved ones.

Replacing this bridge that is overcrowded, over 100 years old, and underprepared for an earthquake should be a no-brainer, especially since this project also includes vital transit and roadway improvements like extending the light rail from Portland, OR, to Vancouver, WA, and making the crossing safer and more accessible for cyclists and pedestrians.

As everyone who has been involved in this discussion knows, Mega funding is critical to building out those key components of the project. This is a great and important reminder for all of my colleagues. Good things happen when we all roll up our sleeves and work together to make good bipartisan legislation a reality.

So a special thank-you especially to the 10 bipartisan Senators whose resolve and determination to work together and hammer out the details of the legislation made the bipartisan infrastructure law a reality.

Now, the importance and urgency of this project should be obvious. Unfortunately, as someone who has had to make this argument over and over again, I can tell you it has not always been the case. Much like the citizens on the I-5, this bridge replacement project has been stuck in gridlock way too long. I have been pushing hard for years to keep this moving forward, and with this announcement, we are now making big progress.

So I really was delighted to announce this major progress toward securing funding which I have worked on for so long, along with my amazing partners like Vancouver Mayor Anne McEnerny-Ogle, State Senator Annette Cleveland, Secretary Roger Millar at the Washington State Department of Transportation, Greg Johnson and his incredible staff, all of our Southwest Washington labor allies, and so many others who joined me in this effort over so many years. This Mega grant will be an important mile marker and a sign that we are finally picking up speed.

Now, I am determined to secure the additional Federal funding we will need to get this done, but this announcement is bringing a goal we have been working on together for decades—replacing the I-5 crossing—closer into view, and that is a big deal. I am as ready as I have ever been to keep moving forward and finish the job.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

BORDER SECURITY

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, our colleagues are aware that there is a group of Senators who are meeting with the

administration officials to try to carefully craft an urgently needed solution to the border security crisis. I rise today to discuss the urgent need for bipartisan solutions to address that crisis.

Yesterday set a new record that demonstrates the magnitude of our border security crisis. U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers encountered a record 12,381 foreign nationals who were entering the United States along our southwest border without authorization.

So far this fiscal year, we are averaging nearly 8,500 encounters per day, and, this month, the average is nearly 10,000 per day. That means that for the month of December, we are likely to reach a record of more than 300,000 people crossing the southwest border without legal authorization. At the current rate, we are on pace for more than 3 million encounters in fiscal year 2024, which would shatter the previous high set last fiscal year.

To put this in perspective, that is more than twice as many encounters at the southwest border as there are people in the entire State of Maine, and these enormous numbers do not include what Border Patrol agents describe as the "got-aways"—in other words, those who do not turn themselves in and, instead, elude capture.

These numbers have grown dramatically in the past 3 years. Since fiscal year 2021, we have seen almost 6.6 million encounters and are on pace to see nearly 9.7 million individuals by the end of fiscal year 2024. Jeh Johnson, who served as Secretary of Homeland Security under President Obama, once said that, when he was Secretary, a thousand migrant encounters a day overwhelms the system. So just think what 10,000 individuals crossing does to the system.

And this problem is not limited to the southwest border, even though that is where the problem is most acute. We are increasingly seeing surges of migrant encounters along our northern border, including the State of Maine. According to Customs and Border Protection, migrant encounters at the northern border increased 73 percent in fiscal year 2023 over the previous year and a staggering 700 percent over fiscal year 2021 levels.

In the State of Maine, encounters have increased over 450 percent since fiscal year 2021. Increasingly, what we are seeing is that migrants are flying to Canada, knowing that they will have an easier time crossing the enormous 5,525-mile northern border.

Just recently, the U.S. Border Patrol encountered a group of 20 Romanians illegally crossing into the United States near Houlton, ME, in northern Maine. Two of these individuals were flagged as "transnational criminal organized crime" matches and detained for expedited removal proceedings. The remaining 18 were simply released into the local community.

Communities in Maine and throughout our country are struggling to absorb this influx of people who are being released into the interior. The majority of migrants are released pending an adjudication of their asylum claims. But that is a process that can take years.

In Portland, ME, a city of 68,000 residents, more than 1,600 asylum seekers have arrived since January.

Sanford, ME, which has a population of only 22,000, has had approximately 400 migrants arrive since May. Over the past 6 months, the city of Sanford has spent \$1.3 million to provide food, housing, and other required assistance to asylum seekers and their families.

Now, the irony here is these asylum seekers are not allowed to go to work immediately upon filing their asylum applications. I have introduced a bill that could help lessen the impact on local communities by helping asylum seekers support themselves, as they want to do. And employers in Maine want to hire them while they await their immigration proceedings.

Specifically, my bill would shorten the waiting period for asylum seekers who come through legal ports of entry to apply for employment authorization, provided that their applications are not frivolous, that they are not detained, and that their identities have been verified with their names run through the Federal Government's Terrorist Watchlist.

An out-of-control border, which is what we have now, poses a very real threat to our homeland and our people. This is a national security challenge for our country.

Since fiscal year 2021, 294 individuals who were apprehended by Border Patrol at the southwest border were on the Terrorist Watchlist. That compares to only 11 such individuals in the previous 4 years combined. And just think how many others are part of the "got-aways," those who did not turn themselves in or were not apprehended by our Border Patrol.

There are also tens of thousands of migrants arrested at our southern and northern borders who have criminal convictions or who are wanted by law enforcement, such as the two Romanians recently encountered in Maine.

Not only has the failure to control our border led to unchecked migration, but it has also contributed to the serious illegal drug crisis that is affecting communities throughout our country.

Mexican drug cartels are using the chaos at the southern border to facilitate their trafficking operations. They are sending record amounts of fentanyl into this country, enough to kill every American many times over.

Maine, like so many States, has seen record increases in recent years in the number of overdose deaths, nearly 80 percent of which are fentanyl related. We lost 513 Mainers in the first 10 months of 2023 to fatal overdoses, and 373 of these deaths were fentanyl related.

In addition, the Mexican cartel used the chaos and the uncontrolled southern border for human trafficking.

This is a crisis. It is a humanitarian crisis, and it is a national security crisis. And we cannot allow it to continue.

I have long supported creating legal immigration pathways with appropriate guardrails. Immigrants contribute to our great country and our communities in so many important ways. However, it is clear that we must act to address the ongoing and ever worsening crisis at our borders, which adversely affects communities throughout our country.

We cannot delay any longer. I am a strong supporter for continuing to provide assistance to Ukraine to repel Russian aggression. Make no mistake about it, Putin will not stop with Ukraine. He will go on to re-create, if he possibly can, his vision of, once again, having the old Soviet Union. I believe that if he is successful in Ukraine, he will next seize Moldova. He then will begin to menace and threaten our NATO allies—the Baltic States, Poland.

So far, we have been able to assist Ukraine without one American soldier losing his life or her life. We should continue to do so.

We need to help our greatest ally, Israel, in its fight against the terrorist group Hamas.

These, in many ways, are border disputes as well, but we cannot ignore the border crisis that we have in our own country. And that is why we need to work on all of these issues and bring them together in a supplemental funding bill.

The time to act is now. It is unfortunate that the administration has been so late to these negotiations, but I still have hope that we can put together a package that will address all of these crises: the border crisis in our own country, the border crisis in Ukraine, the border crisis in Israel with the terrorist attacks from Hamas, and the coming border crisis that we are going to see, I fear, with China increasingly threatening Taiwan. All of those issues need to be addressed in the supplemental. Let's get the job done.

RECESS

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

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:58 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. LUJÁN).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 430, Christopher Charles Fonzzone, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Tina Smith, Benjamin L. Cardin, Alex Padilla, Richard Blumenthal, Christopher A. Coons, Mazie Hirono, Chris Van Hollen, Michael F. Bennet, Mark Kelly, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Tim Kaine, Patty Murray, Angus S. King, Jr., Jack Reed, Cory A. Booker.

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 Christopher Charles Fonzzone, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Attorney General, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), and the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) would have voted "nay."

The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) would have voted "nay."

The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT), the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr.

SCOTT), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) would have voted "nay" and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) would have voted "nay."

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 49, nays 18, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 348 Ex.]

YEAS—49

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

NAYS—18

Britt	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cotton	Lankford	Thune
Crapo	McConnell	Tuberville
Fischer	Menendez	Vance
Grassley	Ricketts	Wicker
Hoeven	Sinema	Young

NOT VOTING—33

Barrasso	Ernst	Padilla
Blackburn	Graham	Paul
Boozman	Hagerty	Risch
Braun	Hawley	Romney
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Capito	Johnson	Rubio
Cassidy	Lee	Schatz
Cornyn	Lummis	Schmitt
Cramer	Marshall	Scott (FL)
Cruz	Moran	Scott (SC)
Daines	Mullin	Tillis

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 49, the nays are 18.

The motion is agreed to.

NOMINATION OF CHRISTOPHER CHARLES FONZONE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Christopher Charles Fonzone to serve as Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Legal Counsel, OLC.

After graduating from Cornell University and Harvard Law School, Mr. Fonzone clerked for Judge J. Harvie Wilkinson on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit and later Justice Stephen Breyer on the U.S. Supreme Court. Subsequently, Mr. Fonzone held a number of roles in the Obama administration: attorney on the appellate staff in the Civil Division at the Justice Department, special counsel in the Office of the General Counsel at the Department of Defense, attorney-adviser in OLC, special assistant and associate counsel in the White House Counsel's Office and Deputy National Security Council—NSC—Legal Adviser, and deputy assistant and counsel in the White House Counsel's Office and NSC Legal Adviser.

After working in private practice at Sidley Austin for several years, Mr. Fonzone returned to public service as the general counsel for the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, ODNI. In this role, Mr. Fonzone pro-

vides advice and counsel to the Director of National Intelligence and other senior ODNI leaders on a range of legal issues facing the Agency, including intelligence law, employment matters, administrative matters, and budgetary and fiscal issues.

Mr. Fonzone's demonstrated track record advising the U.S. Government and clients on a range of complex legal issues will serve him well when he is confirmed to lead OLC.

I urge my colleagues to support Mr. Fonzone's nomination.

VOICE ON FONZONE NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All postcloture time has expired.

Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Fonzone nomination?

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), and the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) would have voted "nay."

The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN).

The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT), the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT)

would have voted "nay" and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) would have voted "nay."

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 17, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 349 Ex.]

YEAS—50

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

NAYS—17

Britt	Kennedy	Thune
Cotton	Lankford	Tuberville
Crapo	McConnell	Vance
Fischer	Ricketts	Wicker
Grassley	Sinema	Young
Hoeven	Sullivan	

NOT VOTING—33

Barrasso	Ernst	Padilla
Blackburn	Graham	Paul
Boozman	Hagerty	Risch
Braun	Hawley	Romney
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Capito	Johnson	Rubio
Cassidy	Lee	Schatz
Cornyn	Lummis	Schmitt
Cramer	Marshall	Scott (FL)
Cruz	Moran	Scott (SC)
Daines	Mullin	Tillis

The nomination was confirmed.

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

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 444, Sara E. Hill, of Oklahoma, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Oklahoma.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Jack Reed, Tammy Duckworth, Martin Heinrich, Tina Smith, Mark R. Warner, Jeanne Shaheen, Margaret Wood Hassan, Tammy Baldwin, Alex Padilla, Mazie Hirono, Sheldon Whitehouse, Peter Welch, Chris Van Hollen, Elizabeth Warren, Christopher A. Coons.

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 Sara E. Hill, of Oklahoma, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Oklahoma, 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 California (Mr. PADILLA) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), and the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) would have voted "nay."

The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) would have voted "nay."

The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT), the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS), and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) would have voted "nay", the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) would have voted "nay", and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE) would have voted "nay."

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 14, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 350 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Baldwin	Cortez Masto	King
Bennet	Duckworth	Klobuchar
Blumenthal	Durbin	Lankford
Booker	Fetterman	Lujan
Brown	Gillibrand	Markey
Butler	Grassley	Menendez
Cantwell	Hassan	Merkley
Cardin	Heinrich	Murkowski
Carper	Hickenlooper	Murphy
Casey	Hirono	Murray
Collins	Kaine	Ossoff
Coons	Kelly	Peters

Reed	Smith	Warren
Rosen	Stabenow	Welch
Sanders	Tester	Whitehouse
Schumer	Van Hollen	Wyden
Shaheen	Warner	
Sinema	Warnock	

NAYS—14

Britt	Kennedy	Thune
Cotton	Manchin	Tuberville
Crapo	McConnell	Wicker
Fischer	Ricketts	Young
Hoeven	Sullivan	

NOT VOTING—34

Barrasso	Graham	Risch
Blackburn	Hagerty	Romney
Boozman	Hawley	Rounds
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Budd	Johnson	Schatz
Capito	Lee	Schmitt
Cassidy	Lummis	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Marshall	Scott (SC)
Cramer	Moran	Tillis
Cruz	Mullin	Vance
Daines	Padilla	
Ernst	Paul	

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MARKEY). On this vote, the yeas are 52, the nays are 14.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Sara E. Hill, of Oklahoma, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Oklahoma.

NOMINATION OF SARA E. HILL

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Sara Hill to the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Oklahoma.

Ms. Hill has deep ties to Oklahoma. Born in Tahlequah, OK, she received her B.A. from Northeastern State University, cum laude, and her J.D. from the University of Tulsa College of Law. She then began working for the Cherokee Nation in Tahlequah, where she served as an Assistant Attorney General, Deputy Attorney General, Secretary of Natural Resources, and Attorney General. She also served as a special assistant U.S. attorney in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Oklahoma in Tulsa. Since leaving her role as Attorney General, Ms. Hill has worked as a solo practitioner at Hill Law, PLLC in Tahlequah. She also serves as a voting, at-large member of the Tribal Issues Advisory Group of the U.S. Sentencing Commission. Ms. Hill has significant litigation experience in State, Federal, and Tribal court. Over the course of her career, she has tried 43 cases to verdict, and as Attorney General for the Cherokee Nation, she had constitutional responsibility for all litigation of the government and its businesses.

Ms. Hill is strongly supported by both of her home State Senators, as well as by the Oklahoma and Native American legal communities. The American Bar Association unanimously rated her as "qualified" to serve on the Northern District of Oklahoma. If confirmed, she will be the first Native American woman to serve as a Federal judge in Oklahoma.

When Senator LANKFORD introduced Ms. Hill at her confirmation hearing, he called her "an exceptionally impressive nominee" and said that he and his staff "have found her to be one of the smartest people in the room in just about any room she walks in." I agree on both counts. I am proud to support this nominee, and I urge my colleagues to join me.

VOTE ON HILL NOMINATION

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

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

Ms. HASSAN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), and the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) would have voted "nay."

The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) would have voted "nay."

The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT), the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS), and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT)

would have voted “nay”, the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) would have voted “nay”, and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE) would have voted “nay.”

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 14, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 351 Ex.]

YEAS—52

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

NAYS—14

Britt	Kennedy	Thune
Cotton	Manchin	Tuberville
Crapo	McConnell	Wicker
Fischer	Ricketts	Young
Hoeven	Sullivan	

NOT VOTING—34

Barrasso	Graham	Risch
Blackburn	Hagerty	Romney
Boozman	Hawley	Rounds
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Budd	Johnson	Schatz
Capito	Lee	Schmitt
Cassidy	Lummis	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Marshall	Scott (SC)
Cramer	Moran	Tillis
Cruz	Mullin	Vance
Daines	Padilla	
Ernst	Paul	

The nomination was confirmed.

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

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the Richard nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Elizabeth H. Richard, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Minister, to be Coordinator for Counterterrorism, with the rank and status of Ambassador at Large.

VOTE ON RICHARD NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Richard nomination?

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA),

the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), and the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) would have voted “aye.”

The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) would have voted “nay.”

The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT), the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS), and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) would have voted “aye”, the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) would have voted “nay”, the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE) would have voted “nay”, and the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) would have voted “nay.”

The result was announced—yeas 49, nays 15, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 352 Ex.]

YEAS—49

Baldwin	Gillibrand	Murray
Bennet	Hassan	Ossoff
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Peters
Booker	Hickenlooper	Reed
Brown	Hirono	Rosen
Butler	Kaine	Schumer
Cantwell	Kelly	Shaheen
Cardin	King	Sinema
Carper	Klobuchar	Smith
Casey	Lujan	Stabenow
Coons	Manchin	Tester
Cortez Masto	Markey	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Menendez	Warner
Durbin	Merkley	
Fetterman	Murphy	

Warnock	Welch	Wyden
Warren	Whitehouse	Young

NAYS—15

Britt	Grassley	Ricketts
Collins	Hoeven	Sullivan
Cotton	Kennedy	Thune
Crapo	Lankford	Tuberville
Fischer	McConnell	Wicker

NOT VOTING—36

Barrasso	Graham	Paul
Blackburn	Hagerty	Risch
Boozman	Hawley	Romney
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Budd	Johnson	Rubio
Capito	Lee	Sanders
Cassidy	Lummis	Schatz
Cornyn	Marshall	Schmitt
Cramer	Moran	Scott (FL)
Cruz	Mullin	Scott (SC)
Daines	Murkowski	Tillis
Ernst	Padilla	Vance

The nomination was confirmed.

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

The Senator from New Jersey.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 2119

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I come to the floor today seeking unanimous consent of my legislation to reauthorize the Firefighter Cancer Registry, a law that was passed unanimously by Congress and signed into law in 2018.

The Firefighter Cancer Registry improves our Nation's ability to conduct research and gather data on the cancer risks that are associated with firefighting, and in doing so, we learn how to mitigate those risks. It is a vital program, one that furthers our understanding of how to protect the brave first responders who run toward danger when everyone else is running away from it.

Yet, on October 1 of last year, the program expired. That should have never happened. In July, this Chamber passed this very legislation as part of the National Defense Authorization Act, but, unfortunately, it was stripped out of the House version.

My bipartisan, commonsense legislation would reauthorize the program for an additional 5 years while bringing it in line with the current appropriation level. And since this body has already once approved reauthorizing it at this funding level, a unanimous consent vote should be a simple task that we can all agree upon.

In the House, the House Energy and Commerce Committee has already marked up language identical to this bill, including the specific \$5.5 million figure which, I should add, is in line with the program's current appropriation. Further, the \$5.5 million appropriation was the product of a negotiation between the firefighter organizations, including the International Association of Fire Fighters, the CDC, and the House committee members. Although the CDC actually wanted the program funded at a higher level of \$7.5 million, there was an agreement on that \$5.5 million, which is the present authorization.

Supported by Senators MURKOWSKI, BROWN, KLOBUCHAR, FISCHER, RUBIO, TESTER, and BLUMENTHAL, this legislation would benefit both career firefighters as well as volunteers such as my constituent Edward Diaz. Mr. Diaz is the son of Eduardo Diaz, a North Bergen firefighter who, tragically, passed away in 2017 from pancreatic cancer.

Today, Edward carries on his family's legacy as a volunteer firefighter in Hasbrouck Heights, NJ. I submit to my colleagues the Diaz family, along with their fellow brothers and sisters in the profession, are the reason we should support this bill today. Firefighters put their lives and well-being on the line every single day to keep our loved ones and our communities safe, and it is time we care for them and make their health a priority. Firefighting is more than a job. It is a calling. I believe we should honor that calling by reauthorizing the Firefighter Cancer Registry.

I don't think we need to wait for a firefighter to die to honor them. We can honor them by ultimately passing this legislation so we can continue to mitigate the risk firefighters face by cancer substances that ultimately can take their life.

Mr. President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be discharged from further consideration of S. 2119; that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; further, that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. COTTON. Reserving the right to object, I voted for this legislation in July as part of the annual Defense bill, and I don't personally oppose its passage. Senator LEE and Senator PAUL have reservations about the bill, though they couldn't be present at this time. As a courtesy, therefore, I object on behalf of Senator LEE and Senator PAUL.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I appreciate that Senator COTTON is supportive. But let me just say, I wish Senator PAUL and Senator LEE were here to have firefighters across this Nation understand why something that is bipartisan—something that passed the Senate through the NDAA, something that is presently exactly being mirrored by Republicans in the House of Representatives—cannot ultimately pass this Chamber.

I guess it is "bah humbug" to firefighters this season. But we won't stop until we get it passed.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

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

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

U.S. SUPREME COURT

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I am here today for the 26th time to detail the special interest billionaire-funded scheme that has overrun the U.S. Supreme Court. This evening, I would like to discuss some things about Republican Judiciary Committee members' performance in the Senate Judiciary Committee recently as we voted on authorizing subpoenas for billionaire Harlan Crow, some of his holding companies, and the court-fixer, Leonard Leo.

At the end of last month, we voted, through the authorization for Chairman DURBIN, to issue subpoenas, and it was greeted with a barrage of talk about a whole variety of things. But one was how Democrats were destroying the Judiciary Committee. We were absolutely totally going to destroy the Judiciary Committee. It was on us that the Judiciary Committee was going to be destroyed.

Well, all the talk about destroying the Senate Judiciary Committee came, rather, in the nature of a threat. It was actually more like, if we did something that we are perfectly entitled to do to pursue subpoenas after being persistently obstructed, then Republicans would destroy the committee, would undo any good will or any bipartisan-ship or any collegial effort.

Somehow that Republican threat to destroy the committee morphed into Democrats destroying the committee. But that doesn't make any sense. If you think of a kidnapper shooting his hostage and then blaming the family for the murder of the hostage because the family hadn't yielded to the kidnapper's demands, that is kind of backward logic.

Also backward logic is the argument that the subpoenas were an effort to destroy not the committee but the Supreme Court. The subpoenas would destroy or damage the Supreme Court.

OK. Let's think about that for a minute.

There is only one possible way that it could be true, logically, that these subpoenas could do damage to the Supreme Court—only one—and that is if the information the subpoenas would disclose is so damaging that it would damage or destroy the Court. Subpoenas that turned up nothing would be no harm, no foul. If there is nothing evil to see in the information the subpoenas are pursuing, there is no harm. The necessary logical predicate of the destroy-the-Court argument made by our colleagues is that subpoenas would

reveal that something truly horrible happened at the Court that now needs to be covered up—covered up.

But that is not how "appearance of impropriety" works. Justices of the Supreme Court are supposed to avoid doing things that might create even the appearance of impropriety. The appearance-of-impropriety issue is not that you do impropriety and then go out and cover up its appearance.

We also heard a lot that day about the problem of subpoenaing "private citizens," as if that were something unusual. If that is a problem, it was a very new problem because just days before, the committee had subpoenaed private citizens in the tech sector on a bipartisan basis without anyone's objection.

As always, our Republican friends persisted in the argument that this committee has no business looking at Supreme Court gift disclosures. That argument was, is, and will always be a phony. The Judiciary Committee has every right to oversee how an Agency that Congress created—the Judicial Conference—is implementing a law that Congress passed, the judicial disclosure law. It is within the jurisdiction of the committee; it is a congressionally established body; and it is a statute passed by Congress.

If Congress can't oversee how Agencies it creates oversee laws it passes, there is no oversight left. Obviously, understanding what gifts went undisclosed is essential to that inquiry.

We then heard that you can't have subpoenas because a related bill is out of the committee. But Congress has every right to oversight and subpoenas at any stage in legislation—and even at no stage in legislation. Because the bill in question has not passed here in the Senate—it has come to the Senate floor, but it has not passed in the Senate—and because the Republicans not only stonewalled our investigation but threatened very plainly a partisan blockade of the bill here on the floor—"not a single Republican vote" was, I think, what they threatened—that makes it all the more obvious why continuing to build the factual case for reform is appropriate. There is precisely zero basis for the theory that a Senate committee can't look into a subject of legislation once some related legislation is out of committee. Preparing for a successful floor vote on that bill is only one obvious reason why that theory is painfully wrong.

If you look at all of that noise and fuss that was put up, it is hard not to deduce that maybe something else is going on here. Here is my theory of the case, as I have said in previous speeches: Very powerful rightwing billionaires spent years and hundreds of millions of dollars on a scheme to influence—and even control—the Supreme Court. Those very powerful rightwing billionaires are also massive funders of Republican politics, including Republican Senate politics.

The problem is that those very powerful rightwing billionaires got sloppy,

and their gift program to take care of certain Supreme Court Justices started breaking gift and disclosure rules—very likely tax rules, as well, with a few of the amenable Supreme Court Justices whom they were rewarding with lavish entertainments.

What we already know about that gift program is bad enough. How far the billionaires' hands are in the cookie jar and how coordinated and orchestrated this secret gift program was is information that they desperately want to suppress. So they do what megadonors do and pressure Members of Congress to do what they want, and, in this case, it was help the billionaires suppress the truth of what went down here.

I will close by observing that the argument that Democrats are behaving improperly in our work to clean up the mess at the Supreme Court is an argument that has some very powerful rebuttals.

The first rebuttal comes from the billionaires who are actually cooperating with our investigation.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD at the conclusion of my remarks as exhibits several letters reflecting that cooperation: the first, dated July 25, 2023, to Chairman DURBIN and Senator WHITEHOUSE; the second, dated October 18, 2023, to Chairman DURBIN and Senator WHITEHOUSE; the third, dated October 31, 2023, to Senators DURBIN and WHITEHOUSE; the fourth, dated November 6, 2023, to Senators DURBIN and WHITEHOUSE; and the fifth, dated November 7, 2023, Dear Committee.

I would also note that another—yet another wealthy donor, not one of these in the letters—yet another wealthy donor has cooperated with the Finance Committee's investigation into the tax ramifications of all these secret gifts and what was disclosed and what was not disclosed. And that donor revealed to the Finance Committee compelling evidence that he collected only interest—only interest—on a quarter-million-dollar-plus loan to Justice Thomas; that the donor never collected any—any—principal payment; and that he ultimately stopped collecting either interest or principal on that quarter-million-dollar-plus loan.

So the cooperation of people with our investigations rebut the argument that we have no business. The second rebuttal comes, actually, from within the Judiciary itself because this is not the only avenue we are pursuing to get to the bottom of the mess at the Supreme Court.

When I got the Judicial Conference to review the Scalia trick, which was to have intermediaries solicit dozens of personal invitations from hunting resort owners, whom Scalia had often never even met, and then failed to disclose the free vacations because, in his view, the personal invitation made it personal hospitality, within the terms of the disclosure statute—well, the members of the Judicial Conference—

the chief judges of the circuits and of district courts who together comprised the Judicial Conference—those chief judges blew that trick to smithereens. They didn't criticize me for being a bad Senator asking bad questions and going places I shouldn't be going. They dropped the hammer on the Scalia trick. They put a dead finish end to it.

And later, when I got the Judicial Conference to look at the billionaire-funded flotillas of amicus briefs that they send in through phony front groups to tell the Justices what it is that they want them to do in cases and the phony front groups were not disclosing their true funders or their true interconnections or their true commonalities, again, this array of very distinguished chief judges didn't look and say: Well, here is a Senator on an improper rampage. We can't have any of this. No. They announced that they were revisiting the amicus brief disclosure rule because it needed fixing, and they are in the process of finalizing that right now. So two for two. When questions related to this investigation have been taken up by the Judicial Conference, they have actually been handled perfectly consistent with the thrust and tenor of our investigation.

The third rebuttal that you will have to trust me on, I am afraid, is that over and over, I have heard from Federal judges that this investigation is important; that we are doing good work; and that we should keep the pressure on and don't let up and get to the bottom of this mess. I don't mean my home State judges, either. From all around the country, I am getting messages of support from judges appointed by Democratic and Republican Presidents that what has happened at the Court is a disgrace and that I should keep at it; that the Judiciary Committee should keep at it for the good and the health of the judiciary itself.

By comparison, when you look at the frantic complaining about our work, it mostly comes from a small handful of dark money mouthpieces actually linked to the Court-capture scheme. Obviously, Mr. Rivkin, who is Leonard Leo's lawyer, is out to blockade our investigation. So there is one. He represents Leonard Leo against our investigation, and he summoned Justice Alito to offer an opinion to his and Leonard Leo's benefit in the pages of the Wall Street Journal editorial page.

Another voice is Leonard Leo's painting pal—you may remember this painting that was done at Harlan Crowe's Adirondack estate with billionaire Crowe, Justice Thomas, and Leonard Leo, the Court fixer. Well, also there is painting pal Mark Paoletta. He is another persistent voice; and he couldn't be more in the scheme than that painting shows.

Also, Carrie Severino turns up. She is Leonard Leo's dark money sidekick—successor at the dark money funded Federalist Society and the dark money funded fictitious name group, Judicial Crisis Network.

And then, of course, there is the Wall Street Journal editorial page whose people have received a million dollars in personal cash from the dark money Bradley Foundation at the middle of that dark money amicus flotilla. At attorney Rivkin's request that I mentioned, Justice Alito even provided a cameo performance in the Wall Street Journal editorial page that defended the position of his friend Leonard Leo in plain violation of multiple judicial ethics guidelines.

All that Rivkin-Leo-Alito stunt—Wall Street Journal editorial page stunt—needed was Paoletta and Severino to make it a clean sweep of all the major mouthpieces.

Steering away from troublesome facts is a constant theme in the mess we are trying to dig into over at the Court. In the January 6 and Arizona cases, what Justice Thomas knew about his wife's insurrection activities and when he knew it is the salient question about recusal. He has never been asked. What made Justice Alito say that in that Wall Street Journal editorial, attorney Rivkin was acting just as an interviewer and not as Leonard Leo's lawyer, even though Rivkin was under contract to Leonard Leo as his lawyer at that time? That question has never been asked. What became of Thomas' quarter-million-dollar loan, and why was it not reported? That question has never been asked. What made Justice Alito think that he should suddenly start answering legal questions likely to come before the Court in the pages of the Wall Street Journal editorial page, despite every Justice in their confirmation hearing saying: That is inappropriate? That question has never been asked.

What made Thomas think the Judicial Conference action that I described—blowing the Scalia trick to smithereens—was a change in the rules and not a clarification of the rules? That question has never been asked. But it is a question that matters because the Judicial Conference actually called it a clarification and Thomas' lawyers treated it as a change. And the difference is this: If it is a change in the law, you don't have to go back and clean up your prior incomplete and false filings. If it is a clarification, you have to go back and clean up your prior defective filings.

So to say that this was a change despite the fact the Judicial Conference said it was a clarification is a very significant legal leap; and no justification for it was offered at the time or has been proposed since.

In all of these matters, the common theme is that factfinding—the very basis of due process—factfinding is not performed around the Supreme Court Justices. Factfinding, despite being the essence of due process, this Court avoids like the plague.

All of this—the behavior of our friends in the committee, the cooperation and support from billionaires and judges and others, the mischief of not

answering basic fact questions—all of it signals that there is a lot going on here; that there is a lot to investigate; and that our investigation must and will continue.

To be continued.

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

ERICKSON | SEDERSTROM,
ATTORNEYS AT LAW,
July 25, 2023.

Re Response to Letter Dated July 11, 2023, to Robin P. Arkley, II, Our File No.: 00018.010802.

Hon. RICHARD DURBIN,
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. SHELDON WHITEHOUSE,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Federal Courts
Oversights, Agency Action and Federal
Rights, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN DURBIN AND SENATOR WHITEHOUSE: We write this letter on behalf of Robin P. Arkley, II in response to your letter dated July 11, 2023, which requested information concerning Mr. Arkley's interactions with Supreme Court Justices. While we respect the Senate Committee's oversight role, we believe that this inquiry exceeds the limits placed on the legislature by the Constitution. For our stated reasons, we refer you to the relevant portions of the letter dated July 25, 2023, from Baker & Hostetler directed to you on behalf of Mr. Leo.

Thank you very much.
Sincerely,

SAMUEL E. CLARK.

ERICKSON | SEDERSTROM,
ATTORNEYS AT LAW,
October 18, 2023.

Re Response to Letter Dated July 11, 2023, to Robin P. Arkley, II, Our File No.: 00018.010802.

Hon. RICHARD DURBIN,
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. SHELDON WHITEHOUSE,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Federal Courts
Oversights, Agency Action and Federal
Rights, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN DURBIN AND SENATOR WHITEHOUSE: This letter is written in response to your letter dated October 5, 2023.

Mr. Arkley reaffirms his position that, as a private citizen whose hospitality was wholly unrelated to the business of the Supreme Court, there is no legislative purpose that requires him to report the same to your Committee. If the law required or should require a government official to report hospitality or travel, that certainly does not apply to Mr. Arkley, and you should take the matter up with that official.

Your request that Mr. Arkley further provide the names of friends to whom he might have provided hospitality is without purpose and suggests that presence at a private social occasion at which no official public business was discussed or undertaken somehow subjects one to congressional scrutiny. This is an unreasonable affront on a citizen's privacy.

Mr. Arkley is not accused of violating any laws, has no disclosure duties, and has nothing to add beyond what has already been reported in the press. We must respectfully decline to respond to your request for the names and circumstances surrounding his personal hospitality.

Sincerely,

SAMUEL E. CLARK.

GREENBERG/TRAURIG,
October 31, 2023.

Re Response to September 14, 2023 Letter to Paul Anthony Novelly.

Hon. RICHARD DURBIN,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. SHELDON WHITEHOUSE,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Federal Courts,
Oversight, Agency Action, and Federal
Rights, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATORS DURBIN AND WHITEHOUSE: We write on behalf of our client Paul Anthony Novelly in response to your letters dated September 14, 2023 requesting information regarding "gifts, payments or items of value exceeding \$415" provided by Mr. Novelly or his affiliated Companies to "any Justice of the Supreme Court or member of the Justice's family." Your letter sought a response no later than September 27, 2023. Your Committee staff members subsequently granted an extension until October 31, 2023.

To begin with, we are aware of no evidence that Mr. Novelly or his affiliated Companies, gave anything to anyone as specifically defined in your letter or engaged in any transactions with those identified in your letter that were unusual, inappropriate, improper or contrary to law. In particular, any claims made by what your letter characterized as "investigative reporting" sources regarding the presence of Justice Clarence Thomas on a yacht owned by Mr. Novelly travelling in the Bahamas are false. Mr. Novelly is not aware of any basis whatsoever to support any suggestion or claim of yacht trips or vacations provided by him to Justice Thomas.

Furthermore, and with due respect, we do not concede that the Committee has the authority, constitutional or otherwise, to seek the information sought in its September 14th letters or to compel production or compliance by Mr. Novelly. We explicitly reserve any and all rights Mr. Novelly may have to object to such requests.

Nevertheless, in the interest of cooperation and to minimize the further expenditure of time and money, below is a description of the two instances where we are informed that Mr. Novelly provided something of "value" to Justice Thomas as defined by and requested in your letter that Mr. Novelly's staff was able to locate.

1. August 22, 2016—a one-way return flight from Jackson Hole, Wyoming to Washington, D.C. by Justice Thomas, his wife and Senator Joseph Manchin and his wife, who were dropped off in Charleston, West Virginia after attending a social function attended by a number of members of the Horatio Alger Association among others, including Terrence Giroux, the Executive Director of the Horatio Alger Association, who was also a passenger on the flight from Jackson Hole, Wyoming to Washington, D.C.;

2. March 30, 2018—a one-way flight, by Justice Thomas and his security detail from Ft. Lauderdale, Florida to Washington D.C. The Justice and Mr. Novelly were attending the funeral services for a mutual friend and Horatio Alger Association member.

These airplane trips are the sole instances of which Mr. Novelly and his staff are aware that may be responsive to your requests.

We trust that Mr. Novelly's voluntary cooperation and provision of this information will end any further inquiry of Mr. Novelly.

Respectfully submitted,

DENNIS J. BLOCK,

On behalf of Paul Anthony Novelly.

ERICKSON | SEDERSTROM,
ATTORNEYS AT LAW,
November 6, 2023.

Re Response Robin P. Arkley, II.

Hon. RICHARD DURBIN,
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. SHELDON WHITEHOUSE,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Federal Courts
Oversights, Agency Action and Federal
Rights, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATORS DURBIN AND WHITEHOUSE: Mr. Arkley has asked that I provide you additional information in response to your letter of July 11, 2023.

In response to your request for a list of any gifts, payments and items of value exceeding \$415, and all transportation or lodging given by Mr. Arkley, or by entities owned or controlled by him, or for which he has served as a partner, director, or officer, to any Justice of the Supreme Court or a member of the Justice's family, he recalls only two items, which have both already been reported on:

In 2008, Justice Samuel Alito attended a fishing trip and stayed at King Salmon Lodge ("Lodge") in King Salmon, Alaska. The Lodge was owned by Mr. Arkley's company, Security National Master Holding Company ("Company"). For the period of time that the Company owned the Lodge, Mr. Arkley hosted dozens of employees and friends. He sold the Lodge more than a decade ago.

In addition to a number of friends he invited who were personal friends from his hometown or from college, Mr. Arkley also invited Mr. Leonard Leo, a friend through his association with the Federalist Society. After one of his conversations with Leonard, Mr. Arkley invited a number of Mr. Leo's friends to join the trip, including Justice Samuel Alito, Judge Ray Randolph, Mr. Paul Singer, and Mr. John Fund. To the best of Mr. Arkley's recollection, the trip lasted three or four nights. As he had done with other friends and guests who stayed at the Lodge, Mr. Arkley covered the expenses for the lodging, meals, and costs associated with the fishing expeditions.

Mr. Arkley did not provide Justice Alito transportation to or from the Lodge.

In 2005, Mr. Arkley invited Mr. Leo and Justice Antonin Scalia on a fishing trip in Alaska, in addition to inviting a number of friends from his hometown and college. His recollection is that he provided air travel on his private aircraft for Justice Scalia and Mr. Leo from the continental United States to Alaska. To the best of Mr. Arkley's recollection, they stayed at the Karluk Lodge and fished in the Karluk River. As the fishing was poor, they travelled to the Situk River to fish and stayed at another lodge. The trip was four to five days, and Mr. Arkley paid all expenses for those who were his guests on this trip.

With respect to your requests for the itinerary or costs associated with these trips, Mr. Arkley does not have that information. The private aircraft owned by the Company during the relevant period was sold ten years ago and records of its use are unavailable. Further, in accordance with industry standards, the Company has had a long-standing retention policy, originally adopted in 2008, that requires all records, not subject to litigation holds, be disposed of after seven years. As these two trips occurred well after that timeframe, no company records exist. Mr. Arkley also does not have any personal records regarding these two trips.

These are the only two items that are relevant to your request for information.

While we continue to believe the Committee's request for this information exceeds its constitutional authority, as set forth in letters of July 25, 2023, and October 18, 2023. Mr.

Arkley has provided this information in an effort to be cooperative and put this matter behind him. I trust that this does so. Nevertheless, we reserve all rights to object to the Committee's request for any additional information.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

SAMUEL E. CLARK.

NOVEMBER 7, 2023.

DEAR COMMITTEE: I have reviewed the letter dated November 6, 2023, prepared and signed by my counsel, Samuel Clark. The letter reflects my recollection of the individuals and dates of the fishing trips. Any other contact that I may have had with the relevant individual referenced in your July 11, 2023 letter does not fall within the scope of your request, including that I have not provided any gift over the \$415 threshold to any relevant person.

In order to refresh my recollection and to provide the requested information, my staff searched for any responsive records. As my counsel noted in his letter, my company has a retention policy in place that requires the disposal of all records, not subject to any litigation hold, after 7 years. Thus, there are no responsive records. Additionally, I searched my records and found no responsive records.

Sincerely,

Robin P. Arkley II.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I yield the floor. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nominations en bloc: Calendar Nos. 188, 198, 202, 236, 262, 288, 292, 328, 335, 338, 416, and Calendar Nos. 449 through 452, and all nominations on the Secretary's desk in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, Navy, and Space Force; that the Senate vote on the nominations, en bloc, without intervening action or debate; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the en bloc nominations of Executive Calendar Nos. 188, 198, 202, 236, 262, 288, 292, 328, 335, 338, 416, and Calendar Nos. 449 through 452, and all nominations on the Secretary's desk in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, Navy, and Space Force?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc as follows:

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position

of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be general

Lt. Gen. Kevin B. Schneider

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be general

Gen. Kenneth S. Wilsbach

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601, and title 50, U.S.C., section 2511:

To be admiral

Vice Adm. William J. Houston

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be general

Lt. Gen. Gregory M. Guillot

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be general

Lt. Gen. Timothy D. Haugh

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment as Vice Chief of Staff of the Army and appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 7034:

To be general

Lt. Gen. James J. Mingus

IN THE SPACE FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Space Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be general

Lt. Gen. Michael A. Guetlein

IN THE SPACE FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Space Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be general

Lt. Gen. Stephen N. Whiting

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment as Vice Chief of Naval Operations and appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 8035:

To be admiral

Vice Adm. James W. Kilby

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment as Vice Chief of Staff of the Air Force and appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 9034:

To be general

Lt. Gen. James C. Slife

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be admiral

Vice Adm. Stephen T. Koehler

IN THE NAVY

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. Eric J. Anduze

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be vice admiral

Rear Adm. John B. Skillman

IN THE ARMY

The following named Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army in the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

To be brigadier general

Col. Erik A. Fessenden

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Christopher C. LaNeve

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

IN THE AIR FORCE

PN888 AIR FORCE nominations (13) beginning MATTHEW T. BALLANCO, and ending JASON L. TUCKER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 25, 2023.

PN890 AIR FORCE nominations (74) beginning ADAM D. AASEN, and ending SARAH J. ZIMMERMAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 25, 2023.

PN891 AIR FORCE nominations (9) beginning AARON C. BAUM, and ending MARY C. YELNICKER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 25, 2023.

PN892 AIR FORCE nominations (59) beginning MICHAEL A. ARGUELLO, and ending MICHAEL D. ZOLLARS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 25, 2023.

PN893 AIR FORCE nominations (88) beginning JOSH R. ALDRED, and ending RICHARD W. ZEIGLER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 25, 2023.

PN894 AIR FORCE nominations (284) beginning WILLIAM JOHN ACKMAN, and ending TODD M. ZIELINSKI, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 25, 2023.

PN1076 AIR FORCE nominations (10) beginning SAUNYA N. BRIGHT, and ending ROBBIE L. WHEELER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 19, 2023.

PN1080 AIR FORCE nominations (131) beginning KASUMI ERICA ANDERSON, and ending ESTHER K. ZVOL, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 19, 2023.

PN1118 AIR FORCE nomination of Jaymi F. Jeffery, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 1, 2023.

PN1160 AIR FORCE nomination of Christopher M. Lutz, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 27, 2023.

PN1169 AIR FORCE nomination of Daniel E. Finkelstein, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 4, 2023.

IN THE ARMY

PN1161 ARMY nomination of Michael W. Lawson, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 27, 2023.

PN1162 ARMY nominations (6) beginning JASON E. COSBY, and ending BRIAN MATHISON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 27, 2023.

PN1163 ARMY nomination of Roberto Candelaria-Santiago, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 27, 2023.

PN1173 ARMY nomination of James M. Degroot, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 4, 2023.

PN1176 ARMY nomination of Victoria K. Somnuk, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 4, 2023.

PN1177 ARMY nominations (25) beginning TREVOR I. BARNA, and ending 0003391400, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 4, 2023.

PN1178 ARMY nominations (57) beginning BRIAN D. ANDES, and ending 0003089250, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 4, 2023.

PN1179 ARMY nomination of Bryce R. Greenwood, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 4, 2023.

PN1180 ARMY nomination of Caleb J. Porter, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 4, 2023.

PN1181 ARMY nominations (6) beginning HORACE ALLEN, III, and ending THOMAS R. WEBER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 4, 2023.

PN1182 ARMY nominations (4) beginning ANDREW S. BERRYMAN, and ending DANIEL J. MCAULIFFE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 4, 2023.

PN1183 ARMY nomination of Timothy P. Plackett, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 4, 2023.

PN1189 ARMY nomination of Jacob B. Saunders, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 7, 2023.

PN1190 ARMY nomination of Mark C. Mullinax, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 7, 2023.

PN1194 ARMY nomination of Lasaundra C. Estelle, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 7, 2023.

PN1195 ARMY nomination of Paul B. Fowler, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 7, 2023.

PN1196 ARMY nomination of Pace E. Brown, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 7, 2023.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

PN1184 MARINE CORPS nominations (428) beginning ERICK R. ABERCROMBIE, and ending ANGELA S. ZUNIC, which nomina-

tions were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 4, 2023.

PN1185 MARINE CORPS nominations (746) beginning JONATHAN K. ACKER, and ending EDWARD S. ZUR, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 4, 2023.

IN THE NAVY

PN1095 NAVY nomination of Devere J. Crooks, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 19, 2023.

PN1197 NAVY nomination of Sarah A. Sherwood, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 7, 2023.

PN1198 NAVY nomination of Wilfredo Morales, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 7, 2023.

PN1199 NAVY nomination of Dary R. Sampy, Jr., which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 7, 2023.

IN THE SPACE FORCE

PN1187 SPACE FORCE nomination of Robin J. Glebes, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 4, 2023.

PN1188 SPACE FORCE nomination of Maxwell E. Fuldauer, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 4, 2023.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, for the information of the Senate and the American people, these are the 11 four-star generals who were not included in the last approval of the 300-and-some-odd flag officers whom we did approve last time. So these are the 11 remaining generals that have just been approved and some other regular nominations that we usually do through the military. But these 11 flag officers have now been approved, joining the rest of their colleagues whom we approved a few week ago. That is good news.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 174.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of S. Kato Crews, of Colorado, to be United States District Judge for the District of Colorado.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented

under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The 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. 174, S. Kato Crews, of Colorado, to be United States District Judge for the District of Colorado.

Charles E. Schumer, Raphael G. Warnock, Mazie K. Hirono, Jeanne Shaheen, Elizabeth Warren, Catherine Cortez Masto, Margaret Wood Hassan, Jack Reed, Mark Kelly, Tammy Duckworth, Chris Van Hollen, Amy Klobuchar, Jeff Merkley, Richard J. Durbin, Alex Padilla, John Fetterman, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Sherrod Brown.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 311.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Karoline Mehalchick, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The 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. 311, Karoline Mehalchick, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Tammy Duckworth, Mazie K. Hirono, Richard Blumenthal, Christopher A. Coons, Alex Padilla, Patty Murray, Sheldon Whitehouse, Debbie Stabenow, Tina Smith, Benjamin L. Cardin, Chris Van Hollen, Tim Kaine, Brian Schatz, Christopher Murphy, Peter Welch.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 376.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of John A. Kazen, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The 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. 376, John A. Kazen, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Tina Smith, Alex Padilla, Jack Reed, Patty Murray, Christopher A. Coons, Sheldon Whitehouse, Mazie Hirono, Peter Welch, Richard Blumenthal, Jeanne Shaheen, Margaret Wood Hassan, Chris Van Hollen, Brian Schatz, John W. Hickenlooper, Robert P. Casey, Jr.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, December 19, be waived.

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

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)"—VETO

Mr. SCHUMER. As in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent the veto message on S.J. Res. 32, it be considered as having been read, printed in the RECORD, and spread in full upon the Journal.

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

The veto message is ordered to be printed in the RECORD as follows:

To the Senate of the United States:

I am returning herewith without my approval S.J. Res. 32, a resolution that would disapprove of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's (CFPB) final rule titled "Small Business Lending Under the Equal Credit Opportunity Act (Regulation B)."

The CFPB's final rule would provide small business owners, lenders, and the public with critical information about the \$1.7 trillion small business financing market. It would bring much needed transparency to small business lending and improve the ability of lenders and community organizations to meet the most critical needs of America's small businesses. This rule implements a long-overdue piece of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act. It is also central to the effective implementation of the Community Reinvestment Act, which helps ensure that the needs of all borrowers—including low- and moderate-income borrowers—are met. But this Republican-led resolution would hinder the Government's ability to conduct oversight of abusive and predatory lenders, make it harder for 33 million small businesses across the country to assess lending opportunities and access capital, and make it more difficult for lenders and community groups to address the most acute gaps in capital access for minority- and women-owned businesses.

If enacted, this resolution would harm all those that stand to benefit from expanded transparency and accountability. By hampering efforts to promote transparency and accountability in small business lending, Republicans are siding with big banks and corporations over the needs of small business owners. Small businesses are the engines of our economy, and my Administration will not support policies that hurt their ability to thrive and grow.

Therefore, I am vetoing this resolution.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.

THE WHITE HOUSE, December 19, 2023.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—VETO
MESSAGE S.J. RES. 32

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that, notwithstanding rule XXII, the veto message with respect to S.J. Res. 32 be considered at a time to be determined by the majority leader in concurrence with the Republican leader prior to January 31, 2024; that there be up to 2 hours for debate equally divided between the two leaders or their designees; that the Senate then vote on passage of the joint resolution, the objections of the President to the contrary notwithstanding.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, for the information of Senators, there will be no further votes tonight. It is our expectation that we will finish all remaining business tomorrow.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

ISRAEL

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, let me begin by wishing all Americans and my colleagues here in the Congress a very happy and peaceful holiday season.

Unfortunately, for the people in Israel and Palestine, that will not be the case. This is not a peaceful season for them. In Gaza, millions of people will end the year under constant bombardment, exposed to the winter or living in tents, wondering where they will find their next meal or clean drinking water or the medical supplies they need. What is going on in Gaza right now is an unmitigated humanitarian disaster, and we must not look away from it.

We all know that the current war was begun by Hamas in their brutal terrorist attack against Israel, which killed some 1,200 innocent men, women, and children and took more than 240 hostages. Hamas is a corrupt terrorist organization which, before and after their attack on October 7, has made it clear that their goal is to destroy the State of Israel.

There is no question in my mind that Israel has the right to defend itself and respond against the perpetrators of the October 7 attack. But while it is clear that Israel has the right to respond militarily against that terrorist attack, it is also clear that the Netanyahu rightwing extremist government is waging that war—that response—in a deeply reckless and immoral way.

A just cause for war does not excuse atrocities in the conduct of that war, and that is precisely what we are seeing. Israel has the right to go to war against Hamas. It does not have the right to go to war against innocent men, women, and children in Gaza.

Israel's reliance on widespread and indiscriminate bombardment, including the use of massive explosive ordnance in densely populated areas, is unconscionable. Israel's military campaign will be remembered among some of the darkest chapters of our modern history.

Consider the toll thus far—and I hope that every Member of Congress is prepared to consider the toll of what Israel is doing right now. As of today, nearly 20,000 people have been killed, 70 percent of whom are women and children.

Let me repeat that. Nearly 20,000 people have been killed, 70 percent of whom are women and children. And more than 52,000 have been wounded since October 7. More victims are likely trapped under the rubble. Further, 135 United Nations workers have been killed as well as dozens of other aid workers.

Unbelievably—and it really is quite unbelievable—nearly 1.9 million people—that is more than 85 percent of the population in Gaza—have been driven from their homes. Can you imagine

that? Eighty-five percent of the people have been thrown out of their homes, and, as we speak, they don't know where they are going. They don't know what their future is. They don't have enough food, water, medical supplies, or fuel.

Despite sharing their locations with Israeli military forces, more than 100 United Nations facilities have been bombed. More than 100 U.N. facilities have been bombed, and the U.N. reports—and, again, an incredible fact—that over 60 percent of the housing units in Gaza have been damaged or destroyed. Can you imagine that?

My State of Vermont has 600,000 people. That is one-third of the people who live in Gaza, and I am just trying to think in my mind what it would look like if 60 percent of the housing units in Vermont were damaged or destroyed. But that is the case in Gaza right now.

Let me put this in historical perspective and what that historical perspective means: that the destruction in Gaza is now equivalent to that of Dresden, Germany, where 2 years of bombing by the U.S. Air Force and British Air Force during World War II destroyed half of the homes in that city and killed about 25,000 people. Gaza has matched that in just 2 months—not 2 years, 2 months.

This massive bombardment has made it impossible for the United Nations and other aid groups to provide basic necessities to the people in Gaza. As we speak, some 1.4 million people are sheltering in 155 overcrowded U.N. facilities.

Can you imagine that 1.4 million people are sheltering tonight in 155 grossly overcrowded U.N. facilities? There is little electricity, food, water, medicine, or fuel; and hundreds of thousands of children are going hungry tonight in Gaza. The shortage of clean water and adequate sanitation facilities is leading to disease.

And we can't even begin to contemplate the lasting psychological damage being done to the children of Gaza. Can you imagine a 5-year-old, a 10-year-old, looking around for whether a bomb is going to be hitting him or her, wondering what kind of house, if any, they are ever going to return to or where are they going? Massive psychological damage is being done to the people of Gaza and especially to the children. The United Nations' senior humanitarian official said that he fears a "breakdown in society" amid this desperation.

Let's be frank. What we are talking about in Gaza now is not just a humanitarian cataclysm but a mass atrocity.

And what is important for every Member of this body to understand—for every American to understand—is that all of this is being done with bombs and equipment provided by the United States of America and heavily subsidized by American taxpayers. We are paying for the carnage in Gaza right now—our bombs, our ordnance. There is no denying that we are, as a nation, complicit in this carnage.

The Israeli military has made extensive use of massive explosive munitions in its campaign, including 2,000-pound and 1,000-pound bombs, and 155-millimeter artillery. These bombs and shells are manufactured here in America and supplied to Israel by the United States of America.

The Wall Street Journal reports that the United States has provided at least 15,000 bombs and 57,000 artillery shells to Israel since October 7, including more than 5,400 of the huge 2,000-pound bombs that can flatten entire neighborhoods.

The Washington Post reports that, in just 6 weeks after October 7, Israel dropped more than 22,000 American-supplied bombs on Gaza. And CNN reports that U.S. intelligence believes 40 to 45 percent of the bombs Israel has used in Gaza have been unguided "dumb bombs."

These munitions were provided with the full knowledge they would likely be used in Gaza, a densely populated urban area with a large civilian presence. Parts of Gaza are more densely populated than New York City.

The press, human rights monitors, and U.S. officials have confirmed that U.S.-provided bombs have been used in attacks that have killed thousands of civilians.

This campaign, I am sorry to say, very likely violates U.S. law and U.S. policy. That is why I have introduced a privileged resolution under section 502B of the Foreign Assistance Act. The resolution requests that the State Department provide information on any credible allegations of human rights violations in Gaza caused by indiscriminate or disproportionate military operations and the blanket denial of humanitarian access. It also requests a list of the arms provided to Israel since October 7 and a description of the steps taken to limit civilian risk caused by Israeli military actions.

We will be voting on this resolution in January, and the best basic question that we will be answering in that resolution is, Do we support asking the State Department whether human rights violations may have been committed in the Israeli campaign in Gaza?

That is not a tough question, and I hope that what we will see is a "yes" vote from most of my colleagues.

This should not be controversial. If you believe, as I do, that this campaign has been indiscriminate, then, it is our responsibility to get that question answered. If you believe Israel has done nothing wrong in Gaza, then you should want that information to support your belief.

When we receive this information, we will then have a privileged vehicle to debate any necessary changes in U.S. security assistance to Israel.

While I look forward to this debate, let me also mention that there are other things that we should be doing as well. The United States—President Biden—has urged Israel to change its tactics with regard to their indiscriminate

bombing. The President and people in the State Department have asked Netanyahu over and over and over again. Unfortunately, the Netanyahu government has not listened and has not been terribly interested in our perspective, despite the fact that we are supplying the bombs that they are using, despite the fact that we have provided them with \$3.5 billion every year for a long time in military aid. Instead, the Netanyahu government is continuing its military approach, which is both immoral and in violation of international law.

In my view, the United States must end our complicity in those actions, and, to do so, we must make two critical changes in our policy. First, while it is appropriate to support defensive systems like Iron Dome to protect Israeli civilians against incoming rockets, it would be irresponsible to provide an additional \$10.1 billion in military aid beyond those defensive systems, as contained in the proposed supplemental foreign aid package.

The bottom line is that we should not be giving more money to a right-wing extremist government in Israel to conduct a horrific and immoral military campaign that includes indiscriminate bombardment.

Second, in my view, the United States should support efforts at the United Nations Security Council to end the bloodshed, such as the resolution expected tomorrow that would demand an "urgent suspension of hostilities to allow safe and unhindered humanitarian access, and for urgent steps towards a sustainable cessation of hostilities," as well as the unconditional release of all hostages. This should be something we strongly support.

As you may recall, last week, the United States vetoed a resolution, and I think that was disappointing not just to me but to many Americans.

As we soon head home to our families, let us not forget the millions of people in desperate need both here in the United States and around the world. In Gaza, there is a horrific situation we can and must do more to address. We cannot forget about it. We cannot shove it under the rug. The time is now for the United States to stand up and do everything that we can to end this humanitarian disaster.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

MILITARY PROMOTIONS

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, as this day comes to an end, a very sad chapter in the history of this body comes to an end, mercifully.

I stand here before you and my colleagues as the last Vietnam veteran serving in the U.S. Senate, a retired Navy captain, a grandson of a Gold Star Mother, and from a family who believes in the Navy blue.

I want to say to the hundreds of military families who have endured the uncertainty of whether or not their loved ones—their husbands, their fathers,

their brothers, their sisters—were going to be able to assume the promotions that they have earned for their years of service in protecting our country and in helping to defend our Constitution that this sad chapter has come to an end.

I want to apologize to those families. I spoke last week and urged that we turn this page and move on, and I am grateful that that has happened.

I want to especially commend the work behind the scenes of our chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, JACK REED, an Army veteran, for the work that he has done in enabling us to end this sad chapter.

I remember serving in a number of tours in Southeast Asia in the Vietnam war. In some of those years, we were not home for Christmas, for the holidays. We were on the other side of the world, and our families were back here in the States. Those were not happy days for us, and I know the last months have not been happy days for a lot of people in the armed services who deserve better.

My hope is and my prayer is that at this Christmas season—at this holiday season, as we move toward Christmas—and as we move toward the end of the year and into a new year that the memories of what they have had to endure will fade and that what they will remember is that there are a number of our colleagues who stood up and said that this has got to end, and let's treat our military folks—all of them—with the respect that they deserve.

We have a big Air Force base in Delaware, Dover Air Force Base. We have C-5s and C-17s. Through their large cargo aircraft, they provide an air bridge to Ukraine by literally carrying in those large aircraft the munitions, the supplies, and the materials that are needed to help Ukraine fight back against the Russian invasion.

I have kept very close tabs with the Air Force base, gosh, for 30-some years. One of the challenges we have at the Dover Air Force Base, with the Delaware National Guard, and at military installations across the country is the workforce. We find, for civilians, there are all kinds of businesses and all kinds of employers. When I go visit them in Delaware and across the country and I ask them how are they doing, how are we doing, what can we do to help—we in the Federal Government and the State government—they say: We just need people to come to work, people who are employable and trainable who will come to work.

We have similar challenges in our armed services these days. We need people who are willing to step up, be trained, and serve in the Army, the Navy, the Air Force, the Marine Corps, and the Coast Guard. We want to make sure, when they do that, that we will respect them and their families as we traditionally have done since the beginning of this country.

So, as we wrap this up and prepare to go home for the day—at least in Dela-

ware—I will be back tomorrow to, hopefully, do more of our Nation's business. I am hopeful we will, and I am encouraged by what has happened today.

Again, to those who serve us throughout the world in the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines, the Navy salutes you, and God bless. To each and every one of you out there who is serving us, whether you happen to be in the States or someplace around the world, God bless you. Be safe, and thank you so much.

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. MERKLEY. 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. MERKLEY. 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.

(At the request of Mr. THUNE, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

VOTE EXPLANATION

• Mr. BRAUN. Mr. President, on December 19, 2023, the Senate voted on the confirmation of Ms. Elizabeth H. Richard, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Minister, to be Coordinator for Counterterrorism, with the rank and status of Ambassador at Large, Executive Calendar No. 144. Had I been present for this, I would have voted in favor of Ms. Richard's nomination.●

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such

annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

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

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(5)(C) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 23-0W. This notification relates to enhancements or upgrades from the level of sensitivity of technology or capability described in the Section 36(b)(1) AECA certification 17-57 of October 30, 2017.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCH,
Director.

Enclosure.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 23-0W

Report of Enhancement or Upgrade of Sensitivity of Technology or Capability (Sec. 36(b)(5)(C), AECA)

(i) Purchaser: Government of Canada.
(ii) Sec. 36(b)(1), AECA Transmittal No.: 17-57; Date: October 30, 2017; Implementing Agency: Air Force.

(iii) Description: On October 30, 2017, Congress was notified by Congressional certification transmittal number 17-57 of the possible sale, under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, of up to thirty-two (32) AIM-120D Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAAMs), up to eighteen (18) AMRAAM Captive Air Training Missiles (CATMs); up to four (4) AMRAAM Non-Development Item—Airborne Instrumentation Unit (NDI-AIU); up to two (2) AMRAAM Instrumented Test Vehicles (ITV); up to seven (7) spare AMRAAM guidance units; up to four (4) spare AMRAAM control sections for use on their F/A-18 aircraft. Included in the sale were containers; storage and preservation; transportation; aircrew and maintenance training; training aids and equipment, spares and repair parts; warranties; weapon system support and test equipment; publications and technical documentation; software development, integration, and support; system integration and testing; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The total estimated program cost was \$140 million. Major Defense Equipment (MDE) constituted \$130 million of this total.

On February 21, 2019, Congress was notified by Congressional certification transmittal number 19-0E of the inclusion of up to eighty-eight (88) AIM-120D AMRAAMs beyond the number enumerated in the original notification (for a total of one hundred twenty (120) AIM-120D AMRAAMs),—as well as the increase of up to sixteen (16) spare AMRAAM guidance units (for a total of twenty-three (23) spare AMRAAM guidance units), and eight (8) spare AMRAAM control sections (for a total of twelve (12) spare AMRAAM control sections). The MDE value increased by \$150 million to \$280 million. The total case value increased to \$308 million.

This transmittal notifies the inclusion of the following additional MDE items: up to four hundred twelve (412) AIM-120D AMRAAMs; up to forty-eight (48) AMRAAM Air-to-Air Vehicles Instrumented (AAVI); and up to ten (10) spare AMRAAM guidance units for use on F/A-18 and F-35 aircraft. Also included are KGV-135A embedded COMSEC devices; classified software and

technical publications; AMRAAM control and telemetry sections; containers; field spares; support equipment; spare parts; technical publications; country-specific technical orders; repair and return services; site surveys; weapons system support; and training. The estimated total value of the new items and services is \$1.902 billion. The estimated MDE value will increase by \$1.66 billion to a revised \$1.94 billion. The estimated non-MDE value will increase by \$0.242 billion to a revised \$0.270 billion. The estimated total case value will increase to \$2.21 billion.

(iv) Significance: The inclusion of this MDE represents an increase in capability and capacity over what was previously notified. The proposed sale will increase Canada's stock of AIM-120D AMRAAM for use with its F/A-18 and F-35 fleets.

(v) Justification: This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by helping to improve the military capability of Canada, a North Atlantic Treaty Organization Ally that is an important force for ensuring political stability and economic progress, and is a contributor to military, peacekeeping and humanitarian operations around the world.

(vi) Sensitivity of Technology:

The AIM-120D AAVI is a live launch test vehicle used primarily for flight test integration with a rocket motor and instrumentation unit in place of a warhead. The AAVI verifies and assesses the ability to safely launch an AMRAAM and validate the missile's performance.

The Sensitivity of Technology Statement contained in the original notification applies to additional items reported here.

The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

(vii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: December 14, 2023.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

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

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(5)(C) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 23-0Y. This notification relates to enhance-

ments or upgrades from the level of sensitivity of technology or capability described in the Section 36(b)(1) AECA certification 23-53 of August 1, 2023.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCHE,
Director.

Enclosure.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 23-0Y

Report of Enhancement or Upgrade of Sensitivity of Technology or Capability (Sec. 36(b)(5)(C), AECA)

(i) Purchaser: Government of Finland.
(ii) Sec. 36(b)(1), AECA Transmittal No.: 23-53; Date: August 1, 2023; Implementing Agency: Army.

(iii) Description: On August 1, 2023, Congress was notified by Congressional certification transmittal number 23-53, of the possible sale, under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, of the M270A2 upgrade of M270A1 Multiple Launch Rocket Systems (MLRS). The upgrade includes intercom systems; radio communication mounts; machine gun mounts; battle management system vehicle integration kit; publications for MLRS; spares; services; support equipment; and other related elements of program and logistics support. Major Defense Equipment (MDE) constituted \$0 of this total.

This transmittal notifies an increase in non-MDE value by \$180 million, resulting in a new estimated non-MDE and overall total case value of \$575 million. There is no MDE included in this potential sale.

(iv) Significance: Recent cost increases have brought about the need to add value to the original notification. The upgraded M270A2 MLRS will give Finland additional advanced capability to address current and future regional threats; reinforcing its ability to maintain regional stability, increasing Finland's security. The sale supports U.S. national security interests by bolstering the land defense in Europe's northern flank.

(v) Justification: This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security of the United States by improving the security of a North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Ally that is an important force for political stability and economic progress in Europe.

(vi) Sensitivity of Technology: The Sensitivity of Technology statement contained in the original notification applies to items reported here.

(vii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: December 18, 2023.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

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

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 23-85, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Greece for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$1.95 billion. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCHE,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 23-85

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Greece.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment * \$.85 billion.
Other \$1.10 billion.
Total \$1.95 billion.

Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):
Thirty-five (35) UH-60M Black Hawk helicopters.

Eighty (80) T700-GE 701D Engines (70 installed, 10 spares).

Forty-four (44) AN/AAR-57 Common Missile Warning Systems (CMWS) (35 installed, 9 spares).

Eighty-five (85) H-764U Embedded Global Position Systems with Inertial Navigation (EGI) and country unique selective availability anti-spoofing module (SAASM) (or future replacement) (70 installed, 15 spares).

Eighty-five (85) AN/ARC-231A VHF/UHF/LOS SATCOM Radio Systems.

Non-MDE: Also included are AN/ARC-231 Receivers/Transmitters RT-1808A (or future replacement); VHF/UHF/LOS SATCOM radios; APR-39C(V)1/4 Radar Warning Receivers; AVR-2B Laser Detecting Sets; APX-123A Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) Transponders; ARC-220 High Frequency (HF) radios with KY-100M; VRC-100 Ground Stations; AN/PYQ-10 Simple Key Loaders (SKLs); KIV-77 Common IFF Applique Crypto Computers; COMSEC Encryption devices; AN/ARN-147(V) Very High Frequency Omni-Directional Range (VOR)/Instrument Landing System (ILS) Receiver Radios; AN/ARN-149(V) Low Frequency (LF)/Automatic Direction Finder (ADF) Radio Receivers; AN/ARN-153 Tactical Air Navigation System (TACAN) Receiver Transmitters; AN/APN-209 Radar Altimeters; AN/ARC-210 radios; EBC-406HM Emergency Locator Transmitters (ELTs); Encrypted Aircraft Wireless Intercommunications Systems (EAWIS); Improved Heads Up Displays (IHUD); Signal Data Converters for IHUD; Color Weather Radars; MX-10D EO/IR with Laser Designators; EO/IR Cabin Monitoring Systems; EO/IR Digital Video Recorders; AN/ARC-201D RT-1478D radios; Engine Inlet Barrier Filters (EIBF); Ballistic Armor Protection Systems (BAPS); Internal Auxiliary Fuel Tank Systems (IAFTS); Fast Rope Insertion Extraction Systems (FRIES); External Rescue Hoists (ERH); Rescue Hoist Equipment Sets; Dual Patient Litter System (DPLS) Sets; Martin Baker Palletized Crew Chief/Gunner Seats with crashworthy floor structural modifications; External Stores Support System (ESSS); Integrated Tow Plates Production Assets; Universal Software Loading

Kits; 60kVA Generator Kits; Instrument Panels; DF-500 Personal Location Systems; Trakkabeam Searchlights; External Gun Mount Systems; M-134 Mini Gun Systems; M-240 machine guns; 7.62mm Cartridges; 2.75" Rockets; Flare IR Countermeasure M206; Decoy Flare CM M211; CTG Impulse BBU-35/B; CTG, 25.4mm, Decoy, Chaff, M839/RR170/Series; M255A2 MK-66 Night Reliability Indicator (NRI); Cartridge, Aircraft Fire Extinguisher; Cartridge, Impulse; Thruster Control Unit (TCU)-3/A; Cartridge, Aircraft; Black Hawk Aircrew Trainer (BAT); Black Hawk Maintenance Trainer (BHMT-M); Black Hawk Avionics Trainer; Maintenance Blended Reconfigurable Avionics Trainer (MBRAT); CAPT-E-Visual & Control System (CAPT-E VCS); training devices; helmets; transportation; organizational equipment; spare and repair parts; support equipment; tools and test equipment; technical data and publications; personnel training and training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (GR-B-ZOZ).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: December 15, 2023.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Greece—UH-60M Black Hawk Helicopters

The Government of Greece has requested to buy thirty-five (35) UH-60M Black Hawk helicopters; eighty (80) T700-GE 701D engines (70 installed, 10 spares); forty-four (44) AN/AAR-57 Common Missile Warning Systems (CMWS) (35 installed, 9 spares); eighty-five (85) H-764U Embedded Global Position Systems with Inertial Navigation (EGI) and country unique selective availability anti-spoofing module (SAASM) (or future replacement) (70 installed, 15 spares); and eighty-five (85) AN/ARC-231A VHF/UHF/LOS SATCOM radio systems. Also included are AN/ARC-231 Receivers/Transmitters RT-1808A (or future replacement); VHF/UHF/LOS SATCOM radios; APR-39C(V)1/4 Radar Warning Receivers; AVR-2B Laser Detecting Sets; APX-123A Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) Transponders; ARC-220 High Frequency (HF) radios with KY-100M; VRC-100 Ground Stations; AN/PYQ-10 Simple Key Loaders (SKLs); KIV-77 Common IFF Applique Crypto Computers; COMSEC Encryption devices; AN/ARN-147(V) Very High Frequency Omni-Directional Range (VOR)/Instrument Landing System (ILS) Receiver Radios; AN/ARN-149(V) Low Frequency (LF)/Automatic Direction Finder (ADF) Radio Receivers; AN/ARN-153 Tactical Air Navigation System (TACAN) Receiver Transmitters; AN/APN-209 Radar Altimeters; AN/ARC-210 radios; EBC-406HM Emergency Locator Transmitters (ELTs); Encrypted Aircraft Wireless Intercommunications Systems (EAWIS); Improved Heads Up Displays (IHUD); Signal Data Converters for IHUD; Color Weather Radars; MX-1 0D EO/IR with Laser Designators; EO/IR Cabin Monitoring Systems; EO/IR Digital Video Recorders; AN/ARC-201D RT-1478D radios; Engine Inlet Barrier Filters (EIBF); Ballistic Armor Protection Systems (BAPS); Internal Auxiliary Fuel Tank Systems (IAFTS); Fast Rope Insertion Extraction Systems (FRIES); External Rescue Hoists (ERH); Rescue Hoist Equipment Sets; Dual Patient Litter System (DPLS) Sets;

Martin Baker Palletized Crew Chief/Gunner Seats with crashworthy floor structural modifications; External Stores Support System (ESSS); Integrated Tow Plates Production Assets; Universal Software Loading Kits; 60kVA Generator Kits; Instrument Panels; DF-500 Personal Location Systems; Trakkabeam Searchlights; External Gun Mount Systems; M-134 Mini Gun Systems; M-240 machine guns; 7.62mm Cartridges; 2.75" Rockets; Flare IR Countermeasure M206; Decoy Flare CM M211; CTG Impulse BBU-35/B; CTG, 25.4mm, Deco Chaff, M839/RR170/Series; M255A2 MK-66 Night Reliability Indicator (NRI); Cartridge, Aircraft Fire Extinguisher; Cartridge, Impulse; Thruster Control Unit (TCU)-3/A; Cartridge, Aircraft; Black Hawk Aircrew Trainer (BAT); Black Hawk Maintenance Trainer (BHMT-M); Black Hawk Avionics Trainer; Maintenance Blended Reconfigurable Avionics Trainer (MBRAT); CAPT-E-Visual & Control System (CAPT-E VCS); training devices; helmets; transportation; organizational equipment; spare and repair parts; support equipment; tools and test equipment; technical data and publications; personnel training and training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$1.95 billion.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by helping to improve the security of a NATO Ally, which is an important partner for political stability and economic progress in Europe.

The proposed sale will replace Greece's current multi-role helicopter fleet with a more reliable and proven system that will allow Greece to maintain the appropriate level of readiness to conduct combined operations. The UH-60M Black Hawk helicopter will improve the Hellenic Army's ability to deploy combat power to secure Greece's borders, deter actions against its interests, and, when required, respond with credible force. Greece will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor will be Sikorsky, a Lockheed Martin Company, Stratford, CT. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require approximately fifteen (15) U.S. Government and/or fifteen (15) contractor representatives to travel to Greece for an extended period for equipment de-processing/fielding, system checkout, training, and technical and logistics support.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 23-85

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The UH-60M aircraft is a medium lift four bladed aircraft which includes two (2) T-701D Engines. The aircraft has four (4) Multi-function Displays (MFD), which provides aircraft system, flight, mission, and communication management systems. The instrumentation panel includes four (4) Multi-function Displays (MFDs), two (2) Pilot and Co-Pilot Flight Director Panels, and two (2) Data Concentrator Units (DCUs). The Navigation System will have Embedded GPS/INS (EGIs), and two (2) Advanced Flight Control Computer Systems (AFCC), which provide 4 axis aircraft control:

a. The AN/ARC-201 Very High Frequency-Frequency Modulation (VHF-FM) Single Channel Ground and Airborne Radio System (SINGARS) airborne radio is a reliable, field-proven voice and data communication system used with the UH-60. A country-unique non-COMSEC export variant of this radio will be provided that meets Greece's requirements.

b. AN/ARC-231 RT-1808A VHF/UHF/LOS SATCOM Radios. The AN/ARC-231 is a software-definable radio for military aircraft that provides two-way, multi-mode voice and data communications over a 30 Hz to 512 MHz frequency range. It covers both line-of-sight Ultra High Frequency (UHF) and Very High Frequency (VHF) bands with AM, FM and SATCOM capabilities.

c. The AN/ARC-231A is a software-definable radio for military aircraft that provides two-way, multi-mode voice and data communications over a 30 Hz to 512 MHz frequency range. No designated exportable/non-COMSEC capable version planned. It supports both line-of-sight Ultra High Frequency (UHF) and Very High Frequency (VHF) bands with AM, FM and SATCOM capabilities and includes embedded frequency agile modes, Electronic Counter-Countermeasures (ECCM) anti-jam waveforms including Have quick and SINGARS, Demand Assigned Multiple Access (DAMA), Integrated Waveform (IW). It provides simultaneous, real-time participation in tactical voice and data communications networks.

d. The AN/ARC-210 is a family of radios for military aircraft that provides two-way, multi-mode voice and data communications over a 30 to 512+MHz frequency range. It covers both Ultra High Frequency (UHF) and Very High Frequency (VHF) bands with AM, FM and SATCOM capabilities. The ARC-210 radio also includes embedded anti-jam waveforms, including have-quick and SINGARS and other data link and secure communications features, providing total battlefield interoperability and high-performance capabilities in the transfer of data, voice and imagery.

e. The AN/ARC-220 High Frequency (HF) Airborne Communication System provides rotary-wing aircraft, with advanced voice and data capabilities for short- and long-distance communications. The system is software programmable and provides for embedded automatic Link establishment (ALE), serial tone data modem, text messaging, GPS position reporting and anti-jam (ECCM) functions.

f. The AN/APX-123A, Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) Transponder, is a space diversity transponder and is installed on various military platforms. When installed in conjunction with platform antennas and the Remote Control Unit (or other appropriate control unit), the transponder provides identification, altitude and surveillance reporting in response to interrogations from airborne, ground-based and/or surface interrogators.

g. The VRC-100 High Frequency (HF) Communication System is the ground station version of the AN/ARC-220 for use in Aviation Operation Centers. It provides for advanced voice and data capabilities for short- and long-distance communications. The system is software programmable and provides for embedded automatic Link establishment (ALE), serial tone data modem, text messaging, GPS position reporting and anti-jam (ECCM) functions. System purchased with all required mounts, amplifiers, antennas, power supplies, and accessories.

h. The AN/PYQ-10 Simple Key Loader (SKL) is a ruggedized, portable, hand-held fill device, for securely receiving, storing, and transferring data between compatible cryptographic and communications equipment.

i. The KIV-77 Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) Crypto Appliqué provides cryptographic and time-of-day services for a Combined Interrogator/Transponder (CIT) or individual interrogator or transponder Mark XIII (Mode 4 and Mode 5) IFF system deployed to identify cooperative, friendly systems.

j. The KY-100M is a self-contained terminal including COMSEC that provides for secure voice and data communications in tactical airborne/ground environments. It is an integral part of the U.S. Joint Services and Federal Law Enforcement Agency networks, and provides half-duplex, narrowband and wide-band communications. Flexible interfaces ensure compatibility with a wide range of voice, data, radio and satellite equipment.

k. The AN/APR-39C(V)1/4 Radar Warning System detects radar-based rangefinders, target designators and beam rider systems targeting an aircraft or vehicle. The APR-39 is a detection component of the suite of countermeasures designed to increase survivability of current generation combat aircraft and specialized special operations aircraft against the threat posed by laser designated or guided weapons.

l. The AN/AVR-2B Laser Warning Receiver detects laser rangefinders, target designators and beam rider laser-aided systems targeting an aircraft or vehicle. The AVR-2B is a detection component of the suite of countermeasures designed to increase survivability of current generation combat aircraft and specialized special operations aircraft against the threat posed by laser designated or guided weapons.

m. The AAR-57 Common Missile Warning System (CMWS) is an integrated infrared (IR) countermeasures suite utilizing ultraviolet (UV) sensors to display accurate threat location and dispense decoys/countermeasures either automatically or under pilot/crew control to defeat incoming missile threats.

n. Embedded Global Positioning System (GPS)/Inertial Navigation System (INS) (EGI) provides GPS and INS capabilities to the aircraft. The EGI will include Selective Availability anti-spoofing Module (SAASM) security modules to be used for secure GPS PPS, if required.

o. Cartridge, 25.4mm, Decoy M839. The M1 (Z133) is a 25.4mm Decoy Chaff Cartridge. Z133 is a component in A965.

p. Flare Countermeasure M211 can defeat certain shoulder launched missiles.

2. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

3. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures which might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

4. A determination has been made that Greece can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

5. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal are authorized for release and export to the Government of Greece.

CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO § 620C(D) OF THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1961, AS AMENDED

Pursuant to Section 620C(d) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended (the Act), Executive Order 12163, State Department Delegation of Authority No. 293-2, and State Department Delegation of Authority 510; I

hereby certify that the furnishing to Greece of UH-60 Utility Helicopters and related defense articles and services is consistent with the principles contained in Section 620C(b) of the Act.

This certification will be made part of the notification to Congress under Section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, regarding the proposed sale the above-named article and services and is based on the justification accompanying such notification, of which such justification constitutes a full explanation.

BONNIE JENKINS,
*Under Secretary for Arms Control and
International Security.*

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

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

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN,
*Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(5)(C) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 23-0V. This notification relates to enhancements or upgrades from the level of sensitivity of technology or capability described in Section 36(b)(1) AECA certification 19-08 of January 29, 2019.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCHE,
Director.

Enclosure.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 23-0V

Report of Enhancement or Upgrade of Sensitivity of Technology or Capability (Sec. 36(b)(5)(C), AECA)

(i) Purchaser: Government of Japan.

(ii) Sec. 36(b)(1), AECA Transmittal No.: 19-08; Date: January 29, 2019; Implementing Agency: Navy.

(iii) Description: On January 29, 2019, Congress was notified by Congressional certification transmittal number 19-08, of the possible sale, under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, of two (2) AEGIS Weapon Systems (AWS), two (2) Multi-Mission Signal Processors (MMSP) and two (2) Command and Control Processor (C2P) Refreshes. Also included is radio navigation equipment, naval ordnance, two (2) Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) Systems, Global Command and Control System-Maritime (GCCS-M) hard-

ware, and two (2) Inertial Navigation Systems (INS), U.S. Government and contractor representatives' technical, engineering and logistics support services, installation support material, training, construction services for six (6) vertical launch system launcher module enclosures, communications equipment and associated spares, classified and unclassified publications and software, and other related elements of logistical and program support. The total estimated program cost was \$2.150 billion. Major Defense Equipment (MDE) constituted \$3.375 billion of this total.

On September 12, 2019, Congress was notified by Congressional certification transmittal number 0Q-19 of an increase in capability from the Navigation Sensor System Interface (non-MDE) originally notified, to the Global Positioning System (GPS)-based Positioning, Navigation, and Timing Service (GPNTS) capability, which is MDE. The total value of the GPNTS was \$3,417,596, but the total estimated MDE and total program cost remained the same at \$3.375 billion and \$2.150 billion, respectively.

This transmittal notifies the addition of the following MDE items: two (2) AEGIS Weapon Systems; two (2) AN/SPQ-9B Radar Systems; two (2) AN/SLQ-32(V)6 Electronic Warfare Systems; two (2) AN/USQ-140 Multifunctional Information Distribution System (MIDS) on Ship (MOS), Modernization (MOS MOD); two (2) AN/USQ-190 Multifunctional Information Distribution System Joint Tactical Radio Systems (V5); three (3) Cooperative Engagement Capability (CEC), AN/USG-10s; and one (1) AN/UYQ-120(V) Command and Control Processor (C2P) Technology Refresh System. Also included are AN/SQQ-89 Underwater Sound Equipment Systems; Multi-Function Towed Array Systems; RT-1829 Ultra-High Frequency, Satellite Communications (UHF SATCOM) Terminals; OE-570D Antennas; MK20 Mod 1 Electro-optic/Infrared Sensor Systems; MK160 Mod 23 Gun Weapon Systems; MK-36 Mod 6 Super Rapid Offboard Countermeasures and Decoy Launching System (SRBOC); U.S. Government and contractor representatives technical, engineering, and logistics support services; installation support material; training, tool development, communications equipment, and associated spares; classified and unclassified publications and software; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total value of the new items is \$0.570 billion. The net MDE value will increase by \$0.239 billion and the non-MDE value by \$0.331 billion. The revised estimated total case value will increase to \$2.72 billion. MDE will constitute \$0.614 billion of this total.

(iv) Significance: The inclusion of this MDE represents an increase in capability over what was previously notified. The proposed articles and services will assist Japan in developing and maintaining a strong and effective self-defense capability.

(v) Justification: This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a major ally that is a force for political stability and economic progress in the Asia-Pacific region.

(vi) Sensitivity of Technology:

The AN/SPQ-9B is a horizon search radar system that detects and tracks low radar cross section targets in high clutter and distributes radar track data to the AEGIS Combat system. The hardware is unclassified with the exception of the Radar Processor unit, which is classified SECRET upon connection to the combat system.

The AN/SLQ-32(V)6 Electronic Warfare System (EWS) provide enhanced electronic support (ES) detection and accuracy capabilities to improve anti-ship missile defense,

counter targeting, counter surveillance, and battle space awareness, and also distributes electronic warfare (EW) sensor tracks and EW composite tracks to the AEGIS Combat System.

The AN/USQ-140 Multifunctional Information Distribution System-Low Volume Terminal (MIDS-LVT) is a secure, jam-resistant communication and positioning system. MIDS provides interoperability with NATO and coalition users, significantly increasing force command and control effectiveness. The Tactical Digital Information Link-J TADIL-J series message standard is employed by the system as defined in NATO Standardization Agreement (STANAG) 5516 and U.S. Military Standard (MIL-STD) 6016. The embedded hardware features provide communications security.

The AN/USQ-190 Multifunctional Information Distribution System Joint Tactical Radio System (MIDS JTRS) builds on the MIDS-LVT's capabilities with the addition of Concurrent Multi-Netting (CMN) and Concurrent Contention Receive (CCR) functions. CMN and CCR dramatically expand the number of platforms and network-enabled systems that can be reliably included in a Link 16 network.

The Cooperative Engagement Capability (CEC) AN/USG-10 is a system that fuses tracking data from shipboard and off-ship sensors and distributes radar measurement data to other platforms with CEC capability. The hardware is unclassified with the exception of the Signal Data Processor, which is classified SECRET and contains a communications security (COMSEC) card.

The AN/UYQ-120(V) Command and Control Processor (C2P) Technology Refresh System is a Tactical Data Link (TDL) message distribution system that provides real-time control and management of Tactical Digital Data Links (TADILs) in support of all major surface ship and shore command, control, and communications (C3) systems. The C2P is follow-on Technical Refresh (TR) upgrade for the legacy AN/UYQ-86(V) variants 1 through 7 of the Common Data Link Management System (CDLMS). The AN/UYQ-120(V) C2P System has three possible variants depending on the host site in which it is installed and only uses trusted software.

The AN/SQQ-89 is a state-of-the-art anti-submarine warfare and combat system. It consists of a complex set of equipment and information processing subsystems that provide the capability to provide an acoustic undersea tactical picture for U.S. surface combatants (cruisers, destroyers, frigates) as well as Japan's ATAGO and MAYA class destroyers. The SQQ-89A(V15) combines processing of active and passive sonar sensor data from a hull/bow array, towed TB-37 array, and sonobuoys.

The RT-1829(P)/S is a shipboard Ultra High Frequency, Satellite Communications (UHF SATCOM) channel terminal that is Joint Interoperability Test Command (JITC)-assessed and NSA-certified to comply with legacy Demand Assigned Multiple Access (DAMA) MIL-STDs and interoperate with fielded UHF SATCOM terminals. The terminal allows for a single control and management interface to operate multiple voice and data communications simultaneously. The UHF SATCOM architecture will be configured with the OE-570D antenna system and will support Satellite TADIL-J (S TADIL-J) for extension of Link-16.

The Sensitivity of Technology Statement contained in the original notification applies to other items reported here.

The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

(vii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: December 14, 2023.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

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

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN,
*Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 24-03, concerning the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Japan for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$224 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCHE,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 24-03

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Japan.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment \$213 million.
Other \$11 million.
Total \$224 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):
One hundred twenty (120) AIM-120C-8 Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAAM).

Three (3) AIM-120C-8 Guidance Section.

Non-MDE: Also included are AIM-120 Captive Air Training Missiles (CATM), missile containers, and control section spares; Common Munitions Built-in-Test Reprogramming Equipment (CMBRE); ADU-891 Adapter Group Test Sets; munitions support and support equipment; spare and repair parts, consumables, and accessories, and repair and return support; contract logistics support (CLS); classified software delivery and support; classified/unclassified publications and technical documentation; studies and surveys; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistical support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Air Force (JA-D-YBI).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: JA-D-YAI, JA-D-YAK, JA-D-YAO, JA-D-YCM, JA-D-YAU, JA-D-YAX, JA-D-YBD.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None known at this time.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: December 15, 2023.

* As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Japan—AIM-120C-8 Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAAM)

The Government of Japan has requested to buy one hundred twenty (120) AIM-120C-8 Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAAM); and three (3) AIM-120C-8 guidance sections. Also included are AIM-120 Captive Air Training Missiles (CATM), missile containers, and control section spares; Common Munitions Built-in-Test Reprogramming Equipment (CMBRE); ADU-891 Adapter Group Test Sets; munitions support and support equipment; spare and repair parts, consumables, and accessories, and repair and return support; contract logistics support (CLS); classified software delivery and support; classified/unclassified publications and technical documentation; studies and surveys; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistical support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$224 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a major ally that is a force for political stability and economic progress in the Indo-Pacific region.

The proposed sale will improve Japan's capability to meet current and future threats by defending its homeland and U.S. personnel stationed there. The proposed sale is Japan's CY2023 annual purchase of AMRAAMs. Japan will have no difficulty absorbing these articles and services into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor will be RTX Corporation, Tucson, AZ. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to Japan.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 24-03

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The AIM-120C-8 Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile (AMRAAM) is a supersonic, air-launched, aerial intercept, guided missile featuring digital technology and micro-miniature, solid-state electronics. AMRAAM capabilities include look-down/shoot-down, multiple launches against multiple targets, resistance to electronic countermeasures, and interception of high- and low-flying and maneuvering targets.

2. The Common Munitions Built-In-Test (BIT)/Reprogramming Equipment (CMBRE) is support equipment used to interface with weapon systems to initiate and report BIT results, and upload/download flight software.

CMBRE supports multiple munitions platforms with a range of applications that perform preflight checks, periodic maintenance checks, loading of Operational Flight Program (OFP) data, loading of munitions mission planning data, loading of Global Positioning System (GPS) cryptographic keys, and declassification of munitions memory.

3. The ADU-891 Adapter Group Test Set provides the physical and electrical interface between the Common Munitions Built-in-Test Reprogramming Equipment (CMBRE) and the missile.

4. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

5. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

6. A determination has been made that Japan can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

7. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to Japan.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

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

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 23-82, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO) for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$300 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCHE,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 23-82

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO).

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment \$0.
Other \$300 million.
Total \$300 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE): None.

Non-MDE: Included is follow-on life cycle support to maintain Command, Control, Communications, and Computers (C4) capabilities managed under the Syun An program. The C4 capabilities consisting of previously procured Multifunctional Information Distribution Systems-Low Volume Terminals (MIDS-LVT) and Joint Tactical Information Distribution System (JTIDS) equipment, as well as procurement of spare and repair parts; repair and return of equipment; technical documentation; personnel training; software and hardware; software development; maintenance of Continental United States (CONUS) technical laboratories; U.S. Government and contract engineering and technical support; logistics; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Navy (TW-P-GPU).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: TW-P-GOS, TW-P-GNU, TW-P-GMK.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None known.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: None.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: December 15, 2023.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States—Command, Control, Communications, and Computers (C4) Life Cycle Support

The Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO) has requested to buy follow-on life cycle support to maintain Command, Control, Communications, and Computers (C4) capabilities managed under the Syun An program. The C4 capabilities consisting of previously procured Multifunctional Information Distribution Systems-Low Volume Terminals (MIDS-LVT) and Joint Tactical Information Distribution System (JTIDS) equipment, as well as procurement of spare and repair parts; repair and return of equipment; technical documentation; personnel training; software and hardware; software development; maintenance of Continental United States (CONUS) technical laboratories; U.S. Government and contract engineering and technical support; logistics; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$300 million.

This proposed sale is consistent with U.S. law and policy as expressed in Public Law 96-8.

This proposed sale serves U.S. national, economic, and security interests by supporting the recipient's continuing efforts to modernize its armed forces and to maintain a credible defensive capability. The proposed sale will help improve the security of the recipient and assist in maintaining political stability, military balance, and economic progress in the region.

The proposed sale will improve the recipient's capability to meet current and future threats by enhancing operational readiness and maintenance of its existing C4 capabilities and sustaining capabilities that provide secure flow of tactical information required for the development of a Joint Common Operation Picture. The recipient will have no difficulty absorbing this support and equipment into its inventory.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor(s) will be determined through U.S. Government competitive processes. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require an estimated twenty-six (26) U.S. Government personnel and eighty-three (83) U.S. contractor representatives to travel to the recipient, as required, to provide engineering and technical support services as well as program and technical reviews.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

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

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(5)(A) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 0T-23. This notification relates to enhancements or upgrades from the level of sensitivity of technology or capability described in the Section 36(b)(1) AECA certification 12-39 of July 20, 2012.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCHE,
Director.

Enclosure.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 0T-23

Report of Enhancement or Upgrade of Sensitivity of Technology or Capability (Sec. 36(b)(5)(A), AECA)

(i) Purchaser: Government of Thailand.

(ii) Sec. 36(b)(1), AECA Transmittal No.: 12-39; Date: July 20, 2012; Implementing Agency: Army.

Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description: On July 20, 2012, Congress was notified by Congressional certification transmittal number 12-39, of the possible sale, under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, of 4 UH-60M Black Hawk Helicopters, 10 T700-GE-701D Engines (8 installed and 2 spares), warranty, support equipment, spare and repair parts, personnel training and training equipment, publications and technical data, U.S. Government and contractor technical assistance, and other related logistics support. The estimated cost was \$235 million. Major Defense Equipment (MDE) constituted \$170 million of this total.

On July 28, 2017, CN 0M-16 reported the inclusion of eight (8) H-764ACE Embedded Global Position System (GPS)/Inertial Navigation Systems (EGI) units as MDE. Although the value of the EGI was included in the total value of the case and the original notification, it was not enumerated as MDE in the original notification. Upgrading the status of this equipment to MDE did not result in a net increase in cost of MDE. The total case value remained \$235 million.

On October 17, 2018, CN 0Q-18 reported the addition of two spare Embedded Global Position System (GPS)/Inertial Navigation Systems (EGI) units valued at \$371,970. These additions did not result in an increase to the MDE cost of \$170 million or to the total case value of \$235 million.

On April 21, 2021, CN 21-0H reported the addition of the following additional MDE items: 1) eight (8) UH-60M Black Hawk helicopters in standard USG configuration with designated unique equipment and Government Furnished Equipment (GFE); and 2) seventeen (17) T700-GE-701D engines (includes 1 spare). The following non-MDE items were also included: H-764ACE/EAGLE+429 Embedded Global Position System/Inertial Navigation Systems (EGIs); AN/APX-117A Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) transponders; AN/ARC-201E RT-1478E (or designated replacement); MXF-4027 radios (or designated replacement); Aviation Mission Planning Systems (AMPS); Engine Inlet Barrier Filter (EIBF) System; External Rescue Hoist (ERH); C-406 Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT); LRIP Crew Chief Gunner Seats; basic aircraft warranty; CONUS and OCONUS air worthiness support; calibration services; spare and repair parts; aviation and peculiar ground support equipment; communication equipment; publications and technical documentation; personnel and equipment training; site surveys; special tools and test equipment; U.S. Government and contractor technical and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The addition of these items resulted in a net increase in MDE cost of \$240 million, resulting in a revised MDE cost of \$410 million. The additional non-MDE items resulted in a net increase of \$100 million. The total estimated case value increased to \$575 million.

On November 21, 2022, CN 0S-22 reported the inclusion of the following MDE items to replace the previously notified, now unavailable/obsolete H-764ACE/EAGLE+429 EGIs: ten (10) Embedded Global Position System (GPS)/Inertial Navigation Systems (EGI). The estimated total value of the added MDE items was \$1,350,000 but did not increase the MDE cost of \$410 million. The estimated total case value remained \$575 million.

This transmittal reports the inclusion of an additional eight (8) Embedded Global Position System (GPS)/Inertial Navigation System (EGI)+429 with SAASM and/or M-Code (MDE). The estimated total value of the added MDE items is \$1,350,000. These items will not increase the MDE cost of \$410 million. The total case value will remain \$575 million.

(iv) Significance: This notification is being provided because the additional MDE items were not enumerated in the original notification. The inclusion of this MDE represents an increase in capability over what was previously notified. The proposed sale will support Thailand's ongoing effort to modernize its armed forces by updating its military capabilities and improving interoperability with the United States and other allies.

(v) Justification: This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of a Major Non-NATO ally which is an important force for political stability and economic progress in the Indo-Pacific region.

(vi) Sensitivity of Technology:

The Sensitivity of Technology Statement contained in the previous notification applies to items reported here.

The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

(vii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: December 18, 2023.

NOMINATION OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL TIMOTHY HAUGH

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I lift my intent to object to Executive Calendar No. 262, the promotion of Lt. Gen. Timothy Haugh to the grade of general and, consequently, to be the Director of the National Security Agency—NSA—and commander of U.S. Cyber Command. I have received the information I sought from the Department of Defense and NSA in connection with the nomination.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. KING. Mr. President, I rise to provide a brief statement on the nomination votes on December 18, 2023. I was unable to attend the votes due to inclement weather. Had I been here on Monday, December 18, 2023, I would have voted in "yea" on vote No. 347, the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 415, Martin O'Malley, of Maryland, to be Commissioner of Social Security.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I was unable to attend yesterday's vote on rollcall vote No. 347 Confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 415, Martin O'Malley, of Maryland, to be Commissioner of Social Security. I would have voted yea on the confirmation had I been able to attend the vote.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO PAIGE YOUSCHAK-THOMPSON

• Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I am honored to recognize Paige Youschak-Thompson of Laconia as December's Granite Stater of the Month. Paige is known throughout the Lakes Region for her service to different organizations. Although she has always volunteered, she became more active when

her daughter was in school, and now, with her daughter an adult, volunteering has become the equivalent of a full-time job. Paige volunteers 5 days a week for more than 40 hours a week.

Paige will never say no when someone asks for her help. Although she does not have a favorite cause or organization, the Saint Vincent de Paul Society, a local thrift shop, has a special place in her heart since it is where she first started to consistently volunteer. In addition, Paige is especially fond of helping kids in the community and believes in giving all children a chance, regardless of their income level. She worked with a local boutique to help provide free prom dresses to girls who may otherwise not be able to have one. Paige is also the chair of the community engagement committee for the Greater Lakes Region Children's Auction, which helps local children and families in need; it has distributed more than \$8 million over the last 40 years to the community.

Paige's strong pull towards volunteer work stems from her deep and lifelong desire to be a person who helps out and holds space for others. Paige makes other people happy in any way that she can. Being able to help the community brings her great joy, and she plans to continue volunteering for as long as she can.

Paige showcases the Granite State spirit of giving every day of the year, and I am honored to name her Granite Stater of the Month. Especially as we enter the holiday season, I hope that we can all aspire to give our time and support to our community as freely as Paige does.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Stringer, one of his secretaries.

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

REPORT OF THE VETO OF S.J. RES. 32, A JOINT RESOLUTION THAT WOULD DISAPPROVE OF THE CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION BUREAU'S FINAL RULE TITLED "SMALL BUSINESS LENDING UNDER THE EQUAL CREDIT OPPORTUNITY ACT (REGULATION B)"—PM 34

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States which was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, spread in full upon the Journal, and held at the desk:

To the Senate of the United States:

I am returning herewith without my approval S.J. Res. 32, a resolution that would disapprove of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's (CFPB) final rule titled "Small Business Lending Under the Equal Credit Opportunity Act (Regulation B)."

The CFPB's final rule would provide small business owners, lenders, and the public with critical information about the \$1.7 trillion small business financing market. It would bring much needed transparency to small business lending and improve the ability of lenders and community organizations to meet the most critical needs of America's small businesses. This rule implements a long-overdue piece of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act. It is also central to the effective implementation of the Community Reinvestment Act, which helps ensure that the needs of all borrowers—including low- and moderate-income borrowers—are met. But this Republican-led resolution would hinder the Government's ability to conduct oversight of abusive and predatory lenders, make it harder for 33 million small businesses across the country to assess lending opportunities and access capital, and make it more difficult for lenders and community groups to address the most acute gaps in capital access for minority- and women-owned businesses.

If enacted, this resolution would harm all those that stand to benefit from expanded transparency and accountability. By hampering efforts to promote transparency and accountability in small business lending, Republicans are siding with big banks and corporations over the needs of small business owners. Small businesses are the engines of our economy, and my Administration will not support policies that hurt their ability to thrive and grow.

Therefore, I am vetoing this resolution.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.
THE WHITE HOUSE, December 19, 2023.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILL AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS SIGNED

At 2:22 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SMITH of Nebraska) has signed the following enrolled bill and joint resolutions:

H.R. 3315. An act to exempt for an additional 4-year period, from the application of the means-test presumption of abuse under chapter 7, qualifying members of reserve components of the Armed Forces and members of the National Guard who, after September 11, 2001, are called to active duty or to perform a homeland defense activity for not less than 90 days.

H. J. Res. 62. Joint resolution providing for the reappointment of Michael Govan as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

H. J. Res. 63. Joint resolution providing for the reappointment of Antoinette Bush as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

H. J. Res. 64. Joint resolution providing for the reappointment of Roger W. Ferguson as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

The enrolled bill and joint resolutions were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, December 19, 2023, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 788. An act to amend the Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2013 to allow States to issue fully electronic stamps under that Act, and for other purposes.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Ms. CANTWELL, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

Report to accompany S. 1414, A bill to improve the instant messaging service used by the National Weather Service, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118-140).

Report to accompany S. 1416, A bill to provide guidance for and investment in the upgrade and modernization of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Weather Radio All Hazards Network, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118-141).

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. MURPHY (for himself and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 3557. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to prepare a report that outlines a plan for completing a review of approved opioid analgesic drugs that considers the public health effects of such opioid drugs; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. CRUZ, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. MANCHIN, Mrs. BRITT, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. Res. 515. A resolution condemning attacks by Iranian military proxies on the armed forces of the United States in Iraq and Syria and emphasizing the urgency of responding to and deterring such attacks; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. Res. 516. A resolution commemorating the 50th anniversary of the passage of the Endangered Species Act of 1973; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. RISCH):

S. Con. Res. 24. A concurrent resolution condemning the hostilities in Sudan and standing with the people of Sudan in their calls for peace and their democratic aspirations; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 131

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 131, a bill to amend chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code, to cover, for purposes of workers' compensation under such chapter, services by physician assistants and nurse practitioners provided to injured Federal workers, and for other purposes.

S. 132

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 132, a bill to require a pilot program on activities under the pre-separation transition process of members of the Armed Forces for a reduction in suicide among veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 234

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 234, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the new markets tax credit, and for other purposes.

S. 441

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 441, a bill to establish American opportunity accounts, and for other purposes.

S. 639

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of S. 639, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve the historic rehabilitation tax credit, and for other purposes.

S. 1216

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1216, a bill to amend Public Law 91-378 to authorize activities relating to Civilian Conservation Centers, and for other purposes.

S. 1266

At the request of Mr. WARNOCK, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) were added as cosponsors of S. 1266, a bill to amend titles 10 and 38, United States Code, to improve benefits and services for surviving spouses, and for other purposes.

S. 2413

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2413, a bill to expand and strengthen the Abraham Accords and the Negev Forum, and for other purposes.

S. 2464

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2464, a bill to amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to prohibit group health plans and health insurance issuers offering group or individual health insurance coverage from imposing cost-sharing requirements with respect to diagnostic and supplemental breast examinations.

S. 2514

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2514, a bill to amend the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act to modify certain requirements applicable to salinity control units, and for other purposes.

S. 2555

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2555, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to expand and improve the enforcement capabilities of the Attorney General, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. OSSOFF, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2555, *supra*.

S. 2696

At the request of Ms. BUTLER, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2696, a bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to modify the water conservation or irrigation efficiency practice waiver authority.

S. 2698

At the request of Ms. BUTLER, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2698, a bill to require the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out a program to provide payments to producers experiencing certain crop losses as a result of a disaster.

S. 2861

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2861, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Billie Jean King, an American icon, in recognition of a remarkable life devoted to championing equal rights for all, in sports and in society.

S. 3187

At the request of Ms. SINEMA, her name was withdrawn as a cosponsor of S. 3187, a bill to require the Department of Homeland Security to publish various publications and reports regarding the number of aliens seeking entry along the southern border of the United States.

S. 3271

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3271, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the Hmong people, in recognition of their highly distinguished service in the Vietnam war and the fight against communism.

S. 3367

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3367, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to eliminate tax loopholes that allow billionaires to defer tax indefinitely through planning strategies such as “buy, borrow, die”, to modify over 30 tax provisions so that billionaires are required to pay taxes annually, and for other purposes.

S. 3423

At the request of Mr. WELCH, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3423, a bill to guarantee the right to vote for all citizens regardless of conviction of a criminal offense, and for other purposes.

S. 3470

At the request of Mrs. BRITT, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3470, a bill to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to permit a State to include as part of the mail voter registration form a requirement that applicants provide proof of citizenship, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 333

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 333, a resolution designating 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. 505

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 505, a resolution condemning the use of sexual violence and rape as a weapon of war by the terrorist group Hamas against the people of Israel.

S. RES. 510

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 510, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the scientific judgement of the Food and Drug Administration that mifepristone is safe and effective should be respected, and law and policy governing access to lifesaving, time-sensitive medication abortion care in the United States should be equitable and based on science.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 515—CONDEMNING ATTACKS BY IRANIAN MILITARY PROXIES ON THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES IN IRAQ AND SYRIA AND EMPHASIZING THE URGENCY OF RESPONDING TO AND DETERMINING SUCH ATTACKS

Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. CRUZ, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. MANCHIN, Mrs. BRITT, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. SULLIVAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.:

S. RES. 515

Whereas, since the Iranian Revolution in 1979, the Islamic Republic of Iran and its proxies have terrorized neighboring countries and fueled regional instability and violence, including insurgencies and civil wars in Lebanon, Iraq, Syria, and Yemen and attacks on Israel and United States allies in the Persian Gulf;

Whereas the Islamic Republic of Iran, including through the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, continues to provide financing, training, and other forms of support to militia groups in Iraq and Syria;

Whereas Iran-controlled militia groups operating in Iraq and Syria include Kata'ib Hizbullah, Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq, Harakat Hizbullah al-Nujaba, and Kata'ib Sayyid al-Shuhada;

Whereas Iran-backed militia groups frequently target United States Armed Forces in Iraq and Syria, including through loitering munitions, improvised explosive devices, rockets, and ballistic missiles;

Whereas, in November 2023, individuals associated with Kata'ib Hizbullah and Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq claimed that such groups were responsible for attacks on United States Armed Forces, along with Harakat Hizbullah al-Nujaba and Kata'ib Sayyid al-Shuhada;

Whereas the rate of attacks by Iran-backed militia groups against United States Armed Forces in the Middle East increased significantly following Hamas' October 7, 2023, terrorist attack against Israel;

Whereas, since mid-October 2023, Iran-backed militia groups have attacked United States Armed Forces at least 115 times in Iraq and Syria;

Whereas such attacks have injured more than 60 United States military personnel, including through shrapnel wounds, perforated eardrums, and traumatic brain injuries;

Whereas such attacks have damaged the military infrastructure of partner countries, including barracks housing members of the United States Armed Forces at Erbil Air Base, and pose an ongoing risk to the security of personnel, facilities, and citizens of partner countries;

Whereas, on December 8, 2023, Iran-controlled militias attacked the United States embassy in Baghdad with mortar fire;

Whereas, since the October 7 Hamas attack, the administration of President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., has moved warships, combat aircraft, air defense systems, and additional members of the United States Armed Forces to the Middle East to deter militant groups from widening the conflict;

Whereas United States Armed Forces have carried out a series of strikes in Iraq and Syria in direct response to attacks or impending attacks by Iran-backed militia

groups against United States and coalition forces, including—

(1) on December 3, 2023, when United States Armed Forces engaged 5 militants near Kirkuk, Iraq, preparing to launch a one-way attack drone;

(2) on November 22, 2023, when United States Armed Forces conducted airstrikes against 2 facilities in Iraq;

(3) on November 21, 2023, when a United States AC-130 gunship engaged individuals responsible for launching a missile attack on United States and coalition forces at Al Assad Airbase, Iraq;

(4) on November 12, 2023, when United States Armed Forces conducted airstrikes against facilities associated with the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and affiliated groups near the cities of Abu Kamal and Mayadin, Syria;

(5) on November 8, 2023, when United States Armed Forces conducted airstrikes on a weapons storage facility in eastern Syria used by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and affiliated groups; and

(6) on October 26, 2023, when United States Armed Forces conducted self-defense strikes on 2 facilities in eastern Syria used by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and affiliated groups;

Whereas the United States maintains 900 members of the Armed Forces in Syria and 2,500 members in Iraq to advise and assist local forces to prevent a resurgence of the Islamic State;

Whereas United States Armed Forces in Iraq also provide support to North Atlantic Treaty Organization Mission Iraq;

Whereas United States Armed Forces remain present in Iraq at the invitation of the Government of Iraq;

Whereas Iran-backed Houthi rebels have conducted a series of attacks on commercial ships traveling through the Red Sea, a vital global trade route, including—

(1) on December 3, 2023, when ballistic missiles fired by Houthi rebels struck 3 commercial ships in the Red Sea while a United States warship shot down 3 drones in self-defense;

(2) on December 13, 2023, when 2 missiles fired from territory held by Houthi rebels missed a commercial tanker loaded with jet fuel near the Bab el-Mandab Strait;

(3) on December 14, 2023, when a missile fired from Houthi-controlled territory missed a container ship in the Bab el-Mandab Strait;

(4) on December 15, 2023, when a ballistic missile fired by Houthi rebels struck a container ship and caused it to catch fire; and

(5) on December 18, 2023, when Houthi rebels attacked 2 commercial ships in the Red Sea with naval drones;

Whereas such attacks threaten the safety of ships carrying oil, grain, and other goods through the Red Sea, many of which include cargo and energy shipments vital to the United States and partners in Europe and Asia;

Whereas such attacks have forced global shipping companies including MSC, Maersk, CMA CGM, BP, and others to stop using the Red Sea as a travel route for shipments; and

Whereas, on December 19, 2023, the United States announced Operation Prosperity Guardian, an expanded maritime protection force involving certain countries in the Middle East to combat attacks on vessels traveling through the Red Sea: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns attacks by Iran-backed militia groups on members of the United States Armed Forces in Iraq and Syria and support by Iran for such attacks;

(2) calls on the administration of President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., to increase pressure on

the Islamic Republic of Iran to stop such attacks and cease support for militia groups that target members of the United States Armed Forces in Iraq and Syria;

(3) recognizes that maintaining United States Armed Forces in Iraq and Syria is critical to securing the national interests of the United States by maintaining regional stability and combatting terrorism;

(4) supports the priorities of the Commander of the United States Central Command to deter the Islamic Republic of Iran, counter violent extremist organizations, and compete strategically;

(5) commends the mission focus and resiliency of the United States Armed Forces in conducting self-defense strikes against Iran-backed militia groups that pose a threat to United States Armed Forces and interests in Iraq and Syria;

(6) recognizes the decision of the Biden administration to increase the presence of United States Armed Forces in the Middle East to deter Iran-backed militia groups from attacking members of the United States and undermining the national interests of the United States; and

(7) urges the Biden administration—

(A) to take steps necessary to deter the Islamic Republic of Iran from supporting further attacks; and

(B) to declare that further provocations by the Islamic Republic of Iran will be met with a swift and decisive response in full coordination with United States allies and partners to address the threat Iran-backed militia groups pose to the United States and allied forces in the Middle East.

SENATE RESOLUTION 516—COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PASSAGE OF THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT OF 1973

Mr. BOOKER submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works:

S. RES. 516

Whereas Congress passed the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) referred to in this preamble as the “Endangered Species Act”) in December of 1973 by a vote of 92-0 in the Senate and 355-4 in the House of Representatives;

Whereas President Richard Nixon, upon signing the Endangered Species Act into law, stated, “Nothing is more priceless and more worthy of preservation than the rich array of animal life with which our country has been blessed. It is a many-faceted treasure, of value to scholars, scientists, and nature lovers alike, and it forms a vital part of the heritage we all share as Americans [and] which we hold in trust to countless future generations of our fellow citizens.”;

Whereas decades of polling have shown strong bipartisan support for the Endangered Species Act, with more than 4 out of 5 citizens of the United States in favor of it;

Whereas the Endangered Species Act is one of the most successful conservation laws ever enacted by any country, and 99 percent of species protected under the Act have been saved from extinction, including the humpback whale, grizzly bear, and bald eagle;

Whereas thanks to the Endangered Species Act, gray whales still swim our coasts, peregrine falcons still soar our skies, and polar bears still roam the Arctic tundra;

Whereas the Endangered Species Act is currently helping protect and recover more than 2,000 species of plants and animals that are threatened or endangered;

Whereas the Endangered Species Act provides added benefits to people by maintaining healthy natural systems that provide us with clean air and water, food, medicines, and other benefits that we all need to live healthy lives;

Whereas the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services published a study in 2019 that estimated that 25 percent of assessed taxa of plants and animals and 10 percent of insects, which account for 75 percent of all species, could be threatened with extinction;

Whereas, globally, 1,000,000 animal and plant species face extinction within the coming decades, and millions more are declining as habitat loss, climate change, wildlife exploitation, pollution, and other human activities continue to threaten their survival;

Whereas North America alone has lost nearly 3,000,000,000 birds since 1970, which means more than 1 in 4 birds that have disappeared from the landscape in a mere half a century, and in that same time frame, global wildlife populations have declined by an average of 69 percent;

Whereas, in the United States, nearly half of all ecosystems are at risk of range-wide collapse;

Whereas, as of October 2023, a total of 2,363 species of animals and plants were listed as either endangered or threatened, and 1,668 of all listed species occur in the United States and its territories, and the remainder (695 species) occur solely in other countries;

Whereas the unraveling of the natural world remains a fundamental threat to the well-being of all humanity, which depends on millions of species and the countless services that the web of life provides, and each extinction brings closer the collapse of these planetary life-support systems, including carbon sequestration, pollination, water purification, oxygen production, and disease regulation;

Whereas the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change found that climate change has caused local species losses, increases in disease, and mass mortality events of plants and animals, resulting in the first climate-driven extinctions, ecosystem restructuring, increases in areas burned by wildfire, and declines in key ecosystem services;

Whereas the planet is experiencing a biodiversity crisis, which many scientists conclude is the sixth mass extinction event, with plant and wildlife species across the globe facing heightened risk of extinction that is largely driven by human activity;

Whereas the United States has prioritized the conservation of imperiled species by enacting the Endangered Species Act and other landmark conservation statutes; and

Whereas the recovery of species under the Endangered Species Act is a remarkable success that should be celebrated: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate commemorates the 50th anniversary of the passage of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 24—CONDEMNING THE HOSTILITIES IN SUDAN AND STANDING WITH THE PEOPLE OF SUDAN IN THEIR CALLS FOR PEACE AND THEIR DEMOCRATIC ASPIRATIONS

Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. RISCH) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 24

Whereas, on April 15, 2023, hostilities broke out in Sudan between the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), a paramilitary force formed from the Janjaweed militia that committed acts of genocide in Darfur since 2003, and the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF), which like the RSF has a history of committing atrocities both in Sudan's civil wars and against pro-democracy protestors from 2019-2022;

Whereas, according to United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres, on April 17, 2023, just days following the outbreak of fighting, the humanitarian situation in Sudan was "already precarious and is now catastrophic";

Whereas, on April 23, 2023, the United States temporarily suspended operations at its embassy in Khartoum and evacuated embassy personnel from the country;

Whereas the war has created the world's largest displacement crisis, with over 7,000,000 people, including 3,000,000 children, displaced since the war began, and over half of the population in Sudan needs humanitarian assistance;

Whereas widespread rape and sexual violence is being used as a weapon of war, and over 4,200,000 women and girls in Sudan are at risk for sexual violence according to the United Nations;

Whereas Sudan was identified by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's Early Warning Project as one of the top ten countries at risk for new mass killings in its 2022-2023 report, and the Museum warned in June 2023 about the dire risk of genocide in Darfur;

Whereas Secretary of State Blinken issued an atrocities determination for Sudan on December 6, 2023, finding that the SAF and RSF have committed war crimes in Sudan, and that the RSF and allied militias have committed crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing;

Whereas impunity for violations of international humanitarian law has characterized the conflict in Sudan;

Whereas the United States and Saudi Arabia have engaged in multiple rounds of "emergency diplomacy" in Jeddah since May, during which the parties to the conflict have repeatedly made confidence-building, ceasefire, and humanitarian commitments that were immediately violated;

Whereas, in October 2023, the United Nations Human Rights Council adopted a resolution establishing an independent Fact-Finding Mission with a mandate to investigate abuses committed in the context of the war in Sudan;

Whereas leadership in neither the SAF or RSF represent the people of Sudan nor have a legitimate claim to leadership of the country, and there is no military solution to the political situation in Sudan;

Whereas reports indicate some international actors have taken actions that constitute repeated violations of the existing United Nations arms embargo for Darfur; and

Whereas the outbreak of hostilities has destabilized Sudan, and represents a threat to regional stability more broadly: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) condemns the hostilities in Sudan since April 15, 2023, the brazen and brutal attacks on civilians, including systemic use of rape as a weapon of war, and the widespread destruction of civilian residences, businesses, and infrastructure;

(2) stands with the people of Sudan in their calls for peace and their democratic aspirations;

(3) calls for the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) to—

(A) permanently cease hostilities;

(B) stop attacks on civilians;

(C) remove all roadblocks and checkpoints, and allow for the safe passage of civilians and the unfettered delivery of humanitarian assistance; and

(D) comply with international humanitarian law and cease all atrocities against civilians;

(4) calls on the President to name an experienced, high level United States Special Envoy for Sudan, that reports directly to the President or the Secretary of State, to coordinate a comprehensive United States policy and diplomatic efforts and to work with international partners to address the complex crisis in Sudan;

(5) calls on the Secretary of State to—

(A) regularly review and update the atrocities determination for Sudan, to include whether atrocities committed constitute genocide;

(B) provide continued assistance to organizations documenting violations of international humanitarian law, and to share, as appropriate, information with international bodies investigating atrocities, including war crimes and crimes against humanity;

(C) support enhanced end use monitoring of weapons sold by the United States to determine if United States defense articles, defense services, or any other type of security sector assistance have been diverted to the SAF and RSF;

(D) coordinate with—

(i) the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development on efforts to establish and maintain humanitarian access, and to support an inclusive, civilian-led political dialogue;

(ii) the Department of the Treasury to develop a comprehensive strategy utilizing existing sanctions authorities applicable to Sudan, with priority given to the designation of the leadership in the RSF and SAF, and to actors which supply, or facilitate the supply of arms and materiel to belligerents, for targeted sanctions; and

(iii) the United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations to ensure the United Nations Security Council reports violations of the Darfur arms embargo and works to prioritize efforts to protect civilians, and to pursue efforts to establish a credible mechanism for accountability for atrocities, including any that may constitute genocide, war crimes, or crimes against humanity; and

(E) work, through a high level United States Special Envoy for Sudan, with partners to engage members of the international community to join United States efforts to end the conflict and promote accountability, including by setting clear criteria for establishing a more inclusive alternative to the Jeddah talks; and

(6) calls on international allies and partners, particularly neighboring countries and partners in the Gulf Cooperation Council and others with direct interests in the Sudan conflict, to—

(A) join United States efforts to—

(i) pressure the parties to cease hostilities;

(ii) explore options to protect civilians from mass atrocities;

(iii) empower Sudanese civilians to establish a path toward a peaceful democratic transition;

(iv) support the establishment of credible mechanisms for accountability;

(v) impose targeted sanctions on SAF and RSF members who are responsible for violations of international humanitarian law, corruption, and undermining Sudan's transition to democracy, and actors who supply or fa-

cilitate the supply of arms and materiel to either party;

(vi) take steps, as appropriate, including through imposition of sanctions, to pressure belligerents to return to the rule of law as set forth by the transitional constitution and immediately cease violations of existing United Nations arms embargoes and to deter any effort by external parties to support parties financially or with arms and materiel; and

(vii) provide robust in-kind and financial contributions to humanitarian assistance efforts; and

(B) suspend Sudan's participation in all regional and multilateral organizations until a civilian-led government is established.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1379. Mr. MERKLEY (for Mr. PETERS (for himself and Ms. LUMMIS)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 484, to require the Secretary of Commerce to provide training and guidance relating to human rights abuses, including such abuses perpetrated against the Uyghur population by the Government of the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes.

SA 1380. Mr. MERKLEY (for Ms. ERNST) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 423, recognizing the University of Iowa women's basketball team's historic "Cross-over at Kinnick" game and the importance of women's sports.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1379. Mr. MERKLEY (for Mr. PETERS (for himself and Ms. LUMMIS)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 484, to require the Secretary of Commerce to provide training and guidance relating to human rights abuses, including such abuses perpetrated against the Uyghur population by the Government of the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Combating Human Rights Abuses Act of 2023".

SEC. 2. TRAINING FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE RELATING TO AWARENESS OF HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Commerce shall provide training described in subsection (b) to such employees of the Department of Commerce who provide counseling services to businesses engaged in interstate commerce or foreign direct investment as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(b) **CONTENTS OF TRAINING.**—The training required under subsection (a) shall be—

(1) designed to raise awareness about emerging trends and issues with respect to human rights abuses perpetrated by the Government of the People's Republic of China, including the use of forced labor, against Uyghurs and other ethnic minority populations in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region; and

(2) incorporated to the greatest extent possible into existing training provided by the Department of Commerce.

(c) **TIMING.**—The training required under subsection (a) shall be offered and updated at such times as the Secretary considers appropriate.

SEC. 3. GUIDANCE FOR UNITED STATES BUSINESSES RELATING TO AWARENESS OF HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce shall—

(1) offer guidance for United States businesses engaged in interstate commerce or foreign direct investment, including such businesses that are, or are considering, conducting transactions with entities subject to the control or influence of jurisdictions where significant human rights abuses have occurred, such as the People's Republic of China; and

(2) incorporate the guidance required under paragraph (1) into any counseling services that the Department of Commerce provides to such businesses as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(b) CONTENTS OF GUIDANCE.—The guidance required under subsection (a) shall—

(1) provide information about emerging trends and issues involving human rights abuses perpetrated by the Government of the People's Republic of China, consisting of the use of forced labor against Uyghurs and other ethnic minority populations in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, including information about—

(A) risk factors that may be used to identify entities subject to the influence or control of jurisdictions such as the People's Republic of China that may be implicated in human rights abuses;

(B) ways to avoid doing business with entities described in subparagraph (A); and

(C) potential reputational, economic, legal, and other risks of conducting transactions with an entity described in subparagraph (A); and

(2) make clear that the guidance is for advisory purposes only.

SA 1380. Mr. MERKLEY (for Ms. ERNST) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 423, recognizing the University of Iowa women's basketball team's historic "Crossover at Kinnick" game and the importance of women's sports; as follows:

On page 3, strike lines 1 through 7 and insert the following:

(A) University of Iowa President Barbara Wilson.

(B) University of Iowa Interim Athletic Director Beth Goetz.

(C) University of Iowa Women's Basketball Coach Lisa Bluder.

SECURING SEMICONDUCTOR SUPPLY CHAINS ACT OF 2023

(On December 13, 2023, the Senate passed S. 229, as follows:

S. 229

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Securing Semiconductor Supply Chains Act of 2023".

SEC. 2. SELECTUSA DEFINED.

In this Act, the term "SelectUSA" means the SelectUSA program of the Department of Commerce established by Executive Order 13577 (76 Fed. Reg. 35,715).

SEC. 3. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Semiconductors underpin the United States and global economies, including manufacturing sectors. Semiconductors are also essential to the national security of the United States.

(2) A shortage of semiconductors, brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic and other

complex factors impacting the overall supply chain, has threatened the economic recovery of the United States and industries that employ millions of United States citizens.

(3) Addressing current challenges and building resilience against future risks requires ensuring a secure and stable supply chain for semiconductors that will support the economic and national security needs of the United States and its allies.

(4) The supply chain for semiconductors is complex and global. While the United States plays a leading role in certain segments of the semiconductor industry, securing the supply chain requires onshoring, reshoring, or diversifying vulnerable segments, such as for—

(A) fabrication;

(B) advanced packaging; and

(C) materials and equipment used to manufacture semiconductor products.

(5) The Federal Government can leverage foreign direct investment and private dollars to grow the domestic manufacturing and production capacity of the United States for vulnerable segments of the semiconductor supply chain.

(6) The SelectUSA program of the Department of Commerce, in coordination with other Federal agencies and State-level economic development organizations, is positioned to boost foreign direct investment in domestic manufacturing and to help secure the semiconductor supply chain of the United States.

SEC. 4. COORDINATION WITH STATE-LEVEL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Executive Director of SelectUSA shall solicit comments from State-level economic development organizations—

(1) to review—

(A) what efforts the Federal Government can take to support increased foreign direct investment in any segment of semiconductor-related production;

(B) what barriers to such investment may exist and how to amplify State efforts to attract such investment;

(C) public opportunities those organizations have identified to attract foreign direct investment to help increase investment described in subparagraph (A); and

(D) resource gaps or other challenges that prevent those organizations from increasing such investment; and

(2) to develop recommendations for—

(A) how SelectUSA can increase such investment independently or through partnership with those organizations; and

(B) working with countries that are allies or partners of the United States to ensure that foreign adversaries (as defined in section 8(c)(2) of the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act of 2019 (47 U.S.C. 1607(c)(2))) do not benefit from United States efforts to increase such investment.

SEC. 5. REPORT ON INCREASING FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT IN SEMICONDUCTOR-RELATED MANUFACTURING AND PRODUCTION.

Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Executive Director of SelectUSA, in coordination with the Federal Interagency Investment Working Group established by Executive Order 13577 (76 Fed. Reg. 35,715; relating to establishment of the SelectUSA Initiative), shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report that includes—

(1) a review of the comments SelectUSA received from State-level economic development organizations under section 4;

(2) a description of activities SelectUSA is engaged in to increase foreign direct investment in semiconductor-related manufacturing and production; and

(3) an assessment of strategies SelectUSA may implement to achieve an increase in such investment and to help secure the United States supply chain for semiconductors, including by—

(A) working with other relevant Federal agencies; and

(B) working with State-level economic development organizations and implementing any strategies or recommendations SelectUSA received from those organizations.

SEC. 6. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS.

No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated for the purpose of carrying out this Act. The Executive Director of SelectUSA shall carry out this Act using amounts otherwise available to the Executive Director for such purposes.

SILETZ RESERVATION ACT

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 2839, which was received from the House and is at the desk.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2839) to amend the Siletz Reservation Act to address the hunting, fishing, trapping, and animal gathering rights of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. MERKLEY. I further ask that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion 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 bill (H.R. 2839) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

GRAND RONDE RESERVATION ACT AMENDMENT OF 2023

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 1722, which was received from the House and is at the desk.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1722) to amend the Grand Ronde Reservation Act, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. MERKLEY. I further ask that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The bill (H.R. 1722) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

COMBATING HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES ACT OF 2023

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 263, S. 484.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 484) to require the Secretary of Commerce to provide training and guidance relating to human rights abuses, including such abuses perpetrated against the Uyghur population by the Government of the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill which had been reported from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. MERKLEY. I ask unanimous consent that the Peters substitute amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The amendment (No. 1379) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Combating Human Rights Abuses Act of 2023".

SEC. 2. TRAINING FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE RELATING TO AWARENESS OF HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce shall provide training described in subsection (b) to such employees of the Department of Commerce who provide counseling services to businesses engaged in interstate commerce or foreign direct investment as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(b) CONTENTS OF TRAINING.—The training required under subsection (a) shall be—

(1) designed to raise awareness about emerging trends and issues with respect to human rights abuses perpetrated by the Government of the People's Republic of China, including the use of forced labor, against Uyghurs and other ethnic minority populations in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region; and

(2) incorporated to the greatest extent possible into existing training provided by the Department of Commerce.

(c) TIMING.—The training required under subsection (a) shall be offered and updated at such times as the Secretary considers appropriate.

SEC. 3. GUIDANCE FOR UNITED STATES BUSINESSES RELATING TO AWARENESS OF HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce shall—

(1) offer guidance for United States businesses engaged in interstate commerce or foreign direct investment, including such

businesses that are, or are considering, conducting transactions with entities subject to the control or influence of jurisdictions where significant human rights abuses have occurred, such as the People's Republic of China; and

(2) incorporate the guidance required under paragraph (1) into any counseling services that the Department of Commerce provides to such businesses as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(b) CONTENTS OF GUIDANCE.—The guidance required under subsection (a) shall—

(1) provide information about emerging trends and issues involving human rights abuses perpetrated by the Government of the People's Republic of China, consisting of the use of forced labor against Uyghurs and other ethnic minority populations in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, including information about—

(A) risk factors that may be used to identify entities subject to the influence or control of jurisdictions such as the People's Republic of China that may be implicated in human rights abuses;

(B) ways to avoid doing business with entities described in subparagraph (A); and

(C) potential reputational, economic, legal, and other risks of conducting transactions with an entity described in subparagraph (A); and

(2) make clear that the guidance is for advisory purposes only.

The bill (S. 484), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

NATIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR HIGHWAY

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be discharged from further consideration of S. 1478 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1478) to designate United States Route 20 in the States of Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, and Massachusetts as the "National Medal of Honor Highway", and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MERKLEY. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (S. 1478) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 1478

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

SECTION 1. NATIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR HIGHWAY.

(a) PURPOSE.—The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to honor all current and future Medal of Honor recipients; and

(2) to recognize the valor and service of those Medal of Honor recipients.

(b) DESIGNATION.—United States Route 20 in each of the States of Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, and Massachusetts shall be known and designated as the "National Medal of Honor Highway".

(c) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the highway referred to in subsection (b) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "National Medal of Honor Highway".

RECOGNIZING THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM'S HISTORIC "CROSSOVER AT KINNICK" GAME AND THE IMPORTANCE OF WOMEN'S SPORTS

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 423.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 423) recognizing the University of Iowa women's basketball team's historic "Crossover at Kinnick" game and the importance of women's sports.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MERKLEY. I ask unanimous consent that the Ernst amendment at the desk to the resolution be considered and agreed to; that the resolution, as amended, be agreed to; that the preamble 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 amendment (No. 1380) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the resolution)

On page 3, strike lines 1 through 7 and insert the following:

(A) University of Iowa President Barbara Wilson.

(B) University of Iowa Interim Athletic Director Beth Goetz.

(C) University of Iowa Women's Basketball Coach Lisa Bluder.

The resolution (S. Res. 423), as amended, was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, as amended, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 423

Whereas, at the Crossover at Kinnick event, the University of Iowa Hawkeyes competed against the DePaul University Blue Devils in a charity basketball game to benefit the University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital;

Whereas the Crossover at Kinnick event set a National Collegiate Athletic Association (referred to in this resolution as the "NCAA") women's basketball attendance record with 55,646 fans filling University of Iowa's Kinnick Stadium in Iowa City, Iowa;

Whereas the previous attendance record was set at the 2002 national championship

game between the University of Connecticut and the University of Oklahoma, attended by 29,619 fans;

Whereas the Crossover at Kinnick event was the first ever NCAA women's basketball game to be played outdoors in a football stadium;

Whereas women athletes at the collegiate level are important role models for young athletes, particularly women and girls, by serving as examples of what can be achieved by pursuing one's dreams through participation in athletics;

Whereas participation in sports helps foster confidence, self-discipline, leadership, and teamwork in young girls;

Whereas the achievements of the Iowa women's basketball program are an inspiration for Iowans and women athletes everywhere; and

Whereas Iowans and University of Iowa alumni across the country are proud of the history made at the Crossover at Kinnick event: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the University of Iowa women's basketball players, coaches, and support staff in setting the NCAA women's basketball attendance record at the Crossover at Kinnick event;

(2) recognizes and celebrates the impact of this record-setting event on young women athletes across the country; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate send 1 copy of this resolution to the following individuals:

(A) University of Iowa President Barbara Wilson.

(B) University of Iowa Interim Athletic Director Beth Goetz.

(C) University of Iowa Women's Basketball Coach Lisa Bluder.

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

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

The Senator from Colorado.

UKRAINE

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I would like to start by thanking the Presiding Officer for being here at this late hour and for the staff who are here, the pages who are here, the others who are here late at night before the holidays. Thank you for being here and for your service. And I think we are coming to a point—maybe not tonight but in the next 24 hours—when we are going to conclude our business here for the moment or at least temporarily conclude our business.

I wanted to come to the floor because one of the things that I feel very strongly about that we have not yet done is to pass the Ukraine funding, which I think is essential for Ukraine, essential for our own national security, and essential for Western democracy.

I really believe that. I think it is of that importance, and I believe we should have gotten to a bipartisan agreement on this long ago. I think

that we should have gotten it through the House of Representatives long ago. But I am not in charge of the Senate; I am not in charge of the House of Representatives. I am just one person in this body—like the Presiding Officer is—and sometimes democracy moves more slowly than one would like, certainly than I would like.

I feel more optimistic today than I did last week about the prospects of our getting to the point where we have that bipartisan vote and where we can send a piece of legislation over to the House to fund this. The House is not going to start it, we know that, because of the politics over there.

This body is the body that needs to lead and has, I think, a moral responsibility to lead. But for all those reasons, I wanted to come here tonight and say that I was going to lift my hold on the FAA, which is something that I have held up through the course of these negotiations as a way of keeping us here, to be really honest with you.

I don't think we would have come back probably from our departure last week if we didn't have the unfinished business of the FAA to do, and while the FAA is unrelated to the Ukraine funding, it was a must-pass bill, and it is a must-pass bill. We need to pass that bill.

And it was something that could force us to come back here to continue to have the debate, to continue to have the negotiations, to listen to each other on this important issue and the other issues that we have got to deal with this week, including the judges we are confirming—hopefully, a judge from Colorado.

I have been out here before on the floor to explain why I care so much about this. I was out here when we were passing what is called a continuing resolution here in, I think it was September, which is a temporary budget that is used to operate the Federal Government in the absence of what we should do, which is have a real budget.

Sometimes we pass these things called continuing resolutions to kind of keep the lights on in this place, which I sometimes call the land of flickering lights because the standard of success at the end of the year often is whether we have kept these lights flickering for another year. That is not the standard that I wish for our Congress. It is not a standard that I wish for our democracy or for our country.

That is sometimes the standard here, but every now and then, we surprise ourselves. Every now and then, the people who have been in this Chamber have taken on a responsibility for leadership. That has really made a difference in the world. That has made a difference not just to our country but to the entire world and especially to the free world, to democracy.

I have been out here and talked—I won't do it at length tonight—about my mom's own circumstances. She is—well, I won't say how old she is today,

but you can do the math. She was born in 1938 in Warsaw, Poland—born a Polish Jew at the worst possible moment in human history to be born a Jew on this planet and in the worst possible place a person could ask to be born, in a city that was going to shortly experience the horrific invasion of Nazi troops sent there by Adolf Hitler to exterminate the Jews of Europe and many other people who lived in Eastern Europe at that time.

Just in Ukraine and Poland at that time, there were 16 million people who were killed. They were killed by Hitler and killed by Stalin. The people in that region remember that experience like it was yesterday because it was. In human events, it was yesterday.

My mom, as I said, is still alive. She can't believe she has lived long enough to see another shooting war break out in Europe, as she put it, but here we are. There is a reason why she can't believe it. I mean, part of it is that the freedom she experienced and my grandparents experienced and aunt, who is the only other person who survived the war in this country, were unimaginable to them because of what they had gone through in Warsaw.

They were separated during the war. My mother was told that her parents had been killed, and she believed they had died. Then they were reunited after the war, and they went to Stockholm, Sweden, for a year after they spent about a year or two behind the Iron Curtain, because, of course, the Soviet Union had come in and taken over Poland after the war was over—had come in and taken over Warsaw after the war was over.

Warsaw had been completely destroyed. More than 99 percent of its buildings were destroyed. Millions of people who lived in and around Warsaw had been killed. There was literally nothing left. It was rubble. It was rubble.

Like many human beings who have experienced ethnic cleansing and ethnic battles like these, my mom and her parents probably never imagined that there could be a world where disputes could be resolved in some other way besides violence, besides political violence.

Yet, after they stayed there for a couple of years, they realized they wanted something better than what they had, so they went to Stockholm, Sweden, for a year. They lived there. They started their small business again, which was an art dealership that they had in Warsaw, a gallery. Then they moved to Mexico City, and then they were fortunate enough to be allowed to come to the United States of America, and they immigrated.

My mother was the only person in the family who could speak any English. I think she was about 11 years old. Even today, she speaks Swedish and Polish and Spanish and English, but then, she was the only person in the family who could speak any English. She was the only person in her

family who knew how to register herself in school, so she did. She registered herself in the New York City public schools. She graduated from Hunter College High School.

I have never met anybody in my State—I have met a lot of immigrants all throughout Colorado and all throughout this country, and I tell people sometimes that I still haven't met anybody who has a stronger accent than my grandparents had. They didn't think they had an accent, but they had an unbelievably strong Polish accent.

Their joy at being Americans was not because this country was perfect, not because this country was exceptional in some sense that confers the idea of perfection, but because it was a country that could correct its imperfections without resorting to violence and that they, as recent citizens to this country, as immigrants to this country, as people with strong accents and their Jewish heritage, could contribute to the United States of America when they arrived here, and they could help address the imperfections we had.

All they wanted to do was fit into the country. I think they made a real contribution to this country. The country is stronger because they were here, and they benefited a lot.

That was an era where there is no dispute about American leadership after considerable American failure, because there was a period of time when these Halls of Congress ignored the plight of the Jews in Europe and ignored that the Holocaust was going on. They knew it. They knew about the death camps, and there was nothing they did about it until the Japanese attacked the United States at Pearl Harbor, and then we entered the war. We never looked back, and the world never looked back. We became the arsenal of democracy. We supplied England and Europe with the—or Europe, England, and the allies with the materiel they needed to fight the war.

Our economy was growing substantially after the Great Depression. As the arsenal dropped, we built those weapons here. We manufactured those weapons here. We sent them over to the UK in particular for them to deploy on the battlefields of Europe, and we won that war. The United States literally saved my grandparents' lives and my mother's life.

Then, after the war, the question was, What will be done with the rubble of Europe? What will be done with the communities and cities and towns and rural areas that literally were smashed into smithereens by Hitler's tanks?

We are now, in some ways, living in—not in some ways but actually living in the tyranny of the Soviet Union behind the Iron Curtain, without the freedoms that people had in Western Europe.

There is too much to talk about tonight, and I won't do it, but we engaged in a process of trying to win the peace after we had won the war. That was what the Marshall Plan was all about—the reconstruction of Europe, the re-

construction of Japan, decisions that were made on this floor by human beings in many ways just like us who had the vision to make some hard decisions, the consequences of which would last for generations. They had exactly the same concerns we have here today, I think, probably. They weren't able to predict the future, but they knew what it meant to be on the right side of history, and they were on the right side of history.

The Marshall Plan began what was an era of institution building. They created the multilateral organizations that we still have, the rule of law, international law, the law of nations, the notion that any country's sovereignty shouldn't be attacked by another country.

All of that came out of that era when my mom was a little girl, and it lasted for a long time in Europe. It lasted until 2 years ago when Vladimir Putin decided to invade Ukraine. You could argue that it lasted until he had a trial run when he invaded Crimea a decade before. Until that time, every country in Europe and around Europe had respected the international arrangements that were created in the wake of the rubble of World War II because people knew how horrible the outcomes were in World War II. They knew how many lives had been lost. They knew the destruction of humanity, the destruction of churches and synagogues and people's faiths, entire religions and languages.

People still had the memory of World War I, too, and that was the point of those institutions, that was the point of the commitment to the rule of law, and that was the point of establishing democracy in the international organizations I am talking about but also in all these countries as well that were on this side of the Iron Curtain.

Over time, over those decades, our economies grew stronger, the democracies grew stronger. Ultimately, the Berlin Wall fell. There were people in the 1990s who were writing that this was the end of history, that liberal democracy had triumphed over any other form of human organization, that capitalism had triumphed over any other form of economic organization.

We have learned a lot since then. We have learned a lot since we were attacked on 9/11 and a response that led us to two wars that lasted for 20 years in the Middle East and then Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine, of a free country on the border of Russia.

The Presiding Officer is on the Intelligence Committee now. It is an excellent place to serve together.

Before you got on there, it was really interesting to be there—not because you weren't there. It has gotten better because you have been there. But it was fascinating to be there in the lead-up to this war because we had the opportunity to see Putin make one mistake after another because of who he is, obviously, but also because of the totalitarian nature of his society.

You know, when you live in a totalitarian society and you are the person at the top, nobody is going to tell you that what you are doing is crazy if they want to live very long. Nobody is going to tell you that what you are trying to do is wrong.

I think one of the huge mistakes he made was imagining that all the money he had spent on his army, trying to strengthen his army, had been spent well when much of it was lost to corruption. Much of it created actually a weak army instead of a strong army. How do we know that today? We know that today because the Ukrainian people have basically smashed Putin's army.

Let me tell you something. He didn't know that was going to happen. He did not know that was going to happen 2 years ago. Two years ago, he had no idea that the Ukrainian people would fight to the death. He didn't know that.

We did. Our intelligence agencies sometimes make mistakes in their analysis of intelligence or in the intelligence they collect but not on this subject because they know the history of Ukraine; they know the history of the Ukrainian people; they know what they went through in World War II.

They know what they went through in World War I. They know what they have been through in the last eon in that part of the world, and what they said was: They will never give up. They will never give up.

Putin didn't know that. It turns out the intelligence community was right about that.

They said: Well, we hope that free societies around the world will rally to the cause. And I don't think that is really an intelligence assessment, the assessment of our democracies. There has been a lot of worry—I have had a lot of worry; I have talked about it on this floor a lot—about the state of democracy both here and abroad. We are living in a time where there are all kinds of forces that are tearing at democracy at here and abroad. And there are politicians here and abroad who are claiming that democracy is not important or that democracy can't deliver for the American people or anybody else.

That is not uncommon in human history. The reason I think it is happening here—there are a bunch of reasons, but a main reason is kind of the age-old reason, which is when people start to lose a sense of opportunity for themselves and their family. When they are working really hard and they can't get ahead; when they feel like they can't afford to work because childcare is so expensive, healthcare is so expensive. Higher education is going to mean a lifetime sentence in your parents' basement because of the amount of loans you are going to take out. Those kinds of things tear at people. When that kind of opportunity seems lost or obscure, that is when people show up all throughout human history, and they say: I alone can fix

it. You don't need a democracy; you don't need the rule of law. You should expect your public sector and your private sector to be hopelessly corrupt, hopelessly bankrupt. That is a dark vision. It is not an unusual vision in those circumstances.

But just at the moment when we worry—we fear for our democracy—what we saw as a result of the courage and the bravery of the Ukrainian people, the skill of the Ukrainian soldiers and military, a country that—I still don't understand it—a country that was able to basically disable Putin's navy without any navy of their own and open up the shipping lanes in the Black Sea so people all over the world could benefit from grain that was otherwise not going to be exported—people all over the world in free countries saw this courage and said: We need to show up for the Ukrainian people. We need to do more for the Ukrainian people because they are in a fight that is our fight, and they are carrying off this fight in a way that they should be proud of and we should be proud of, that inspires us.

And people all over the world, citizens living in democracies all over the world, called up their elected officials and said: Do more, do more, do more. And the United States found itself, once again, in a position that no other country in the world can occupy, which is the leader of the free world, the leader of every democracy around the world. And we put together a coalition of countries, largely led by NATO, that has supported the Ukrainian people through this fight for the last 2 years.

It has been amazing to see it. I think it has given us confidence in our own democracy. I think it has given the Europeans confidence in their democracy and the democracies in Southeast Asia as well and in Australia, New Zealand, and places all over the world that have supported this fight and have been reminded how much more excellent it is to live in a free society; to live in a place that is committed to the rule of law, that is committed to fair dealing and not to corruption.

That is not a place like where my poor mother and grandparents lived, where might made right; where there was no rule of law; where whether you survived or whether you didn't survive, whether you survived or whether you perished, was a matter of luck, not something you could ever predict.

That has been a noble fight. It is not a fight any of us would have wanted, but Putin is a lot weaker today than he was 2 years ago. The Russian Army is a lot weaker today than it was 2 years ago. They are not a pushover. They have dangerous nuclear and chemical weapons that we have to worry about. But they are in worse shape today than they were 2 years ago.

The Ukrainian people have succeeded beyond anyone's wildest dreams. I mentioned the intelligence agency reports. You know, one thing they got totally wrong was they thought Kyiv

would be invaded in 72 hours, that the political leadership would be killed or overcome. And President Zelenskyy is still there fighting to this day.

I remember, Mr. President, when we had our first Zoom call with President Zelenskyy. It was sort of funny. It was back in—I think COVID was still going on, maybe. And I can remember there was a guy sitting in for him, just like on any regular Zoom call you would have, only he was sitting in for the President of Ukraine. And the President of Ukraine had some pretty serious business that he had to conduct; and, finally, when the meeting was ready to be started, all of a sudden, there he was. There he was. And he said to us on that day—the first day I ever heard him talk personally—again, it was on Zoom. He said: We are fighting to live our lives the way you live your lives. That is how he put it, and it was very simple. That is what we are fighting for. And he hasn't changed that tune for the last 2 years. That has been his focus.

He told us the other day that if we fail to continue to fund the Ukrainian people, that they will lose. He said that if we fund the Ukrainian people and their military, they can win. They can win.

I think they can win.

He said that if we don't fund them, they will lose. But he said: But we will never stop fighting. We will never stop fighting because the Ukrainian people love freedom. And that is the difference between us and Vladimir Putin. And that is the difference between us and the Russian army.

I would say, how dare anybody bet against the Ukrainian army or the Ukrainian people after what they have done? They have taken back half the territory that Putin stole from them. Nobody would have said they could do that. They have done that.

I mentioned what they had done to his navy in the Black Sea—without even a navy. They have won battle after battle after battle that nobody thought they would have won. And now they are in a difficult winter on the frontlines. And it is sort of a stasis, which is not surprising. I have heard people out here say that that is somehow a failure for the Ukrainian armed forces and the Ukrainian people. And it is hard for me to see how that is anything but a success—an extraordinary success.

We don't know what is going to happen after this winter when the next fighting season comes, but I would never bet against the Ukrainian people's ingenuity or their military's toughness or their society's resolve. I would never bet against freedom. I would never bet against democracy. That is the bet we have here. That is the choice that we have to make.

It is a choice where our folks are not involved in the fighting. Our folks are not giving their lives in this fight, in this battle for democracy. But we are giving our treasure. We are giving our

intelligence in this fight because this fight is as important for us as it is for Ukraine. I don't mean that rhetorically; I mean that literally.

When I hear the isolationist people in this Chamber talking about their desire not to continue funding Ukraine, I want to say to them—and, in fact, I do say to them—even if I accepted your premise, which I don't, but let's say I accept your isolationist premise that this is a moment in human history when we shouldn't support the Ukrainians because we have things that we have to do at home instead of things that we have to do in Ukraine, do you think that Putin will stop just because we decide to stop? Do you think Putin will just give up because we have given up? Do you think that the war will just come to an end, or do you think that Putin will roll back through the territory that the Ukrainians have seized from his army?

Do you think that Putin will block the grain shipments in the Black Sea that are so important to feeding people around the world and stopping famine around the world?

Do you think that he will threaten Eastern Europe? Do you think that he will never give up?

If you believe that—and the odds are not even 50–50 that that stuff is true; it is 100 percent what is going to happen. If you believe that and you are an isolationist, you should be for continuing this funding because we want to keep our people out of this fight and because it has given us the opportunity to rebuild our military and our defense. And that is not a small thing because 90 percent of the money that we have sent to Ukraine has been spent here rearming the United States, restarting factories and supply lines that we are going to need to project strength throughout the world. That is not a bad thing; that is a good thing. That is what Ronald Reagan meant when he said, "Peace through strength."

That is what he meant when he went up and said, "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall," because you can't bottle up the human spirit and because your economy is getting crushed because you can't outcompete the United States in terms of our expenditures. We are in exactly the same position today.

I really believe this: that the Ukrainian people can win on this battlefield. And that is not just from casually reading the newspaper; that is from being a member of the Intelligence Committee; that is seeing the intelligence that you are seeing. I don't know if they will win. I believe they can win. I think they have a chance to win. I think Putin thinks he could lose on that battlefield. On that battlefield, he thinks he could lose. And the battlefield he is counting on winning on is the battlefield of Capitol Hill, the battlefield of Western democracy.

You don't have to take my word for it. He says it almost every day. He says: They are going to lose patience. He says: Their attention span is too short.

It doesn't help that there are some American politicians, including a former President, who seem to be rooting for his success, who seem to be rooting against the Ukrainian people, who seem to be rooting against democracy. That certainly doesn't help, but even if you don't accept that, there is a reason that he believes that—because it is hard to sustain these efforts in a democracy. He doesn't have the inconvenience of a democracy. He has a totalitarian society that will do what he says it is going to do. We have a democracy where people stand for election, where sometimes people might say 2 years is enough or a stalemate on the frontlines isn't good enough or we have too much to do here to spend just a little bit more money to reequip our defense capabilities as well as to support Ukraine.

He is counting on that. He is counting on winning on this battlefield. He is counting on the fact that there have been some elections in Europe where there have been people who have been elected who have the same sort of isolationist temperament that some people have here. We can't let that happen. We cannot let that happen.

The Presiding Officer was there when I first addressed our caucus on this question. For me, this is personal. I didn't go through it. Obviously, I didn't go through what my mother went through. But nobody can escape history, and I think no one can escape history. It is really important for us to learn history, and it is really important for us to understand the stakes at this moment and what it looks like to be invisible to this Chamber; to be fighting on that freezing frontline and not knowing whether we are going to come through with the ammunition; to be suffering through another cold snap when your heat has been blown up by the Russians and not knowing whether the humanitarian aid is going to come; to be a politician in some Western European capital and wondering whether the United States is going to continue to provide the exquisite and capable leadership that has been provided by this Nation, in a bipartisan way, over the last 2 years. Those are the things that are at stake as we are meeting here tonight.

In the course of human events, it is really easy to lose patience; it is really easy to have a short attention span, certainly a shorter attention span than a dictator who is acting out the imperialist impulses of Peter the Great, which Putin is, or who is going to be there, whether we leave or whether we don't leave, on the border of Ukraine for the rest of his life, one way or another, and he thinks for the rest of Russia's existence because that is how he thinks.

So I am not here to say that we are going to end the Russian ambition for Ukraine, but I am here to say we have a chance to win this battle for democracy for us and for Ukraine, and we should. If somebody had set out 2 years

ago or 5 years ago or 10 years ago to say, "Let's have a plan to spend 5 percent of the DOD's budget, restart our defense capabilities in the United States of America, expose the weakness of Putin's Army, make Xi Jinping have to think once or twice or three times or four times about the advisability of invading Taiwan because of the chance that free countries around the world would all come together in support of a country that had been invaded" or if we had said "Please give us a strategy for the amount of money that we have spent and for the \$90 billion that is in this request," there is no way we would have been as successful as the Ukrainians have been.

So this is an easy choice, I think, for us to make, and it is a very important choice for us to make. We cannot allow Putin to win on our dysfunctional battlefield.

I am going to finish just by observing that there are colleagues here who have said that they don't want to support this effort unless we deal with the situation at the border and unless we deal with immigration as part of this.

By the way, I would mention that one of those people is not the leader of the Republican caucus, MITCH MCCONNELL. I don't think there is anyone in America who believes more fiercely in the duty that the American people have and this Congress, as the representative of the American people, to fund Ukraine than Senator MCCONNELL. I want to say that. I want to thank him for his steadfastness because it has made a difference so far, and I think it will make a difference if we can get this over the finish line.

But there are some colleagues on the other side who have said they are unwilling to give their votes here unless we address the border. I would not have attached immigration to this debate. This debate is hard enough without introducing another issue that we have had so much difficulty grappling with. But I think what we have discovered in the course of this discussion is something that the Presiding Officer has made clear as a Senator from a border State; that the American people do not want our border policy dictated by transnational gangs. The American people do not want decisions made by smuggling enterprises that are violating people's human rights, that are dragging people all over the globe to come to the southern border of the United States. The American people want to make the decisions for our border and for our immigration policy.

The President has said that our border is broken. The Secretary of Homeland Security has said that our border is broken. I spent 2 days in the Tucson sector on the border, and it needs a lot of work, and it probably needs changes of policy and money. There is a reason President Biden put \$14 billion in the supplemental for the border. That is more money than is in the supplemental for Israel.

So I would not have attached this to the Ukraine deal, but I understand the

motivations of people who have attached it, and I believe that we can carry out a negotiation on this topic that helps to improve our border and improve our immigration system on behalf of the American people.

We have a lot more that we need to do on immigration than we are going to be able to do in this negotiation and as part of the Gang of 8, who passed the last comprehensive immigration bill that passed the U.S. Senate; that got 68 votes; that had a pathway to citizenship for the 11 million people who were undocumented in this country; that had the most progressive DREAM Act that anybody had ever written, much less passed, in the Senate; that had all of the visa issues that are so important to our universities, to our businesses, to our farmers and ranchers, to our farmworkers, to our ski resorts—all of them. There was \$40 billion of border security in that bill that would have allowed us to see every inch of the border.

We are a long way from getting to those policies issues, but I hope that this debate and discussion will lead to more bipartisan cooperation in the coming years—months and years—to remind us of something that I think we have forgotten for the moment, which is that immigration is an incredible strength of the United States of America.

We have many headwinds in this country—the lack of quality of our education system, especially for kids living in poverty; our healthcare system, which costs twice as much as any industrialized country's in the world. We have to fix those. We have our massive income inequality, and we have to fix that. All of those things would strengthen our democracy.

And we have to fix our immigration system. Immigration has been responsible for literally a third of our economic growth throughout our entire history. Immigration is how we get new talent and new ideas. Immigration is how my mom and her parents came to this country. Immigration is a dynamic force for good that countries like China don't have the benefit of. There is nobody crossing the Gobi Desert to get to Beijing, and there is a reason for that. There is a reason for that. It is because they want the same thing that President Zelenskyy wants. It is because they want the same thing that the Ukrainian people want: free speech, freedom of religion, freedom of the press, the opportunity to lend their talents to improving the society in which they live—no matter where they come from, no matter what language they speak, no matter what religion they have—for the benefit of their children and to know that their children are protected from political violence.

We have a democratic way of resolving our differences and resolving our disputes. We live in a moment when there is a sort of a monopoly on wisdom and cable television stations at night that are telling you there is only

one way to think about any issue like immigration or like Ukraine, when that is not actually the way this is supposed to work.

The Founders of this country did not create this country thinking we would agree with each other. It was the opposite. They knew what a society was in which everybody agreed with each other. That was a society where there was a tyrant in charge to tell you what to think and to tell you what to believe, like Putin's Russia, like Xi's China, like Iran, like North Korea. They knew exactly what those places were like. They knew that humans had lots of differences, experiences, and attitudes, but they knew that, in a society that was run by a tyrant, you weren't free to express those.

Here, they thought the genius of what they were setting up would be a result of the disagreements we have, not of the agreements we have. They thought, out of those disagreements, like on this Senate floor, we would create more imaginative and more durable results than any King or tyrant could come up with on their own. That was the idea.

I would say to the pages who are here: This may sound like some big philosophical thing, but I will bet the same thing is true for you. The worst decisions I make are the decisions I make at home, alone in my basement, not consulting with someone else's point of view, not consulting with someone else's experience or perspective. That is why there are 100 Members of the Senate—2 from every State. It is so that we can have that disagreement and we can have that discussion, and that is why people want to come to this country. It is because they know how rare that is in human societies, and that is why Ukraine is leading this fight on behalf of the rest of us and why they will never give up.

I will say again that President Zelenskyy was clear when he came here. He said: With your help, we can win. Without your help, we will lose. But even if you don't help us, we are not going to give up because the Ukrainian people love freedom and we are going to continue to fight for freedom.

Mr. President, I mentioned at the beginning of this speech that I was lifting my hold on the FAA because I felt like, even though I am deeply disappointed that we haven't passed this Ukraine funding and we haven't come yet to an agreement, I think we have made progress in the negotiations.

I had the chance to consult with both the majority leader and the Republican leader. I know they have put out a joint statement tonight saying that we had made progress and saying that they were committed to having the Senate move quickly and, I hope, decisively in January on this issue. I think that is the best we are going to get out of this tonight.

I hope it gives us a chance over the next few weeks for all of us to consider

the example of people who have come before us and who have served in this Chamber, who themselves had no monopoly on wisdom—people who were fallible but who took a risk on the future and understood that nobody else can play the role the United States of America can play. That was true on the way into World War II. That was true on the way out of World War II. And it is just as true today.

I have found it amazing when we have been in the company of President Zelenskyy because you feel like you are in the company of the Ukrainian people, and you feel like you are in the company of the Ukrainian soldiers, for the reasons that I said earlier about why he is in this fight. But it is an amazing thing about human events that, 3 years ago, he was a television star of some kind or other, and, today, he is the President of a country that has been attacked by a tyrant, invaded by a tyrant.

He is not a tall guy. He is not a strong guy. And the literal weight of the world is on his shoulders. And the literal weight of the world is on the Ukrainian people's shoulders, and it is on their military's shoulders.

We can help lift that burden from them. We can't take that burden away from them, nor should we. They are the ones who are fighting on the frontlines, and they will be. But we should help lift that burden from them because their burden is our burden and because nobody else on this planet is situated in the same way as the United States, has the same moral responsibility that we have, and has the capability to lend the kind of support we can lend. Because the Ukrainian people have showed up and done their job, it is time for us to show up and do our job.

In January, let's tell Vladimir Putin that he lost—he lost—the battle on this battlefield, and that he is going to lose the battle in Ukraine as well.

I just want to thank the floor staff tonight for enduring this and the pages for enduring this. I want to thank you for all of your work during this entire year.

I wish everybody a happy holiday.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

NATIONAL SECURITY

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, you, the Senator from Colorado, have voiced increased optimism in getting a supplemental done, and I agree with the Senator from Colorado. This won't be easy, but we will keep working because this is so important to our country and to the world.

I read a statement that Senator MCCONNELL and I issued a few hours ago, a joint statement regarding supplemental national security legislation:

Bipartisan border security negotiations are essential to the Senate's efforts to address critical national security priorities. Our colleagues are making encouraging progress on this front.

Challenging issues remain, but we are committed to addressing needs at the southern border and to helping allies and partners confront serious threats in Israel, Ukraine and the Indo-Pacific. The Senate will not let these national security challenges go unanswered.

As negotiators work through remaining issues, it is our hope that their efforts will allow the Senate to take swift action on the national security supplemental early in the new year.

In the time remaining this year, Senate and administration negotiators will continue to work in good faith toward finalizing their agreement.

Now I will move to pass the extension of the reauthorizing of the FAA. It is critical we extend this funding as so many Americans travel for the holidays. It is going to give us more time for a long-term funding measure in the new year, so passing FAA funding tonight is good news.

AIRPORT AND AIRWAY EXTENSION ACT OF 2023, PART II

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 6503, which was received from the House.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 6503) to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for the airport improvement program, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (H.R. 6503) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination: Calendar No. 445, John David Russell, of Oklahoma, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of

Oklahoma; that the cloture motion be withdrawn and the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate resume legislative session.

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

The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read nomination of John David Russell, of Oklahoma, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Oklahoma.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Russell nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the cloture motions filed during yesterday and today's sessions ripen at 5:30 p.m., Monday, January 8, 2024, and that the nominations remain in status quo notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXXI, paragraph 6, of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, before we adjourn, let me inform Senators that we have no more votes until we return in January. We are going to be in session tomorrow to do house-keeping business, but there are no more votes scheduled until January.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2023

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 12 noon on Wednesday, December 20; that following the prayer and the pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate be in a period of morning business for debate only, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate stand in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL TOMORROW

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come be-

fore the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 9:38 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, December 20, 2023, at 12 noon.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate December 19, 2023:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ELIZABETH H. RICHARD, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF CAREER MINISTER, TO BE COORDINATOR FOR COUNTERTERRORISM, WITH THE RANK AND STATUS OF AMBASSADOR AT LARGE.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be general

LT. GEN. KEVIN B. SCHNEIDER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be general

GEN. KENNETH S. WILSBACH

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601, AND TITLE 50, U.S.C., SECTION 2511:

To be admiral

VICE ADM. WILLIAM J. HOUSTON

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be general

LT. GEN. GREGORY M. GUILLOT

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be general

LT. GEN. TIMOTHY D. HAUGH

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS VICE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE ARMY AND APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 601 AND 7034:

To be general

LT. GEN. JAMES J. MINGUS

IN THE SPACE FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES SPACE FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be general

LT. GEN. MICHAEL A. GUETLEIN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES SPACE FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be general

LT. GEN. STEPHEN N. WHITING

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS VICE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS AND APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 601 AND 8035:

To be admiral

VICE ADM. JAMES W. KILBY

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS VICE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE AIR FORCE AND AP-

POINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 601 AND 9034:

To be general

LT. GEN. JAMES C. SLIFE

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be admiral

VICE ADM. STEPHEN T. KOEHLER

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

CHRISTOPHER CHARLES FONZONE, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL.

THE JUDICIARY

SARA E. HILL, OF OKLAHOMA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA.

JOHN DAVID RUSSELL, OF OKLAHOMA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA.

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. ERIC J. ANDUZE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. JOHN B. SKILLMAN

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY IN THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be brigadier general

COL. ERIK A. FESSENDEN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. CHRISTOPHER C. LANEVE

IN THE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MATTHEW T. BALLANCO AND ENDING WITH JASON L. TUCKER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 25, 2023.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ADAM D. AASEN AND ENDING WITH SARAH J. ZIMMERMAN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 25, 2023.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH AARON C. BAUM AND ENDING WITH MARY C. YELNICKER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 25, 2023.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MICHAEL A. ARGUELLO AND ENDING WITH MICHAEL D. ZOLLARS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 25, 2023.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JOSH R. ALDRED AND ENDING WITH RICHARD W. ZEIGLER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 25, 2023.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH WILLIAM JOHN ACKMAN AND ENDING WITH TODD M. ZIELINSKI, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 25, 2023.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH SAUNYA N. BRIGHT AND ENDING WITH ROBBIE L. WHEELER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON OCTOBER 19, 2023.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH KASUMI ERICA ANDERSON AND ENDING WITH ESTHER K. ZVOL, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON OCTOBER 19, 2023.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF JAYMI F. JEFFERY, TO BE MAJOR.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF CHRISTOPHER M. LUTZ, TO BE COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF DANIEL E. FINKELSTEIN, TO BE COLONEL.

IN THE ARMY

ARMY NOMINATION OF MICHAEL W. LAWSON, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JASON E. COSBY AND ENDING WITH BRIAN MATHISON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 27, 2023.

ARMY NOMINATION OF ROBERTO CANDELARIA-SANTIAGO, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JAMES M. DEGROOT, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF VICTORIA K. SOMNUK, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH TREVOR I. BARNA AND ENDING WITH 0003391400, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON DECEMBER 4, 2023.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH BRIAN D. ANDES AND ENDING WITH 0003089250, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON DECEMBER 4, 2023.

ARMY NOMINATION OF BRYCE R. GREENWOOD, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF CALEB J. PORTER, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH HORACE ALLEN III AND ENDING WITH THOMAS R. WEBER, WHICH NOMI-

NATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON DECEMBER 4, 2023.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ANDREW S. BERRYMAN AND ENDING WITH DANIEL J. MCAULIFFE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON DECEMBER 4, 2023.

ARMY NOMINATION OF TIMOTHY P. PLACKETT, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JACOB B. SAUNDERS, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF MARK C. MULLINAX, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF LASAUNDRA C. ESTELLE, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF PAUL B. FOWLER, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF PACE E. BROWN, TO BE MAJOR.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ERICK R. ABERCROMBIE AND ENDING WITH ANGELA S. ZUNIC, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE

AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON DECEMBER 4, 2023.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JONATHAN K. ACKER AND ENDING WITH EDWARD S. ZUR, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON DECEMBER 4, 2023.

IN THE NAVY

NAVY NOMINATION OF DEVERE J. CROOKS, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATION OF SARAH A. SHERWOOD, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATION OF WILFREDO MORALES, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATION OF DARY R. SAMPY, JR., TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

IN THE SPACE FORCE

SPACE FORCE NOMINATION OF ROBIN J. GLEBES, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

SPACE FORCE NOMINATION OF MAXWELL E. FULDAUER, TO BE COLONEL.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING BEAUMONT HIGH
SCHOOL CLASS OF 1973

HON. CORI BUSH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

Ms. BUSH. Mr. Speaker, St. Louis and I rise to celebrate the 50th reunion of the Beaumont High School Class of 1973. May this reunion weekend be filled with loving memories, reflection, and laughter.

The Class of 1973 has lived through many historic events from snowstorms to teacher strikes. Despite all of this, more than 480 students persisted on and are a part of its graduating class.

As the Beaumont Blue Jackets Alma Mater states:

“Beaumont High we pledge our love, let our chorus ring above. Beaumont’s warm and friendly walls, campus broad and ample halls. Pay we now the honor due to Beaumont’s Gold and Blue; The gold of youth, the blue truth and staunch loyalty. Straight toward the North Star’s guiding rays, Beaumont looks with steady gaze; Like a compass needle true, Points the course of all we do. On her guidance we rely. So march we in the van, to hold on high her winged staff of service to man.”

On behalf of Missouri’s First District, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Beaumont High School Class of 1973 on their 50th year of celebration.

HONORING RACHEL JONES,
DIRECTOR OF ANDREW’S HOPE

HON. ZACHARY NUNN

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rachel Jones of Bloomfield, Iowa, for her work as Director of Andrew’s Hope, a non-profit she started to provide suicide awareness and prevention education.

Tragically, on May 8, 2021, Rachel’s son Andrew died due to suicide at the age of 24. About 6 months later, motivated to help improve awareness and education on the topic of suicide prevention, Rachel created Andrew’s Hope as a tribute to her son. Among other outreaches, Andrew’s Hope speaks to high school students, runs an annual memorial softball tournament, and hosted a suicide awareness glow walk earlier this year. Rachel’s hope is, by telling her son’s story, it will help save others.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend Rachel Jones, a woman inspired to be the change she wants to see in the world, for her invaluable work and commitment to suicide prevention. May we find inspiration in her efforts as we seek to curb the rise in suicides.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF KYLE
PRESTON OF TEXARKANA, TEXAS

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Mr. Kyle Preston of Texarkana, Texas, who passed away on November 27, 2023. Mr. Preston was a loving husband, father, and grandfather.

Mr. Preston was born on November 28, 1964, in Monticello, Arkansas to Carl and Sandy Preston. He served as a coach and Assistant Athletic Director at Texarkana ISD, and was highly regarded by his students for his generosity and kindness. Those who knew Mr. Preston would say that he never met a stranger. He had an uncanny ability to make you feel as if you had known each other for ages the second you were introduced. Furthermore, Mr. Preston’s efforts to train and serve as a role model for his students did not go unnoticed. For his work, the East Texas Coaches Association has established the Kyle Preston Award for Assistant Coaches to honor individuals who have made memorable contributions to school athletic programs.

Mr. Preston enjoyed spending time with his six grandchildren and attending sporting events with his family, who describe him as their hero and the best friend that anyone could have. When he had the opportunity, he would volunteer in local community shelters to lend a hand to those in need. Mr. Preston was a devoted man of faith who attended Church on the Rock in Texarkana. Without a doubt, his impact on our community will be felt for many years to come.

I have requested the United States flag to be flown over our Nation’s Capitol in recognition of Mr. Preston’s remarkable and uplifting life. He will be dearly missed by his friends, family, and all who knew him.

WHOLE MILK FOR HEALTHY KIDS
ACT OF 2023

HON. VAL T. HOYLE

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, last week, I voted in favor of H.R. 1147, the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act, which would allow schools the option of serving whole and 2% unflavored and flavored milk.

Under current federal regulations, schools that participate in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) can only serve low-fat or fat-free milk. H.R. 1147 would amend current regulations to allow schools to offer a wider range of dairy milk options, helping to ensure that students have freedom of choice. It would also help reduce the likelihood of students throwing out milk and missing out on beneficial nutrients.

While I supported H.R. 1147, it was not perfect. I believe this legislation should have included options for children who cannot or choose not to drink dairy milk due to dietary, religious or personal reasons. Unfortunately, House Republican leadership did not allow for any amendments to be considered that would have extended freedom of choice for non-dairy beverage options.

That’s why I’m a cosponsor of H.R. 1619, the Addressing Digestive Distress in Stomachs of Our Youth (ADD SOY) Act, which would require schools to provide non-dairy beverage substitutes upon request of a student or parent/guardian and allow the U.S. Department of Agriculture to reimburse schools for providing non-dairy options. This issue is especially important for students who experience lactose intolerance, which disproportionately affects communities of color.

Should the Senate take up H.R. 1147, I urge them to include the ADD SOY Act or similar provisions to allow for non-dairy options and broader freedom of choice for students. H.R. 1147 takes an important first step, but we must ensure that freedom of choice applies to all.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PIERCE
“PETE” CONNAIR, JR.

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of former Connecticut State Senator Pierce F. Connair, Jr. He passed away on November 29, 2023, having lived a long, meaningful, and happy life of 97 years.

Born to Hazel and Pierce Connair, Sr. in 1926, Pierce Jr. attended parochial school at Vincentian Institute in Albany New York, and was admitted to the College of the Holy Cross. With America at war, Pierce entered military service in 1943, training with the naval aviation cadets. His service to the United States extended through both World War II and the Korean War, as a Navy officer.

While a pupil at the Vincentian Institute, Pierce would meet the love of his life, Irene, at 16 years old. Their courtship persisted, and he and Irene married after World War II in 1948, settling in Glen Falls, New York. During the Korean War, the Connairs transited among several naval bases, eventually returning stateside to settle in New England. By 1971, Pierce and Irene found their permanent home in East Lyme, Connecticut. Pierce managed Sears-Roebuck stores across New York and New England, bringing him to New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts.

From an early age, Pierce was involved in numerous local organizations in Albany, New York such as the Knights of Columbus. He joined numerous committees, helping ensure successful fundraisers for his chapter. Community service is a throughline in Pierce’s life,

● 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.

whether in New York or Connecticut, Pierce made certain to stay active in organizations that shape neighborhoods and towns.

Upon his permanent move to Connecticut, Pierce very quickly established himself as a lynchpin in the southeast Connecticut business community. By 1974, Pierce was appointed president of the Southeast Connecticut Chamber of Commerce—truly a meteoric rise given his just coming to the region in 1971. By 1981, his position in the chamber changed from President to Executive Director—an office he held until 1984. Pierce was not content serving his community in merely a business capacity. Some of his additional involvement includes acting as president of the New London Rotary, serving as a trustee of the Savings Bank of New England, and as vice president of the Connecticut Retail Merchants' Association. He was also heavily involved in the United Way of southeast Connecticut, sitting on its Board of Directors and being named Residential Chairman. He is remembered for the vigor he attacked his work with at the United Way, urging fellow community members to generously give to its drives.

By 1980, Pierce retired from managing Sears stores and focused his new-found time on realty and government. In 1984, Pierce was elected State Senator and served in the prestigious and powerful position of co-chair of the Appropriations Committee. After his tenure came to an end, Pierce remained active in his community. In 1993, he helped lead the response to the decline of the defense industry in Eastern Connecticut, championing retraining programs for those workers laid off by a shifting economy in the wake of the Cold War.

Mr. Speaker, I consider myself incredibly lucky to represent constituents as community oriented as Pierce. Pierce showed up in every aspect of his life—whether for his family or for his neighbors. Pierce served not for his own glory or fame, but because it was right to do so. Although his passing leaves a hole in Eastern Connecticut's community, we can take solace in the knowledge that his legacy of selfless volunteerism and care for his fellow citizens lives on in the thousands he touched. We mourn his passing with his surviving family—children Michael, Thomas, Stephen, and Patricia as well as their respective spouses and children. I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our deepest admiration and appreciation for a life well lived.

RECOGNIZING GARY
BRYNJULFSON

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life and legacy of a remarkable man, Mr. Gary Brynjulfson.

Gary was born on February 25, 1947, in Black River Falls, WI to parents Leonard and Mae Brynjulfson. At just 20 years old in 1967, Gary courageously signed the dotted line to join the United States Army where he served for two years before he was honorably discharged in 1969. During his time in the Army, Gary earned several commendations such as the Purple Heart, Expert (81mm Mortar) Sharpshooter (Rifle) Vietnam Service Medal

with two Bronze Service Stars, and the National Defense Service Medal Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

Following his time in the service, Gary met the love of his life, Ethelyn "Lynn" Jensen, and the two were married on May 27, 1978. As the years went by, Gary and Lynn welcomed two children, a daughter, Camille, and son, Scott. As Gary's family continued to expand, he and his wife enjoyed traveling to see his grandchildren: Tabitha, Evan, Harper, and Mabel, participate in various activities.

Gary was a family and community-focused man in all aspects of his life. After his time in the military, Gary became heavily involved in the community and was one of the top advocates for local veterans. A member of VFW Post 2778, Gary was a member of the honor guard, and became the President of Vets & Friends, an organization that serves free breakfast every Friday and free lunch on Saturdays for veterans throughout the community. I was honored to meet Gary at their breakfasts numerous times, and I am grateful for his leadership and commend him for his lifelong dedication to his country and community.

Gary's kindness and thoughtfulness will surely be missed by his friends, family, and the entire community. A husband, father, veteran, business leader, advocate, and friend—Gary touched many lives throughout Northeast Wisconsin. I commend Gary for his commitment and unwavering service to the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Northeast Wisconsin extend their sincere thanks to Mr. Gary Brynjulfson for his extraordinary service to this country and community. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family and to all the lives he touched. I offer my sincere condolences to Gary's wife, Lynn, and their entire family during this time. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family and to all the lives he touched.

RECOGNIZING JACKSONVILLE
STATE UNIVERSITY'S NEW ORLEANS
BOWL VICTORY

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Jacksonville State University football team for winning their first bowl game in program history in their first season as an FBS team.

On December 16, 2023. The Jacksonville State University Gamecocks battled it out at the R+L Carriers New Orleans Bowl, beating the University of Louisiana 34 to 31 with a walk-off field goal in overtime to secure their win. The game was played at the Caesars Superdome in New Orleans, Louisiana.

The Jacksonville State University Gamecocks finished their regular season 8–4. This was head coach Rich Rodriguez's second year with the program, the first bowl game victory in program history, and the team's first year playing at the FBS level.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Coach Rodriguez, the Jacksonville State University football team, students, faculty and all the fans. Go Gamecocks.

HONORING SONJA L. JOHNSON

HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank and celebrate Mrs. Sonja L. Johnson for over 25 years of dedicated service to our country and its Veterans.

Sonja served as a part of the U.S. Army for five years. During that time, she served our country selflessly and with honor. Following her time in the Army, she joined the Marine Corps System Command as a Contract Specialist where she excelled and achieved Contracting Level 3 Career Field Certification with the Department of the Navy.

In February 2012, she joined the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs as a Contract Specialist at the Strategic Acquisition Center. In 2017, Sonja was promoted to Procurement Analyst because of her exemplary credentials, experience, and professionalism. During her tenure at the VA, Sonja has followed through on delivering Veterans, their widows, and their children with extraordinary service and support.

Sonja has been a compassionate public servant and supportive colleague. She has provided her teammates with training and developmental opportunities—proving to be an asset to all around her. Her work ethic and love for service extend past her job. In her free time, Sonja volunteers with her church and her sorority.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating and thanking Mrs. Sonja L. Johnson for her service on behalf of our country and our Veterans and in wishing her the best as she retires to spend time with her family and loved ones.

HONORING ASHLEY SKINNER

HON. ZACHARY NUNN

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Grand View Christian School teacher Ashley Skinner of Des Moines, Iowa, for her achievement in receiving an award for Excellence in Christian Education from the Herzog Foundation.

Born to a military family, Ashley grew up a resident of the world. She attended Faith Baptist Bible College and Theological Seminary where she graduated with a B.A. in Elementary Education and Bible in 2008. She has spent her career in Christian education and currently teaches at Grand View Christian School—the same school her mom taught at in the 1980s. As a 2023 recipient of the Herzog Christian Teacher of the Year Award, she was selected for demonstrating the highest levels of excellence and innovation in her classroom.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Ashley Skinner for her incredible work in being a phenomenal educator and mentor. Her achievement demonstrates the highest dedication to education and a selfless commitment to her students. I join Ms. Skinner's family, friends, and colleagues in congratulating her for receiving this award.

HONORING ST. LOUIS CITY AND
COUNTY LIBRARIES**HON. CORI BUSH**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

Ms. BUSH. Mr. Speaker, St. Louis and I rise today with gratitude to St. Louis Public Libraries and St. Louis County Libraries for their continued partnership in providing lifesaving resources as part of my office's Congress in Your Neighborhood program. This initiative was started in October 2021 at four public libraries in the region to help residents across Missouri's First District in navigating federal agencies, handling casework, and meeting with casework staff in their communities. Its success is largely attributed to the reliability and proximity of our beloved network of public libraries.

Our libraries continue to help build healthy communities. Not only do they provide access to free education, but they also do the essential work of providing vital services and safe spaces to gather. Constituent service is about meeting our neighbors where they are, and our libraries do that every day.

I am proud to partner with our public librarians, and I will be forever grateful to our librarians, administrators, staff members and volunteers for their dedicated service to our community.

CONCERNING SITUATION IN
HONDURAS**HON. WARREN DAVIDSON**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to draw attention to a situation in Honduras that threatens American investment in the region.

President Castro has threatened to expropriate resources from U.S. investment in Honduras in contravention of the Dominican Republic–Central America Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR). Seven of my Republican colleagues and I wrote a letter to Secretary of State Anthony Blinken and U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai urging the Biden Administration to enforce investor protections in U.S. trade agreements. We cannot allow U.S. trade agreements to go unenforced or leave U.S. investors defenseless.

While I received a response to our letter, it did not clarify how the State Department will defend the rights of U.S. investors if the Honduran government follows through on its statements and actions, which indicate an intent to take that property. Americans invest money in Central and South America with the reasonable expectation that the U.S. will protect their investments from theft. These investments help extend economic stability to the region.

In addition, China's efforts to replace the United States as a trade partner with Honduras pose a national security threat near our southern border. On September 21, 2023, the President of Honduras, Xiomara Castro, spoke at the United Nations, where she bragged that her nation had "officially opened relations with the People's Republic of China." In addition, she condemned sanctions on communist

countries like Cuba and Venezuela. These are troubling statements from President Castro, especially when paired with her government's actions.

The PRC's influence is rapidly increasing in America's backyard. I urge the Biden Administration to reassert the principles of the Monroe Doctrine and protect American interests in the Western Hemisphere.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present during Roll Call vote No. 722, 723, and 724 on December 14, 2023. Had I been present, I would have voted: on Roll Call No. 722, NO, on Roll Call No. 723, YES, and on Roll Call No. 724, YES.

RECOGNIZING 313 DODGE

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the 5th anniversary of 313 Dodge.

313 Dodge in Kaukauna opened its doors in 2018 and is a staple of Kaukauna that offers a creative and unique menu for everyone to enjoy. Located at 313 Dodge Street, the location holds historical significance as it was originally a home built in 1883 before being fully repurposed and renovated.

Throughout the years, 313 Dodge has grown dramatically and I applaud local Kaukauna-natives and owners Kyle and Janel Megna for their continued success. They have become well known for their delicious drinks and tasty food items featured on their menu. Over the years, 313 Dodge has increased their customers' experience by hosting events for all to enjoy, such as live entertainment, Food Truck Tuesdays, and their walk-up window service. Recently, 313 Dodge crafted the world's largest old-fashioned flight that included 104 glasses of hand muddled brandy old fashioned. For five years, 313 Dodge has been committed to offering outstanding customer service and is a wonderful business for people in Kaukauna and throughout Northeast Wisconsin to enjoy.

Given their successful business operation and emphasis on customer service, 313 Dodge has been recognized by local organizations, evident from the fact that Kyle and Janel were the recipients of the 2022 Entrepreneur of the Year Award from the Heart of the Valley Chamber. I commend the entire 313 Dodge team for their commitment to customer service and wish them nothing but the best for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize 313 Dodge in Kaukauna on their 5th Anniversary. I extend my sincerest congratulations to Kyle and Janel Megna and the entire 313 Dodge team on this milestone and wish them years of continued success.

HONORING FREDERICK DOUGLAS
DELOCH**HON. CORI BUSH**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

Ms. BUSH. Mr. Speaker, St. Louis and I rise to recognize the extraordinary life and legacy of the late Frederick Douglas Deloch, affectionately known as "DIRT", and to express our deepest condolences to his family on news of his passing. His passing has left a void in the hearts of all those who knew and loved him.

Frederick's journey was marked by resilience, determination, and unwavering commitment to service. His pursuit of engineering, despite financial constraints, led him to enlist in the Army, where he excelled both academically and in the line of duty. Serving with honor during the Korean War, Frederick's sacrifices were justly acknowledged with the Purple Heart, a testament to his bravery and dedication to the defense of our Nation.

Beyond his military service, Frederick continued to serve within the community. His 37-year tenure with the United States Postal Service, starting as a Postal Clerk and rising to the esteemed position of Postal Inspector, is a reflection of his exemplary character and dedication to public service.

A true pillar of faith and community, Frederick was a devoted member of the Antioch Baptist Church for over 50 years. His commitment to community service extended through his active involvement in organizations such as the National Organization of Blacks in Law Enforcement (N.O.B.L.E.), exemplifying his dedication to making a positive impact beyond his immediate circles.

Frederick's contributions to the Albert Holman Lodge No. 179 of Prince Hall Masons, where he achieved the prestigious rank of a 33rd Degree Mason, and his role as Honorary Past Potentate of Medinah Temple No. 39, Prince Hall Masons, are indicative of his commitment to the principles of brotherhood, charity, and service.

In remembering Frederick, one cannot overlook his motto: "If I can help someone along the way, then my living will not be in vain." His 90 years were a testament to a life well-lived, sowing seeds of goodwill and leaving an indelible mark on his community. In recognition of Frederick Douglas Deloch's extraordinary life and service to his country and community, Missouri's First District and I again extend our heartfelt condolences to his family and loved ones. May his legacy continue to inspire others and serve as a source of strength for those whose lives he touched.

RECOGNIZING CHIEF MASTER
SERGEANT CHUCK POWERS**HON. PAUL TONKO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chief Master Sergeant Chuck Powers, an exceptional member of the Air National Guard, for his distinguished service and dedication to furthering the mission of the National Guard.

A native of Albany, New York, Chief Master Sergeant Powers enlisted in the Air Force in December 2000. He has served for 23 years in the Active-Duty Air Force and now the New York Air National Guard in a broad range of assignments, including six deployments to Iraq, Oman, Afghanistan, and Antarctica in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Deep Freeze, and Operation New Dawn. Most recently, he served as a military personnel liaison for the National Guard Bureau Office of Legislative Liaison and Senior Enlisted Advisor, working diligently to improve the quality of life for our National Guard Soldiers and Airmen and to enhance the relationship between the National Guard and offices like mine. In November 2023, he took on a new role as the Senior Enlisted Leader to the National Guard Bureau Manpower and Personnel Directorate.

Chief Master Sergeant Powers' responsibilities as legislative liaison have had an impact on the National Guard Bureau and the work of all congressional offices. He demonstrated expertise in developing technical solutions, which modernized how the National Guard Bureau Office of Legislative Liaison engages with Members of Congress. His attention to detail and responsiveness strengthened the relationship between congressional offices and the National Guard immeasurably. He formulated a congressional engagement plan and prepared National Guard leadership for over 60 meetings and hearings, informed Members on the National Guard Bureau's legislative priorities, and answered hundreds of congressional inquiries, which provided critical information related to the annual National Defense Authorization Act.

Chief Master Sergeant Powers' efforts were also pivotal to improve quality of life for his fellow National Guard members, including the development of new guidelines for maternity and paternity leave. He embodies the qualities that one can expect from Non-Commissioned Officers.

I am grateful to Chief Master Sergeant Powers for his service in support of my office and others in the furtherance of National Guard missions. I would also like to express my appreciation to his supportive husband, Jamie Richards. I wish this National Guard family all the best in their next chapter of service to our Nation.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
MR. MARTY LENTZ

HON. BARRY MOORE

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize the hard work and legacy of Mr. Marty Lentz. His devoted service of 30 years as a county engineer has made a difference in the life of many Alabamians.

Mr. Lentz has served many of those years in my home of Coffee County, where I was born and raised and still live today. The citizens of Coffee County, including myself, are grateful for Mr. Lentz, as he has spent 28 of his 30 years of service enhancing our county.

Mr. Lentz has many accomplishments as a county engineer that have helped the community, including being an integral part in the im-

plementation of the County's Rebuild Alabama program. Because of his hard work, roads in Coffee County were repaved to offer better transportation for drivers. These roads would not have been resurfaced without Mr. Lentz' help. Mr. Lentz has also served as a faithful volunteer of the Wiregrass Men of Valor ministry.

I would like to congratulate Mr. Marty Lentz on his well-deserved retirement and thank him for his public service.

HONORING THE LIFE OF
ROSALYNN ALBA COBARRUBIAS

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

Ms. SÁNCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Ms. Rosalynn Alba Cobarrubias.

A City of Walnut native who worked tirelessly to become a media entrepreneur and music promoter, Rosalynn's first music industry position was as a radio DJ at KSAK-FM 90.1, the campus radio station of Mt. San Antonio College.

Rosalynn played a key role in developing the MySpace Music platform, serving as its marketing head and leading artist relations and driving connections between artists and their fans. Her work ethic was enhanced by her creativity and innovation. Rosalynn produced legendary live events, collaborating with iconic artists like Rihanna, Bruno Mars, Miguel, and John Legend.

She was also known for using her talent and resources to spread a wealth of knowledge—not just to upcoming artists, but to her community at large. Rosalynn was a strong advocate for Filipino American artists, helping them find success in the music industry. She also supported Filipino American heritage nights at Dodgers games.

A long-time advocate for youth empowerment even beyond Southern California, Rosalynn helped build basketball courts across the Philippines. Rosalynn's passion for music and dedication to her Filipino heritage and community should be celebrated.

Mr. Speaker and distinguished colleagues, please join me in honoring the life of Rosalynn Alba Cobarrubias. May God bless her and ease her family's pain as they mourn for their loss.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF DORIS
GRAHAM OF CANTON, TEXAS

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Mrs. Doris "Ellen" Graham of Canton, Texas, who peacefully passed away on December 12, 2023 with her family by her side.

Mrs. Graham was raised in the Dallas area and graduated from Spruce High School in 1969. During high school, she met the love of her life, Mr. Timothy "Tim" Aron Graham, whom she married in 1970. Together, they

had four children. For most of her career, Mrs. Graham worked for Texas Health and Human Services until she retired in 2015.

Mrs. Graham was a wife, mother, and friend to many. In her free time, she enjoyed reading and crocheting. However, her most treasured pastime was spending time with her family, especially the grandchildren, whom she loved dearly. Mrs. Graham truly made the world a brighter place with her presence, and it is heartbreaking to see our community experience her tragic passing.

I have requested the United States flag to be flown over our Nation's Capitol in recognition of Mrs. Graham's life and contributions to North Texas. She will be dearly missed by her friends, family, and all who knew her.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH WEDDING
ANNIVERSARY OF PETE AND
BOOTS MORRISON

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 50th wedding anniversary of Donald and Henrietta Morrison, also known as "Pete and Boots" to their friends and family.

Pete and Boots met in 1968 when their elementary schools both fed into Walter Wellborn High School in the 7th grade. Their love story began the next year, at age 14, when they started dating. Since then, these high school sweethearts have become an example of true love and commitment.

The couple was married on December 21, 1973, at Sunny Eve Baptist Church in Oxford, Alabama. As if it were a symbol from God of the love they were celebrating, there was a beautiful snowfall that day, a weather event rarely experienced in Alabama. Unfortunately, the unexpected snow made it impossible to ascend to their honeymoon on Cheaha Mountain.

Pete and Boots began their family in 1975 with the birth of their daughter Kari (Will) and just three short years later their second daughter Tanya (T.J.). Beginning in 2004, the couple assumed their most precious titles of "Pop" and "Bebe" to their five grandchildren: Sam, Claire, Maisie, Hazel and Rosie. Pete is the son of the late Ralph and Doris Morrison of Anniston, Alabama, and graduated from Walter Wellborn High School in 1973. He immediately began working for "Mr. Mac" learning the skills and trade that would allow him to later launch and build his own successful HVAC business, Morrison Sheet Metal.

Boots is the daughter of the late Clarence and Frances Somers of Abel, Alabama, and graduated from Walter Wellborn High School in 1973. Boots obtained her dental hygiene license from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, finishing her practicum nine months pregnant with Kari and worked as a hygienist for almost 30 years after which she happily retired to fulfill her roles as grandmother and co-owner of Morrison Sheet Metal.

Pete and Boots have created a world of love, laughter, and joy around them instilling in their girls the love of family, commitment to their partners, and a devotion to their community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Pete and Boots Morrison and their 50 years of marriage.

RECOGNIZING IOWA DIVISION OF
BANKING SUPERINTENDENT
JEFF PLAGGE

HON. ZACHARY NUNN

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate Jeff Plagge, who will be retiring as Iowa Division of Banking Superintendent at the end of this year, for his outstanding work and service to his state.

Superintendent Plagge was appointed to his position in 2019 by Governor Kim Reynolds. Among numerous achievements, Superintendent Plagge was instrumental in modernizing Iowa's banking code and working to level the playing field for community banks.

As a member of the House Financial Services Committee, I have personally had the privilege of getting to know and partnering with Jeff to fight for Iowa businesses.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in commending Superintendent Plagge for his extraordinary leadership and thoughtful approach to the Iowa Division of Banking. I wish him and his family nothing but the best as he begins his next chapter.

CONDEMNING ANTISEMITISM ON
UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES, H. RES.
927

HON. VAL T. HOYLE

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, last week I voted No on H. Res. 927, a resolution that purports to condemn antisemitism on college campuses. Several of my Jewish colleagues voted against this resolution as well.

I strongly agree that Congress must condemn all forms of antisemitism, including on college campuses. Since Hamas's horrific October 7th attacks on Israel, the U.S. House of Representatives has voted in favor of several resolutions condemning antisemitism on college campuses and throughout the world, multiple of which I've supported and cosponsored. However, this latest resolution, H. Res. 927, is yet another disingenuous resolution that weaponizes the real scourge of antisemitism, uses Jewish people as pawns to play partisan political games, and represents another attack in the extreme right-wing's war on higher education. For this reason, I could not support the resolution.

Among other items, H. Res. 927 calls on specific college presidents to resign, referencing a made-for-TV congressional hearing orchestrated by congressional Republicans last week. I believe it is inappropriate for Congress to inject itself into leadership and personnel decisions at colleges and universities. Doing so creates a slippery slope of Congress meddling in local decisions that the federal government should not be involved in.

H. Res. 927 also appears to be another attempt to police and silence the free speech of

Americans on college campuses. Again, while some demonstrators on college campuses have disturbingly engaged in antisemitic actions that should rightfully be condemned. H. Res. 927 is too broad.

H. Res. 927 also fails to condemn antisemitic acts from those on the far right, including white nationalists who have increasingly promoted antisemitic conspiracy theories and have threatened the lives and livelihoods of Jewish Americans. The lead sponsor of H. Res. 927 has also publicly engaged in antisemitic tropes in the past, including the disgusting "great replacement theory." This resolution appears to be an attempt to cover up extremist right-wing Republicans' flirtation with antisemitic ideology, as well as their support for antisemitic public figures.

Let me be clear: I unequivocally condemn all forms of antisemitism, and I am appalled by the significant rise in antisemitism we've seen on college campuses in recent weeks. Many Jewish college students and faculty do not feel safe on campus, and many Jewish Americans feel unsafe in public. This is absolutely unacceptable. The university presidents who participated in last week's congressional hearing gave insufficient and appalling answers relating to campus speech calling for the genocide of Jewish people. I'm glad that they've since apologized for their statements, and I encourage other colleges not to make the same mistake these presidents did.

However, if the House Republican majority were serious about tackling antisemitism, they would support President Biden's National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism, would quit trying to defund the Office of Civil Rights for Title VI enforcement which protects Jewish students and would increase funding for the High-Risk Nonprofit Grant Program to secure Jewish institutions as a start.

That's why I've cosponsored H. Res. 927, introduced by Representatives NADLER, RASKIN, and GOLDMAN. H. Res. 927 thoughtfully and powerfully condemns the rise of antisemitism in the United States—including on college campuses—and calls on Congress to support the above substantive actions to tackle antisemitism, which congressional Republicans have so far refused to do. I call on my congressional Republican colleagues to put politics aside and work in a bipartisan way to substantively tackle antisemitism.

HONORING THE CAREER OF
GERALD 'JERRY' GRABAREK

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a long-standing public servant to the Town of Preston, Connecticut and pillar of our state's sizable rural population, Mr. Gerald 'Jerry' Grabarek of Preston, Connecticut. Jerry has recently marked his 50th year of community service to the Town of Preston and also just celebrated the 100 anniversary his multi-generational family farm, appropriately named, Preston Farms. Most recently, he has won reelection unopposed to the Board of Selectman, and was sworn in on the 5th of December. Preston and the region are lucky to have such a talented, stalwart advocate.

Jerry's long history of service begins in the early 1970's when he and his wife, Deb, took a more active role in managing the farm. During this time, they shared responsibility with the farm's original founders, Andrew and Anastasia Grabarek. Jerry used this time to pursue a degree in Biology, Botany, and Zoology from Connecticut College in New London, graduating in 1981. This experience proved beneficial immediately when he and Deb took over Preston Farms upon the death of Andrew in 1984. Jerry's tenure at the farm has been defined by his eagerness to engage with his neighbors, often giving fieldtrips and hay-rides to Preston's elementary school students. Countless generations remember the visit to Jerry's farms with fond memories of tractor rides and cups of ice-cream.

Ever a steward of his community, one of the earliest times Jerry opened his farm and maze to local students was in the wake of the 11th of September terror attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon. Many children of Eastern Connecticut's servicemen and women had to contend with their parents being suddenly mobilized without explanation or words of good-bye. In response, Jerry coordinated field trips to Preston Farms free of charge to give those children a much-needed respite in the month immediately following the attacks. This episode truly epitomizes the selfless, bottom-up service approach which has defined Jerry's life.

In 1978, Jerry began his municipal service in earnest through his being voted on to Preston's Democratic Town Committee. Little did he know at the time that this action would take him on a winding journey of advocacy. By 1982, Jerry served on the Planning and Zoning commission wherein he eventually became chair. Jerry's tenure in town politics oversaw a significant shift in the dynamic of southeast Connecticut living. In 1983, the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe received federal recognition and reservation rights which soon saw the development of the Foxwoods Resort Casino, causing a large increase in the number of visitors to the region. This increase in tourism necessitated enhanced infrastructure to accommodate the additional traffic. Under his chairmanship of the Planning and Zoning Commission, Jerry helped ensure development was executed in a balanced manner to avoid undue burden on area residents while still accommodating the increased travel.

Jerry's advocacy for Preston only increased in 1995 when he successfully ran for the Board of Selectmen, ending his first term in 2009. In his early years on the Board, he continued to advocate for the needs of residents when weighing responses to the increased traffic caused by tribal economic development. In 2020, Jerry rejoined the Board and continues his service today.

Mr. Speaker, I have known Jerry personally for over 30 years and consider myself immensely fortunate to call him a friend. Representing hardworking, good hearted constituents like Jerry Grabarek is an inspiration to me to stay focused on helping people which is his trademark. Amazingly Jerry continues to serve even as he surpasses 50 years of hard work for Preston and the southeast region. I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking Jerry for his decades of dutiful stewardship.

RECOGNIZING DEBORAH GYM'S
PERFECT PSAT SCORE

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding academic accomplishments of a constituent from my district, Deborah Gym.

Deborah is a sophomore at Central Bucks South High School who regularly demonstrates a commitment to academic excellence, with this dedication culminating in her achieving a perfect score of 1520 on the Preliminary SAT (PSAT). Deborah demonstrated a proficiency in various focuses of reading, including information and ideas, craft and structure, and expression of ideas, and mathematics, including a remarkable understanding of algebra, advanced mathematics, problem-solving and data analysis, and geometry and trigonometry.

Deborah's performance on the PSAT should serve as a testament to her character as an intelligent and motivated young woman. I am encouraged by her motivation to perform incredibly in her academic career, and I am proud to represent such remarkable young people in my district.

It is my hope that, by Deborah's example, students throughout my district and throughout the country are encouraged to challenge themselves academically, and endeavor to strive for excellence in every facet of their lives. Moreover, the example provided by young men and young women, like Deborah, should serve as inspiration to challenge ourselves and strive for excellence in every facet of our lives.

I would like to wish Deborah the best in her future endeavors, both academically and professionally, and once again congratulate her on her incredible performance on the PSAT.

RECOGNIZING ROBERT CABANA'S
YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize Robert Cabana for his years of service in the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Mr. Cabana is retiring at the end of this year after serving as the agency's associate administrator, making him the highest-ranking civil servant.

Robert Cabana acts as the agency's chief operating officer and manages more than 18,000 employees. Before serving in his position, Mr. Cabana served as the director of NASA's John F. Kennedy Space Center in my district. There, he oversaw all NASA facilities and activities at the spaceport.

Robert has spent countless years serving his country, graduating from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1971 and commissioning as a second Lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps. Robert Cabana retired from the U.S. Marine Corps in September 2000 as a colonel.

Robert Cabana has recorded four space flights, logging a total of 38 days in Space.

Cabana was inducted into the Astronaut Hall of Fame and named an Associate Fellow in the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics and a Fellow in the Society of Experimental Test Pilots. He also received the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Presidential Distinguished Rank Award, and the National Space Club Florida Committee's Dr. Kurt H. Debus Award. Col. Cabana is also a recipient of the Rotary National Award for Space Achievement's National Space Trophy.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Col. Robert Cabana and his dedication to serving his country. While he will be sorely missed, I would like to wish him well in his retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
MR. KERRY ARMSTRONG

HON. BARRY LOUDERMILK

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. W. Kerry Armstrong, Chairman of the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC), for skillfully shepherding the ARC forward as its chairman for the past ten years. Kerry will conclude his chairmanship at the end of this year, and I know the other members of the Georgia Congressional Delegation, who represent the greater Atlanta region, will join me in thanking Kerry for his dedicated service on the ARC Board, which will continue even as he departs the chairmanship.

The ARC plays an invaluable role in the health of the Atlanta region. Under Kerry's leadership, my colleagues and I have worked successfully with the ARC on numerous initiatives important to the region, including delivering Older Americans Act services, workforce development, regional transportation planning, and homeland security. However, when it comes to Kerry and the ARC leadership, there is perhaps no issue as singularly important as the protection and preservation of our state's water supply. In this very critical area, the ARC's work is unrivaled.

Kerry Armstrong came to Atlanta over thirty years ago, attracted by the beauty of the region, and I dare say, of his wife, Wendy, whom he met there. Kerry has pursued a successful career in real estate development and finance; and over time has served in numerous public-private roles, including chairing notable community improvement districts (CIDs) in the region.

As Kerry turns the page on this chapter in his life, I want to congratulate him, Wendy, their daughter Jenny, and her husband Ben, and let Kerry know how much we value him and count on him for advice and support. The Atlanta region is richer for his efforts.

Atlanta Mayor Andre Dickens takes up the gavel this January, as incoming Chair; and he will be fortunate to be working alongside ARC Executive Director Anna Roach, whose selection Kerry spearheaded. On behalf of the citizens in the Atlanta region, we thank Kerry for his guiding hand at the ARC, his dedication to our communities, and his service to the great state of Georgia.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT
OF COLUMBIA SPECIAL ELEC-
TIONS HOME RULE ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Special Elections Home Rule Act. This bill would give the District of Columbia complete authority to set the date of special elections for local offices, like other jurisdictions. This bill would remove a limitation in the D.C. Home Rule Act that is not only inconsistent with the self-government granted by the Home Rule Act, but is also harmful.

In 2012, I got legislation enacted that gave the D.C. Board of Elections (Board) more flexibility to set the date of special elections for local offices. Although I sought complete authority for D.C. to set the date of special elections, the 2012 law did not include this home-rule principle.

The Home Rule Act originally required the Board to hold special elections on the first Tuesday occurring more than 114 days after a vacancy and allowed the Board to schedule special elections on the same day as the next general election if that election occurred within 60 days from when a special election would otherwise have been held. This inflexibility led to special elections being held on religious holidays and forced D.C. to hold a special election separate from an upcoming general election, costing D.C. hundreds of thousands of dollars. The 2012 law requires the Board to hold a special election on a Tuesday occurring between 70 and 174 days after a vacancy.

This bill is an important step to perfect home rule for D.C. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

RECOGNIZING CENTRAL PHENIX
CITY HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL
TEAM FOR WINNING THE 7A
STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Central Phenix City football team for winning the AHSAA Class 7A state title.

On December 6, 2023, The Central Phenix City Red Devils left no doubt as to who deserves to be state champion, prevailing in a close game against four-time-champion Thompson 21 to 19 to secure their title win. The game was played at Bryant-Denny Stadium in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

The Central Phenix City Red Devils finished their championship season undefeated. This was head coach Patrick Nix's first state title victory at Central Phenix City and the Red Devils' third football state title in school history.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Coach Nix, the Central Phenix City High School football team, students, faculty and all the fans. Go Red Devils.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF PETE ALFARO**HON. BRIAN BABIN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the life of my friend and longtime community leader, Pedro Cuellar "Pete" Alfaro of Baytown, Texas, who passed away on December 11, 2023. Pete devoted his life to public service, honorably serving as mayor of Baytown, as a city council member, on the Lee College Board of Regents, and on numerous other community and non-profit boards. He was a leader, mentor, friend, and role model to countless in the region, and leaves behind a legacy that will continue to inspire new generations of public servants for years to come.

Pete was born August 10, 1940, to Felipe and Victoriana Alfaro. After serving in the United States Army as a basic electronics instructor at Fort Bliss for three years, Pete attended the University of Texas at Austin. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering in 1969 and was a lifetime member of the Texas Exes alum association. That same year, he began his career as an electrical engineer at Humble Oil and Refining, now ExxonMobil, where he would remain employed for the next 31 years.

After being elected to the city council in 1989 where he served two terms, Pete was voted in as the first Hispanic mayor of Baytown, a position he held for 11 years. His pivotal role in infrastructure development, particularly the completion of the Fred Hartman Bridge in partnership with then-Governor George W. Bush, epitomized his dedication to building a stronger Baytown.

However, his reach was not confined to the city hall, it extended to significant roles on boards such as the Lee College Board of Regents, the Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital Board of Trustees, and the Patient and Family Advisory Council. After facing the devastating loss of his daughter, Debi, Pete channeled his grief into a steadfast commitment to elevating healthcare standards. Chairing the Quality and Patient Safety Steering Committee at Houston Methodist Baytown for two decades, he worked tirelessly to ensure the surrounding community received and had access to top-notch healthcare. In recognition of his efforts, the Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital dedicated its new state-of-the-art education and training facility in honor of Pete and his wife, Lupe, in May of this year.

Throughout the years, Pete left a significant impact in the public and private sector. In fact, he was named the 2004 Baytown Sun newspaper's "Citizen of the Year" and the 2010 ExxonMobil's "Refiner of the Year" for his community service.

Pete was preceded in death by his beloved daughter, Debi Alfaro Yarborough. He is survived by his loving wife of 61 years, Guadalupe "Lupe" Alfaro; daughters, Priscilla Alfaro and Sandra Rodriguez; son, Paul Alfaro; and grandchildren, Christopher, Marissa, Austin, Alexis, Mikaela, Emily, Nicholas, and Kelsey.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to honor the memory and legacy of Pete Alfaro. My heartfelt prayers are with his wife and loved ones during this challenging time. May Pete rest in

peace knowing his tenacious efforts for the betterment of Baytown, Lee College, and the surrounding community will forever be remembered.

HONORING THOMAS BRANIN

HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank Mr. Thomas Branin, Supervisor for the Three Chopt Magisterial District on the Henrico County Board of Supervisors, for his years of service to Henrico.

Mr. Branin, known to everyone in the community as Tommy, has represented thousands of community members—including me—over the last eight years with distinction—and with his beloved dog Newman, by his side. He has been a strong advocate for growing Henrico's economy, increasing pedestrian and cyclist safety, and bringing Henrico together.

After his election to the Henrico County Board of Supervisors, Tommy became the first Henrico Supervisor to place crosswalks throughout the entirety of his district. His focus on safety made it possible to install 14 miles of sidewalk in his communities—making it safer for pedestrians, runners, and bikers alike. His focus on community building made it possible to bring pickleball courts, bike tracks, and cricket games to his district. And his focus on the betterment of Henrico County drove his work to help facilitate the construction of two new high schools, replacing aging structures to provide Henrico students with a strong and healthy learning environment.

Tommy has proven to be a strong collaborator and leader. He has worked hard with regional partners to connect Henrico County and has encouraged partnerships at all levels to provide his constituents with better parks and trails to promote healthy, active lifestyles. Tommy has been a strong, passionate advocate for safety and his work to improve walkability throughout Henrico will continue to have a positive impact in the community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Mr. Thomas Branin, whom I am proud to call a friend—except on days when Tucker plays Freeman—for his service on behalf of the Three Chopt District and the entire Henrico County community and for his contributions to making Henrico a safer place for all.

RECOGNIZING PRINCIPAL DANA
NALLY**HON. ZACHARY NUNN**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate Dana Nally, Principal of Bedford Elementary School, for being selected as the 2023 National Distinguished Principal in Iowa.

In her 16 years as Principal at Bedford Elementary, Principal Nally has touched the lives of countless children and faculty. She has advocated for student wellbeing and academic

growth, and worked to create a high-quality, student-first learning environment.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in commending Principal Nally for her extraordinary leadership at Bedford Elementary School. Great leaders surround themselves with great staff, which in turn inspires greatness in their students. There is no doubt Principal Nally has been a force for good in the lives of countless young Iowans and the Bedford community.

HONORING VETERAN OF THE
YEAR, MR. CHARLES H. TALLEY,
JR.**HON. JENNIFER L. McCLELLAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I'm excited to announce the winner of the first annual Virginia's Fourth Congressional District Veteran of the Year.

Mr. Charles H. Talley, Jr. dedicated 34 years of his life to the United States Army and continues to serve the district with integrity.

Mr. Talley was in the Pentagon during the September 11th terrorist attacks that shook our Nation before he deployed to Afghanistan to fight against those same attackers.

He served his country with distinction and rose through the ranks before his retirement in 2018 as a Chief Warrant Officer Four.

Now, he uses his specialized skills and years of experience in the Army and as an American Culinary Federation Certified Executive Chef to serve as the Quality Assurance Manager for the Joint Culinary Center of Excellence at Fort Gregg-Adams.

In this capacity, he works to assess and improve the food for the entire U.S. Army in the battlefield environment.

He also continues to serve and give back to our community as the current president of the Nu Omicron Lambda chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, where he organizes service events in Petersburg and the surrounding areas.

He devotes his time to lecture Warrant Officers every year and young aspiring professionals at Virginia State University.

As we celebrate Veterans Day this weekend, I am proud to name Chief Warrant Officer Four Charles H. Talley, Jr. as Virginia's Fourth Congressional District Veteran of the year.

HONORING WILLIE JAMES THOMAS,
SR. ON HIS 103RD BIRTHDAY**HON. CORI BUSH**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

Ms. BUSH. Mr. Speaker, St. Louis and I rise to wish a happy 103rd birthday to Willie James Thomas, Sr. On behalf of Missouri's First District, we are thankful for everything he is and everything he has done to provide for his family, neighbors, coworkers, and friends.

103 is a remarkable milestone and worthy of great celebration. Mr. Thomas has seen and lived through segments of history that most of us can only rely on through books and education, and from being in close community

with elders like him. His trials, triumphs, and everything in between are a beautiful testament to a remarkable and full life.

Throughout his life, Mr. Thomas has had many blessings. He is the beloved father of three, a grandfather of 10, a great-grandfather of 21, and great-great-grandfather of six. As a World War II Army Veteran serving in England, France, and Germany, we thank him for his dedication to his family and service to our country.

I am so grateful for the opportunity to celebrate his life because it is an inspiration to so many of us in St. Louis. I wish Mr. Thomas peace and continued joy tending to the best yard in University City throughout his 103rd year.

Happy birthday and bountiful blessings to Mr. Willie James Thomas, Sr.

RECOGNIZING MS. CHERYL LATZA

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding career and service of retiring Houdini Elementary School crossing guard, Ms. Cheryl Latza.

For 44 years, Cheryl has dedicated her time and efforts to protecting children throughout the Appleton School District at Houdini Elementary School. Given Cheryl's kindness and sincere care, she became more than just a crossing guard for many students; she also became a friend.

Cheryl was the first hello in the morning and the last goodbye to students on their way home, something that families throughout the Appleton area are surely thankful for. Cheryl exhibits the qualities of a true community leader, and I thank her for her continued service. Her actions will be remembered for many years to come throughout the Appleton community.

Cheryl has dedicated decades of unwavering service to the Appleton community, and I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing her. Goodbyes can be difficult, but I wish Cheryl the best in her well-deserved retirement.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOYCE GRAYSON

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life and career of nurse Joyce Grayson of Brooklyn, Connecticut. Joyce was killed while serving in her capacity

as a visiting nurse, creating a chasm in the life of all who knew her that will never be filled. Despite the tragedy of her death, Joyce's life is remembered for her warmth and unbridled vitality—traits that served her well in her nearly 40 years of distinguished health service across Connecticut. The shocking news of her loss has been felt across particularly in Connecticut and by also health professionals across the nation.

Growing up on a Sterling, Connecticut dairy farm with her 13 siblings and parents Robert and Edna Jordan, Joyce is a true daughter of eastern Connecticut. From an early age, Joyce recognized her life's calling lay in the care of her fellows. Immediately after graduating from Killingly High School, Joyce enrolled in Windham Tech's nursing school where she became a Licensed Practical Nurse, beginning the journey which would define the rest of her life.

Joyce started her professional career in service to the State of Connecticut, working for the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DHMAS). Joyce's time was well spent at DHMAS given her specialty was in behavioral health. During her tenure with DHMAS, she worked at a variety of institutions—from the old Norwich State Hospital to the Southeastern Mental Health Authority. After working for the State for over a quarter century, Joyce continued her service-oriented work by becoming a visiting nurse for the Elara Caring company.

Ever committed to providing for others, Joyce also served Connecticut's next generations by acting as a foster parent. Joyce's parenthood, whether for her six biological children or those she fostered, was defined by her infectious love for each child. In 2017, Joyce was recognized for her consummate care and named Foster Parent of the year alongside her husband, Ronald, by the Connecticut Department of Children and Families.

Mr. Speaker, the profound loss experienced by the Grayson family in the wake of Joyce's death is unimaginable. Despite the overwhelming tragedy of this situation however, our state and Nation can take solace in the knowledge that the legacy Joyce has left behind will continue to imbue the world with her kindness and care. And hopefully the circumstances of her passing will spur meaningful change in our nations workplace rules to protect "the caring professions" that she so nobly personified. Joyce touched thousands of people throughout her life, whether as a nurse working for Connecticut or Elara Caring, or in her capacity as a foster mother. Her works have inspired two of her children to follow in her footsteps and serve in healthcare. We mourn with Joyce's family, including her husband Ronald; children Elliot, Kyle, Kaitlyn, Evan, Audrey, Shawn, and their spouses; her four grandchildren; and her eleven siblings. To these ends, I ask my colleagues to join me in etching the life and legacy of Joyce Grayson further into stone, and enact legislation to bet-

ter protect health care providers like Joyce from the violence they all too often face.

RECOGNIZING DR. WILLIAM (BILL) A. SNOW ON 40 YEARS AT EDGEWOOD CONGREGATIONAL METHODIST CHURCH

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. William (Bill) A. Snow on his 40th anniversary at Edgewood Congregational Methodist Church in Anniston, Alabama.

Dr. Snow and his wife, Myra, came to Edgewood Congregational Methodist Church in January of 1984.

Under his leadership, the church grew larger and outgrew the building on Railroad Street in Blue Mountain. In 1995, the church moved to its current location on Brighton Avenue in Anniston. Since moving to its current location, the church has had a major sanctuary and fellowship hall renovation. Through the years, two building projects have been completed. The church has grown over the past 40 years from 50 to 500 members. Under Pastor Snow's ministry, several members have been called into the ministry.

Through Pastor Snow's leadership, in June of 2002, Edgewood Church built the first permanent structure on Buvuma Island located in Lake Victoria in Uganda, Africa. The structure was named The Edgewood African Church. It serves as a church, a school, and a medical clinic.

During COVID-19, the church found new avenues to spread the Word through the streaming of services and social media. Financial support increased so much during this difficult time that even to this day giving remains strong and no formal offering is taken on Sunday mornings.

Edgewood Church is the loving and caring church it is today because of the vision and leadership of Pastor Snow and his wife. Inspired by its leadership to share the love of Jesus with those in need, Edgewood is involved in outreach ministries that make a difference in lives of those in the community.

Pastor Snow will never know on this side of eternity the number of people and the families whose lives have been enriched through his ministry. Those who have been the recipient of Pastor Snow's personal ministry through the loss of a loved one can especially testify to the spiritual hope and steadfast support he has given.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Pastor Snow on this incredible milestone and for spreading God's Word across our area.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S6031–S6069

Measures Introduced: One bill and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 3557, S. Res. 515–516, and S. Con. Res. 24. **Page S6057**

Measures Reported:

Report to accompany S. 1414, to improve the instant messaging service used by the National Weather Service. (S. Rept. No. 118–140)

Report to accompany S. 1416, to provide guidance for and investment in the upgrade and modernization of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Weather Radio All Hazards Network. (S. Rept. No. 118–141) **Page S6057**

Measures Passed:

To Amend the Siletz Reservation Act: Senate passed H.R. 2839, to amend the Siletz Reservation Act to address the hunting, fishing, trapping, and animal gathering rights of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians. **Page S6061**

Grand Ronde Reservation Act: Senate passed H.R. 1722, to amend the Grand Ronde Reservation Act. **Pages S6061–62**

Combating Human Rights Abuses Act: Senate passed S. 484, to require the Secretary of Commerce to provide training and guidance relating to human rights abuses, including such abuses perpetrated against the Uyghur population by the Government of the People's Republic of China, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Page S6062**

Merkley (for Peters/Lummis) Amendment No. 1379, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S6062**

National Medal of Honor Highway: Committee on Environment and Public Works was discharged from further consideration of S. 1478, to designate United States Route 20 in the States of Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, and Massachusetts as the “National Medal of Honor Highway”, and the bill was then passed. **Page S6062**

University of Iowa Women's Basketball Team: Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 423, recognizing the University of Iowa women's basketball team's historic “Crossover at Kinnick” game and the importance of women's sports, and the resolution was then agreed to, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S6062–63**

Merkley (for Ernst) Amendment No. 1380, to amend the resolution. **Pages S6062–63**

Airport and Airway Extension Act of 2023, Part II: Senate passed H.R. 6503, to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for the airport improvement program, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund. **Page S6067**

Small Business Lending Under the Equal Credit Opportunity Act (Regulation B) Veto—Agreement: A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that notwithstanding rule XXII, the veto message with respect to S.J. Res. 32, 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)”, be considered at a time to be determined by the Majority Leader in concurrence with the Republican Leader prior to January 31, 2024; that there be up to two hours for debate equally divided between the two Leaders or their designees; and that Senate vote on passage of the joint resolution, the objections of the President to the contrary notwithstanding. **Pages S6048–50**

Message from the President: Senate received the following message from the President of the United States:

Transmitting, pursuant to the Constitution, the report of the veto of S.J. Res. 32, a joint resolution that would disapprove of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's final rule titled “Small Business Lending Under the Equal Credit Opportunity Act (Regulation B)”; ordered to be printed in the

Record, spread in full upon the Journal, and held at the desk. (PM-34) **Page S6056-57**

Crews Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of S. Kato Crews, of Colorado, to be United States District Judge for the District of Colorado. **Page S6047**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Joseph Goffman, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. **Page S6047**

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

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S6047**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S6047**

Mehalchick Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Karoline Mehalchick, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania. **Page S6047**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of S. Kato Crews, of Colorado, to be United States District Judge for the District of Colorado. **Page S6047**

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

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S6047**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S6047**

Kazen Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of John A. Kazen, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas. **Page S6048**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Karoline Mehalchick, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania. **Page S6047**

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

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S6047**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S6048**

Nominations—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the motions to invoke cloture filed during the sessions of Monday, December 18, 2023, and Tuesday, December 19, 2023, ripen at 5:30 p.m., on Monday, January 8, 2024; and that the nominations remain in status quo, notwithstanding the provisions of Rule XXXI, paragraph 6, of the Standing Rules of the Senate. **Page S6068**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 50 yeas to 17 nays (Vote No. EX. 349), Christopher Charles Fonzzone, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Attorney General. **Page S6040**

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

By 49 yeas to 18 nays (Vote No. EX. 348), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Pages S6039-40**

By 52 yeas to 14 nays (Vote No. EX. 351), Sara E. Hill, of Oklahoma, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Oklahoma. **Pages S6041-42**

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

By 52 yeas to 14 nays (Vote No. EX. 350), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Pages S6040-41**

By 49 yeas to 15 nays (Vote No. EX. 352), Elizabeth H. Richard, of Virginia, to be Coordinator for Counterterrorism, with the rank and status of Ambassador at Large. **Page S6042**

John David Russell, of Oklahoma, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Oklahoma. **Pages S6067-68**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination, be withdrawn. **Page S6068**

5 Air Force nominations in the rank of general.

3 Army nominations in the rank of general.

5 Navy nominations in the rank of admiral.

2 Space Force nominations in the rank of general.

Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, Navy, and Space Force. **Pages S6068-69**

Messages from the House: **Page S6057**

Enrolled Bills Presented: **Page S6057**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S6057-58**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S6058-60**

Additional Statements: **Page S6056**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S6060-61**

Notices of Intent: **Page S6061**

Record Votes: Five record votes were taken today. (Total—352) **Pages S6039-42**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 11 a.m. and adjourned at 9:38 p.m., until 12 noon on Wednesday, December 20, 2023. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S6068.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 34 public bills, H.R. 6847–6880; and 5 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 81; and H. Res. 940–943, were introduced. **Pages H6997–98**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H6999–H7001**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 1516, to establish Department of Homeland Security funding restrictions on institutions of higher education that have a relationship with Confucius Institutes, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–319);

H.R. 4403, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to make improvements to the Securing the Cities program, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 118–320);

H.R. 6174, to improve the biodetection functions of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 118–321);

H.R. 6231, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require a prioritized policy issuance review process for the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 118–322);

H.R. 4841, to prohibit Federal agencies from restricting the use of convertible virtual currency by a person to purchase goods or services for the person's own use, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–323);

H.R. 4767, to make revisions to the Federal securities laws with respect to shareholder proposals, proxy voting, and the registration of proxy advisory firms, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–324);

H.R. 4823, to provide enhanced reporting requirements for Federal banking regulators, to amend the Federal Reserve Act to remove the designation of Vice Chairman for Supervision of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–325);

H.R. 4655, to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to prohibit the Securities and Exchange Commission from compelling the inclusion or dis-

cussion of shareholder proposals or proxy or consent solicitation materials, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–326);

H.R. 4768, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to instruct the United States Executive Directors at the international financial institutions to advocate for investment in projects that decrease reliance on Russia for agricultural commodities, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–327);

H.R. 4765, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to carry out a study on Chinese support for Afghan illicit finance, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–328);

H.R. 6367, to direct the Secretary of the Treasury to instruct the United States Executive Director at each international financial institution to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States to provide financial assistance to countries that receive an influx of civilian, non-combatant displaced persons stemming from the armed conflict that has resulted from Hamas's October 2023 terrorism in Israel, to be used for humanitarian aid for the displaced persons, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–329);

H.R. 6365, to protect against illicit oil shipments, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–330);

H.R. 6408, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to terminate the tax-exempt status of terrorist supporting organizations, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–331);

H.R. 5921, to prohibit the Secretary of the Treasury from authorizing certain transactions by a United States financial institution in connection with Iran, to prevent the International Monetary Fund from providing financial assistance to Iran, to codify prohibitions on Export-Import Bank financing for the Government of Iran, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–332);

H.R. 5923, to impose restrictions on correspondent and payable-through accounts in the

United States with respect to Chinese financial institutions that conduct transactions involving the purchase of petroleum or petroleum products from Iran, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–333);

H.R. 6245, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to report on financial institutions' involvement with officials of the Iranian Government, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–334); and

Committee on Ways and Means. Submission to the U.S. House of Representatives of Documents Protected Under Internal Revenue Code Section 6103 (H. Rept. 118–335). **Pages H6996–97**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Smith (NE) to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H6995**

Member Resignation: Read a letter from Representative McCarthy, wherein he resigned as Representative for the Twentieth Congressional District of California, effective December 31, 2023.

Page H6995

Senate Referrals: S. 195 was held at the desk. S. 382 was held at the desk. S. 474 was held at the desk. S. 2228 was held at the desk. S. 3553 was held at the desk. **Pages H6995–96**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on pages 6995–96.

Quorum Calls—Votes: There were no Yea and Nay votes, and there were no Recorded votes. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 2 p.m. and adjourned at 2:12 p.m.

Committee Meetings

No hearings were held.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2023

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

No hearings are scheduled.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

12 noon, Wednesday, December 20

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

9 a.m., Friday, December 22

Senate Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Senate will be in a period of morning business. Following Leader remarks, Senate will stand in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

House Chamber

Program for Friday: House will meet in Pro Forma session at 9 a.m.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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