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Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable TAMMY DUCKWORTH, a Senator from the State of Illinois.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, we lift our hearts to You, invoking Your blessings upon this day. You have made us one in our need of You, one in our yearning for strength beyond the self, and one in our quest for Your peace. Lord, cleanse our hearts and open our minds that Your truth may enter our lives.

Today, give our lawmakers the strength to do Your will. Help them to serve one another so that they may reflect Your spirit and goodness. Make them so aware of Your presence that they will learn Your wisdom.

And, Lord, we thank You for the life and legacy of America's first President, George Washington.

We pray in Your loving 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, February 26, 2024.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable TAMMY DUCKWORTH, a Senator from the State of Illinois, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,
President pro tempore.

Ms. DUCKWORTH 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.

READING OF WASHINGTON'S FAREWELL ADDRESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the Senate of January 24, 1901, as modified by the order of January 24, 2024, the Senator from Maryland, Mr. CARDIN, will now read Washington's Farewell Address.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, it is really an honor for me to be part of the continuation of the tradition of the U.S. Senate, on George Washington's birthday, to read Washington's Farewell Address.

George Washington was born on February 22, 1732. He took the oath of office as President of the United States on April 30, 1789; and 7½ years later, on September 19, 1796, in his decision not to run for a third term as President of the United States, he delivered his Farewell Address.

It is a particular honor for me, as a Senator from Maryland, to participate in this tradition: Maryland, one of the original Colonies that formed the United States; Annapolis, our State capital, where on December 23, 1783, George Washington resigned his military commission, establishing the principle of our civilian government.

The first chartered college in the United States was in Maryland, in Chestertown, appropriately named Washington College.

And I follow in this tradition with other Maryland Senators, starting with Herbert O'Connor, John Butler, Daniel Brewster, J. Glenn Beall, and Charles Mathias.

Mr. CARDIN, at the rostrum, read the Farewell Address, as follows:

To the people of the United States:

FRIENDS AND FELLOW-CITIZENS: The period for a new election of a citizen to administer the executive government of the United States being not far distant, and the time actually arrived when your thoughts must be employed in designating the person who is to be clothed with that important trust, it appears to me proper, especially as it may conduce to a more distinct expression of the public voice, that I should now apprise you of the resolution I have formed, to decline being considered among the number of those out of whom a choice is to be made.

I beg you at the same time to do me the justice to be assured that this resolution has not been taken without a strict regard to all the considerations appertaining to the relation which binds a dutiful citizen to his country—and that, in withdrawing the tender of service which silence in my situation might imply, I am influenced by no diminution of zeal for your future interest, no deficiency of grateful respect for your past kindness, but am supported by a full conviction that the step is compatible with both.

The acceptance of, and continuance hitherto in, the office to which your suffrages have twice called me have been a uniform sacrifice of inclination to the opinion of duty and to a deference for what appeared to be your desire. I constantly hoped that it would have been much earlier in my power, consistently with motives which I was not at liberty to disregard, to return to that retirement from which I had been reluctantly drawn. The strength of my inclination to do this, previous to the last election, had even led to the preparation of an address to declare it to

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



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you; but mature reflection on the then perplexed and critical posture of our affairs with foreign nations, and the unanimous advice of persons entitled to my confidence, impelled me to abandon the idea.

I rejoice that the state of your concerns, external as well as internal, no longer renders the pursuit of inclination incompatible with the sentiment of duty or propriety and am persuaded, whatever partiality may be retained for my services, that in the present circumstances of our country you will not disapprove my determination to retire.

The impressions with which I first undertook the arduous trust were explained on the proper occasion. In the discharge of this trust, I will only say that I have, with good intentions, contributed towards the organization and administration of the government the best exertions of which a very fallible judgment was capable. Not unconscious in the outset of the inferiority of my qualifications, experience in my own eyes, perhaps still more in the eyes of others, has strengthened the motives to diffidence of myself, and every day the increasing weight of years admonishes me more and more that the shade of retirement is as necessary to me as it will be welcome. Satisfied that if any circumstances have given peculiar value to my services, they were temporary, I have the consolation to believe that, while choice and prudence invite me to quit the political scene, patriotism does not forbid it.

In looking forward to the moment which is intended to terminate the career of my public life, my feelings do not permit me to suspend the deep acknowledgment of that debt of gratitude which I owe to my beloved country for the many honors it has conferred upon me, still more for the steadfast confidence with which it has supported me and for the opportunities I have thence enjoyed of manifesting my inviolable attachment by services faithful and persevering, though in usefulness unequal to my zeal. If benefits have resulted to our country from these services, let it always be remembered to your praise and as an instructive example in our annals that, under circumstances in which the passions agitated in every direction were liable to mislead, amidst appearances sometimes dubious, vicissitudes of fortune often discouraging, in situations in which not unfrequently want of success has countenanced the spirit of criticism, the constancy of your support was the essential prop of the efforts and a guarantee of the plans by which they were effected. Profoundly penetrated with this idea, I shall carry it with me to my grave as a strong incitement to unceasing vows that Heaven may continue to you the choicest tokens of its beneficence; that your union and brotherly affection may be perpetual; that the free constitution, which is the work of your hands, may be sacredly maintained; that its administration in every department may be

stamped with wisdom and virtue; that, in fine, the happiness of the people of these states, under the auspices of liberty, may be made complete by so careful a preservation and so prudent a use of this blessing as will acquire to them the glory of recommending it to the applause, the affection, and adoption of every nation which is yet a stranger to it.

Here, perhaps, I ought to stop. But a solicitude for your welfare, which cannot end but with my life, and the apprehension of danger natural to that solicitude, urge me on an occasion like the present to offer to your solemn contemplation, and to recommend to your frequent review, some sentiments which are the result of much reflection, of no inconsiderable observation, and which appear to me all important to the permanency of your felicity as a people. These will be offered to you with the more freedom as you can only see in them the disinterested warnings of a parting friend, who can possibly have no personal motive to bias his counsel. Nor can I forget, as an encouragement to it, your indulgent reception of my sentiments on a former and not dissimilar occasion.

Interwoven as is the love of liberty with every ligament of your hearts, no recommendation of mine is necessary to fortify or confirm the attachment.

The unity of government which constitutes you one people is also now dear to you. It is justly so; for it is a main pillar in the edifice of your real independence, the support of your tranquility at home, your peace abroad, of your safety, of your prosperity, of that very liberty which you so highly prize. But as it is easy to foresee that, from different causes and from different quarters, much pains will be taken, many artifices employed, to weaken in your minds the conviction of this truth; as this is the point in your political fortress against which the batteries of internal and external enemies will be most constantly and actively directed, it is of infinite moment that you should properly estimate the immense value of your national Union to your collective and individual happiness; that you should cherish a cordial, habitual, and immovable attachment to it; accustoming yourselves to think and speak of it as of the palladium of your political safety and prosperity; watching for its preservation with jealous anxiety; discountenancing whatever may suggest even a suspicion that it can in any event be abandoned; and indignantly frowning upon the first dawning of every attempt to alienate any portion of our country from the rest, or to enfeeble the sacred ties which now link together the various parts.

For this you have every inducement of sympathy and interest. Citizens by birth or choice of a common country, that country has a right to concentrate your affections. The name of American, which belongs to you in your national

capacity, must always exalt the just pride of patriotism more than any appellation derived from local discriminations. With slight shades of difference, you have the same religion, manners, habits, and political principles. You have in a common cause fought and triumphed together. The independence and liberty you possess are the work of joint councils and joint efforts—of common dangers, sufferings, and successes.

But these considerations, however powerfully they address themselves to your sensibility, are greatly outweighed by those which apply more immediately to your interest. Here every portion of our country finds the most commanding motives for carefully guarding and preserving the Union of the whole.

The North, in an unrestrained intercourse with the South, protected by the equal laws of a common government, finds in the productions of the latter great additional resources of maritime and commercial enterprise and precious materials of manufacturing industry. The South in the same intercourse, benefitting by the agency of the North, sees its agriculture grow and its commerce expand. Turning partly into its own channels the seamen of the North, it finds its particular navigation invigorated; and while it contributes, in different ways, to nourish and increase the general mass of the national navigation, it looks forward to the protection of a maritime strength to which itself is unequally adapted. The East, in a like intercourse with the West, already finds, and in the progressive improvement of interior communications by land and water will more and more find a valuable vent for the commodities which it brings from abroad or manufactures at home. The West derives from the East supplies requisite to its growth and comfort—and what is perhaps of still greater consequence, it must of necessity owe the secure enjoyment of indispensable outlets for its own productions to the weight, influence, and the future maritime strength of the Atlantic side of the Union, directed by an indissoluble community of interest as one nation. Any other tenure by which the West can hold this essential advantage, whether derived from its own separate strength or from an apostate and unnatural connection with any foreign power, must be intrinsically precarious.

While then every part of our country thus feels an immediate and particular interest in union, all the parts combined cannot fail to find in the united mass of means and efforts greater strength, greater resource, proportionably greater security from external danger, a less frequent interruption of their peace by foreign nations; and, what is of inestimable value! they must derive from union an exemption from those broils and wars between themselves which so frequently afflict neighboring countries not tied together

by the same government, which their own rivalships alone would be sufficient to produce, but which opposite foreign alliances, attachments, and intrigues would stimulate and embitter. Hence likewise they will avoid the necessity of those overgrown military establishments, which under any form of government are inauspicious to liberty, and which are to be regarded as particularly hostile to republican liberty. In this sense it is, that your Union ought to be considered as a main prop of your liberty, and that the love of the one ought to endear to you the preservation of the other.

These considerations speak a persuasive language to every reflecting and virtuous mind and exhibit the continuance of the Union as a primary object of patriotic desire. Is there a doubt whether a common government can embrace so large a sphere? Let experience solve it. To listen to mere speculation in such a case were criminal. We are authorized to hope that a proper organization of the whole, with the auxiliary agency of governments for the respective subdivisions, will afford a happy issue to the experiment. It is well worth a fair and full experiment. With such powerful and obvious motives to union affecting all parts of our country, while experience shall not have demonstrated its impracticability, there will always be reason to distrust the patriotism of those who in any quarter may endeavor to weaken its bands.

In contemplating the causes which may disturb our Union, it occurs as a matter of serious concern that any ground should have been furnished for characterizing parties by geographical discriminations—northern and southern—Atlantic and western; whence designing men may endeavor to excite a belief that there is a real difference of local interests and views. One of the expedients of party to acquire influence within particular districts is to misrepresent the opinions and aims of other districts. You cannot shield yourselves too much against the jealousies and heart burnings which spring from these misrepresentations. They tend to render alien to each other those who ought to be bound together by fraternal affection. The inhabitants of our western country have lately had a useful lesson on this head. They have seen in the negotiation by the executive—and in the unanimous ratification by the Senate—of the treaty with Spain, and in the universal satisfaction at that event throughout the United States, a decisive proof how unfounded were the suspicions propagated among them of a policy in the general government and in the Atlantic states unfriendly to their interests in regard to the Mississippi. They have been witnesses to the formation of two treaties, that with Great Britain and that with Spain, which secure to them everything they could desire, in respect to our foreign relations, towards confirming their prosperity. Will it not be

their wisdom to rely for the preservation of these advantages on the Union by which they were procured? Will they not henceforth be deaf to those advisers, if such there are, who would sever them from their brethren and connect them with aliens?

To the efficacy and permanency of your Union, a government for the whole is indispensable. No alliances, however strict, between the parts can be an adequate substitute. They must inevitably experience the infractions and interruptions which all alliances in all times have experienced. Sensible of this momentous truth, you have improved upon your first essay by the adoption of a Constitution of government better calculated than your former for an intimate Union and for the efficacious management of your common concerns. This government, the offspring of our own choice uninfluenced and unawed, adopted upon full investigation and mature deliberation, completely free in its principles, in the distribution of its powers uniting security with energy, and containing within itself a provision for its own amendment, has a just claim to your confidence and your support. Respect for its authority, compliance with its laws, acquiescence in its measures, are duties enjoined by the fundamental maxims of true liberty. The basis of our political systems is the right of the people to make and to alter their constitutions of government. But the Constitution which at any time exists, until changed by an explicit and authentic act of the whole people, is sacredly obligatory upon all. The very idea of the power and the right of the people to establish government presupposes the duty of every individual to obey the established government.

All obstructions to the execution of the laws, all combinations and associations under whatever plausible character with the real design to direct, control, counteract, or awe the regular deliberation and action of the constituted authorities, are destructive of this fundamental principle and of fatal tendency. They serve to organize faction; to give it an artificial and extraordinary force; to put in the place of the delegated will of the nation the will of a party, often a small but artful and enterprising minority of the community; and, according to the alternate triumphs of different parties, to make the public administration the mirror of the ill concerted and incongruous projects of faction, rather than the organ of consistent and wholesome plans digested by common councils and modified by mutual interests. However combinations or associations of the above description may now and then answer popular ends, they are likely, in the course of time and things, to become potent engines by which cunning, ambitious, and unprincipled men will be enabled to subvert the power of the people and to usurp for themselves the reins of government, destroying after-

wards the very engines which have lifted them to unjust dominion.

Towards the preservation of your government and the permanency of your present happy state, it is requisite not only that you steadily discountenance irregular oppositions to its acknowledged authority but also that you resist with care the spirit of innovation upon its principles, however specious the pretexts. One method of assault may be to effect in the forms of the Constitution alterations which will impair the energy of the system and thus to undermine what cannot be directly overthrown. In all the changes to which you may be invited, remember that time and habit are at least as necessary to fix the true character of governments as of other human institutions, that experience is the surest standard by which to test the real tendency of the existing constitution of a country, that facility in changes upon the credit of mere hypotheses and opinion exposes to perpetual change from the endless variety of hypotheses and opinion; and remember, especially, that for the efficient management of your common interests in a country so extensive as ours, a government of as much vigor as is consistent with the perfect security of liberty is indispensable; liberty itself will find in such a government, with powers properly distributed and adjusted, its surest guardian. It is indeed little else than a name, where the government is too feeble to withstand the enterprises of faction, to confine each member of the society within the limits prescribed by the laws, and to maintain all in the secure and tranquil enjoyment of the rights of person and property.

I have already intimated to you the danger of parties in the state, with particular reference to the founding of them on geographical discriminations. Let me now take a more comprehensive view and warn you in the most solemn manner against the baneful effects of the spirit of party, generally.

This spirit, unfortunately, is inseparable from our nature, having its root in the strongest passions of the human mind. It exists under different shapes in all governments, more or less stifled, controlled, or repressed; but in those of the popular form it is seen in its greatest rankness and is truly their worst enemy.

The alternate domination of one faction over another, sharpened by the spirit of revenge natural to party dissension, which in different ages and countries has perpetrated the most horrid enormities, is itself a frightful despotism. But this leads at length to a more formal and permanent despotism. The disorders and miseries which result gradually incline the minds of men to seek security and repose in the absolute power of an individual; and sooner or later the chief of some prevailing faction, more able or more fortunate than his competitors, turns this disposition to the purposes of his own elevation on the ruins of public liberty.

Without looking forward to an extremity of this kind (which nevertheless ought not to be entirely out of sight) the common and continual mischiefs of the spirit of party are sufficient to make it the interest and the duty of a wise people to discourage and restrain it.

It serves always to distract the public councils and enfeeble the public administration. It agitates the community with ill founded jealousies and false alarms, kindles the animosity of one part against another, fomented occasionally riot and insurrection. It opens the door to foreign influence and corruption, which find a facilitated access to the government itself through the channels of party passions. Thus the policy and the will of one country are subjected to the policy and will of another.

There is an opinion that parties in free countries are useful checks upon the administration of the government and serve to keep alive the spirit of liberty. This within certain limits is probably true—and in governments of a monarchical cast patriotism may look with indulgence, if not with favor, upon the spirit of party. But in those of the popular character, in governments purely elective, it is a spirit not to be encouraged. From their natural tendency, it is certain there will always be enough of that spirit for every salutary purpose. And there being constant danger of excess, the effort ought to be by force of public opinion to mitigate and assuage it. A fire not to be quenched, it demands a uniform vigilance to prevent its bursting into a flame, lest instead of warming it should consume.

It is important, likewise, that the habits of thinking in a free country should inspire caution in those entrusted with its administration to confine themselves within their respective constitutional spheres, avoiding in the exercise of the powers of one department to encroach upon another. The spirit of encroachment tends to consolidate the powers of all the departments in one and thus to create, whatever the form of government, a real despotism. A just estimate of that love of power and proneness to abuse it which predominates in the human heart is sufficient to satisfy us of the truth of this position. The necessity of reciprocal checks in the exercise of political power, by dividing and distributing it into different depositories and constituting each the guardian of the public weal against invasions by the others, has been evinced by experiments ancient and modern, some of them in our country and under our own eyes. To preserve them must be as necessary as to institute them. If in the opinion of the people the distribution or modification of the constitutional powers be in any particular wrong, let it be corrected by an amendment in the way which the Constitution designates. But let there be no change by usurpation; for though this, in one instance, may be the instrument of good, it is

the customary weapon by which free governments are destroyed. The precedent must always greatly overbalance in permanent evil any partial or transient benefit which the use can at any time yield.

Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports. In vain would that man claim the tribute of patriotism who should labor to subvert these great pillars of human happiness, these firmest props of the duties of men and citizens. The mere politician, equally with the pious man, ought to respect and to cherish them. A volume could not trace all their connections with private and public felicity. Let it simply be asked where is the security for property, for reputation, for life, if the sense of religious obligation desert the oaths, which are the instruments of investigation in courts of justice? And let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion. Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education on minds of peculiar structure, reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle.

It is substantially true that virtue or morality is a necessary spring of popular government. The rule indeed extends with more or less force to every species of free government. Who that is a sincere friend to it can look with indifference upon attempts to shake the foundation of the fabric?

Promote then, as an object of primary importance, institutions for the general diffusion of knowledge. In proportion as the structure of a government gives force to public opinion, it is essential that public opinion should be enlightened.

As a very important source of strength and security, cherish public credit. One method of preserving it is to use it as sparingly as possible, avoiding occasions of expense by cultivating peace, but remembering also that timely disbursements to prepare for danger frequently prevent much greater disbursements to repel it; avoiding likewise the accumulation of debt, not only by shunning occasions of expense, but by vigorous exertions in time of peace to discharge the debts which unavoidable wars may have occasioned, not ungenerously throwing upon posterity the burden which we ourselves ought to bear. The execution of these maxims belongs to your representatives, but it is necessary that public opinion should cooperate. To facilitate to them the performance of their duty, it is essential that you should practically bear in mind that towards the payment of debts there must be revenue; that to have revenue there must be taxes; that no taxes can be devised which are not more or less inconvenient and unpleasant; that the intrinsic embarrassment inseparable from the selection of the proper objects (which is always a choice of difficul-

ties) ought to be a decisive motive for a candid construction of the conduct of the government in making it, and for a spirit of acquiescence in the measures for obtaining revenue which the public exigencies may at any time dictate.

Observe good faith and justice towards all nations; cultivate peace and harmony with all; religion and morality enjoin this conduct, and can it be that good policy does not equally enjoin it? It will be worthy of a free, enlightened, and, at no distant period, a great nation, to give to mankind the magnanimous and too novel example of a people always guided by an exalted justice and benevolence. Who can doubt that in the course of time and things the fruits of such a plan would richly repay any temporary advantages which might be lost by a steady adherence to it? Can it be, that Providence has not connected the permanent felicity of a nation with its virtue? The experiment, at least, is recommended by every sentiment which ennobles human nature. Alas! is it rendered impossible by its vices?

In the execution of such a plan nothing is more essential than that permanent, inveterate antipathies against particular nations and passionate attachments for others should be excluded and that in place of them just and amicable feelings towards all should be cultivated. The nation which indulges towards another an habitual hatred, or an habitual fondness, is in some degree a slave. It is a slave to its animosity or to its affection, either of which is sufficient to lead it astray from its duty and its interest. Antipathy in one nation against another disposes each more readily to offer insult and injury, to lay hold of slight causes of umbrage, and to be haughty and intractable when accidental or trifling occasions of dispute occur. Hence frequent collisions, obstinate, envenomed, and bloody contests. The nation, prompted by ill will and resentment, sometimes impels to war the government, contrary to the best calculations of policy. The government sometimes participates in the national propensity and adopts through passion what reason would reject; at other times, it makes the animosity of the nation subservient to projects of hostility instigated by pride, ambition and other sinister and pernicious motives. The peace often, sometimes perhaps the liberty, of nations has been the victim.

So likewise, a passionate attachment of one nation for another produces a variety of evils. Sympathy for the favorite nation, facilitating the illusion of an imaginary common interest in cases where no real common interest exists and infusing into one the enmities of the other, betrays the former into a participation in the quarrels and wars of the latter, without adequate inducement or justification. It leads also to concessions to the favorite nation of privileges denied to others, which is apt doubly to injure the nation making

the concessions, by unnecessarily parting with what ought to have been retained and by exciting jealousy, ill will, and a disposition to retaliate in the parties from whom equal privileges are withheld. And it gives to ambitious, corrupted, or deluded citizens (who devote themselves to the favorite nation) facility to betray or sacrifice the interests of their own country without odium, sometimes even with popularity, gilding with the appearances of a virtuous sense of obligation, a commendable deference for public opinion, or a laudable zeal for public good, the base or foolish compliances of ambition, corruption, or infatuation.

As avenues to foreign influence in innumerable ways, such attachments are particularly alarming to the truly enlightened and independent patriot. How many opportunities do they afford to tamper with domestic factions, to practice the arts of seduction, to mislead public opinion, to influence or awe the public councils! Such an attachment of a small or weak towards a great and powerful nation dooms the former to be the satellite of the latter.

Against the insidious wiles of foreign influence (I conjure you to believe me, fellow citizens) the jealousy of a free people ought to be constantly awake, since history and experience prove that foreign influence is one of the most baneful foes of republican government. But that jealousy to be useful must be impartial; else it becomes the instrument of the very influence to be avoided, instead of a defense against it. Excessive partiality for one foreign nation and excessive dislike of another cause those whom they actuate to see danger only on one side, and serve to veil and even second the arts of influence on the other. Real patriots, who may resist the intrigues of the favorite, are liable to become suspected and odious, while its tools and dupes usurp the applause and confidence of the people to surrender their interests.

The great rule of conduct for us in regard to foreign nations is, in extending our commercial relations, to have with them as little political connection as possible. So far as we have already formed engagements, let them be fulfilled with perfect good faith. Here let us stop.

Europe has a set of primary interests, which to us have none or a very remote relation. Hence she must be engaged in frequent controversies, the causes of which are essentially foreign to our concerns. Hence therefore it must be unwise in us to implicate ourselves, by artificial ties, in the ordinary vicissitudes of her politics or the ordinary combinations and collisions of her friendships or enmities.

Our detached and distant situation invites and enables us to pursue a different course. If we remain one people under an efficient government, the period is not far off when we may defy material injury from external annoyance; when we may take such an attitude as will cause the neutrality we

may at any time resolve upon to be scrupulously respected; when belligerent nations, under the impossibility of making acquisitions upon us, will not lightly hazard the giving us provocation; when we may choose peace or war, as our interest guided by justice shall counsel.

Why forgo the advantages of so peculiar a situation? Why quit our own to stand upon foreign ground? Why, by interweaving our destiny with that of any part of Europe, entangle our peace and prosperity in the toils of European ambition, rivalship, interest, humor, or caprice?

It is our true policy to steer clear of permanent alliances with any portion of the foreign world—so far, I mean, as we are now at liberty to do it, for let me not be understood as capable of patronizing infidelity to existing engagements (I hold the maxim no less applicable to public than to private affairs, that honesty is always the best policy)—I repeat it therefore, let those engagements be observed in their genuine sense. But in my opinion it is unnecessary and would be unwise to extend them.

Taking care always to keep ourselves, by suitable establishments, on a respectably defensive posture, we may safely trust to temporary alliances for extraordinary emergencies.

Harmony, liberal intercourse with all nations, are recommended by policy, humanity, and interest. But even our commercial policy should hold an equal and impartial hand: neither seeking nor granting exclusive favors or preferences; consulting the natural course of things; diffusing and diversifying by gentle means the streams of commerce but forcing nothing; establishing with powers so disposed—in order to give to trade a stable course, to define the rights of our merchants, and to enable the government to support them—conventional rules of intercourse, the best that present circumstances and mutual opinion will permit, but temporary, and liable to be from time to time abandoned or varied, as experience and circumstances shall dictate; constantly keeping in view, that it is folly in one nation to look for disinterested favors from another—that it must pay with a portion of its independence for whatever it may accept under that character—that by such acceptance it may place itself in the condition of having given equivalents for nominal favors and yet of being reproached with ingratitude for not giving more. There can be no greater error than to expect or calculate upon real favors from nation to nation. It is an illusion which experience must cure, which a just pride ought to discard.

In offering to you, my countrymen, these counsels of an old and affectionate friend, I dare not hope they will make the strong and lasting impression I could wish—that they will control the usual current of the passions or prevent our nation from run-

ning the course which has hitherto marked the destiny of nations. But if I may even flatter myself that they may be productive of some partial benefit, some occasional good, that they may now and then recur to moderate the fury of party spirit, to warn against the mischiefs of foreign intrigue, to guard against the impostures of pretended patriotism—this hope will be a full recompense for the solicitude for your welfare by which they have been dictated.

How far in the discharge of my official duties I have been guided by the principles which have been delineated, the public records and other evidences of my conduct must witness to you and to the world. To myself, the assurance of my own conscience is that I have at least believed myself to be guided by them.

In relation to the still subsisting war in Europe, my proclamation of the 22d of April 1793 is the index to my plan. Sanctioned by your approving voice and by that of your representatives in both houses of Congress, the spirit of that measure has continually governed me, uninfluenced by any attempts to deter or divert me from it.

After deliberate examination with the aid of the best lights I could obtain, I was well satisfied that our country, under all the circumstances of the case, had a right to take—and was bound in duty and interest to take—a neutral position. Having taken it, I determined, as far as should depend upon me, to maintain it with moderation, perseverance, and firmness.

The considerations which respect the right to hold this conduct it is not necessary on this occasion to detail. I will only observe that, according to my understanding of the matter, that right, so far from being denied by any of the belligerent powers, has been virtually admitted by all.

The duty of holding a neutral conduct may be inferred, without anything more, from the obligation which justice and humanity impose on every nation, in cases in which it is free to act, to maintain inviolate the relations of peace and amity towards other nations.

The inducements of interest for observing that conduct will best be referred to your own reflections and experience. With me, a predominant motive has been to endeavor to gain time to our country to settle and mature its yet recent institutions and to progress without interruption to that degree of strength and consistency which is necessary to give it, humanly speaking, the command of its own fortunes.

Though in reviewing the incidents of my administration I am unconscious of intentional error, I am nevertheless too sensible of my defects not to think it probable that I may have committed many errors. Whatever they may be, I fervently beseech the Almighty to avert or mitigate the evils to which they may tend. I shall also carry with me the hope that my country will never cease to view them with indulgence and that, after forty-five years of

my life dedicated to its service with an upright zeal, the faults of incompetent abilities will be consigned to oblivion, as myself must soon be to the mansions of rest.

Relying on its kindness in this as in other things, and actuated by that fervent love towards it which is so natural to a man who views in it the native soil of himself and his progenitors for several generations, I anticipate with pleasing expectation that retreat, in which I promise myself to realize without alloy the sweet enjoyment of partaking in the midst of my fellow citizens the benign influence of good laws under a free government—the ever favorite object of my heart, and the happy reward, as I trust, of our mutual cares, labors and dangers.

GEO. WASHINGTON,
UNITED STATES, 19th September 1796.

Mr. CARDIN. I yield the floor.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Jacqueline Becerra, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The majority leader is recognized.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. SCHUMER. So, Madam President, the Senate gavels back into session with a lot that Congress must do, but with little time to act. In less than a week, the Federal Government will begin to shut down unless both sides—both sides—work together to extend funding.

Meanwhile, the moral obligation from Congress to help the people of Ukraine and fortify our own national security grows heavier with each passing day, and it is imperative that we make real progress in the coming weeks toward our ultimate goal of finishing the appropriations process. These are just a few of the tasks facing

Congress as winter turns to spring. The margin for error on any of these is razor thin; and, unfortunately, the temptation to choose chaos and disorder, instead of cooperation, will be strong for some here in the Capitol.

By now, it is clear that when serious-minded Democrats and serious-minded Republicans engage each other with a desire to get things done, with a desire to get to “yes,” good things happen, even in divided government: We avoid shutdowns; we invest in the American people; we make our country stronger.

The Senate ended the last work period with a powerful example of bipartisanship by a resounding 70 votes passing the national security supplemental. It wasn't easy to get it done. But now that we succeeded, it should serve as a model for both Chambers moving forward.

Over the recess, negotiators in both Chambers continued the difficult work of the appropriations process. While we have made some good progress on a number of fronts, unfortunately, our House Republican colleagues are still struggling to figure themselves out. There is a lot of uncertainty over how the House will proceed in the coming days. So I ask all Senators to keep their schedules flexible.

Now, Senate Democrats have been crystal clear: We want to avoid a government shutdown. We want to work with all our House counterparts to spare the American people the pain that a shutdown would bring. But for that to happen, Congressional leadership must resist the centrifugal pull of extremism emanating from the hard right. We must resist basing our choices on what people like Donald Trump want Congress to do. We need to remember our responsibility to the American people and do our jobs.

Even a partial shutdown would mean chaos and pain for the American people. And let me just list a few examples of why that is true: A shutdown of the Agriculture Department would threaten higher food costs for all Americans, threaten critical services for farmers in rural communities—from homeownership programs to food banks—and delay access to critical programs just as spring is arriving. A shutdown of the Veterans Administration would close our veteran outreach offices and thereby freeze critical programs that support our Nation's heroes, those who risked their lives for us. A shutdown of the Housing Department would leave American families high and dry without key federal housing loan support, potentially causing rent and housing prices to spike. A shutdown of the Transportation Department would risk travel delays and traveler safety by freezing the hiring of air traffic controllers—as, Madam President, you well know.

This is just the tip of the iceberg. A shutdown would also throw a wrench into our economic recovery and would raise costs just as inflation has returned closer to normal levels. It would make communities less safe.

I am hopeful—hopeful—that pragmatic Republicans will engage in responsible governing by working with Democrats to avoid a shutdown this week. Senate Democrats want to do the right thing and keep the government open. I hope the House continues to work with us in good faith to make that happen. But time is short. Time is short.

UKRAINE

Madam President, on Ukraine, this past weekend I led a congressional delegation—unlike any I have been a part of before—to visit with the people of Ukraine as they marked 2 years since the start of Putin's illegal invasion. It was one of the most memorable and moving trips I have ever been on—3 days that will stay with me for the rest of my life.

We traveled to Ukraine because we all felt a deep obligation to be there on the ground now as the war reaches a pivotal turning point. As President Zelenskyy said to us: If Ukraine gets the armaments they need, they will win the war. But if they don't get those armaments, they will lose.

We went because this is an inflection point in history. The future of Ukraine—but not just Ukraine, Western democracy—hangs in the balance. We went because the Ukrainian people needed to hear directly from us that America stands by their side, that we will not turn our backs on them during their fight for survival. And we went because the nations of Europe must know that America will not abandon them, that we must stay part of NATO, and that we in the Senate will ensure the greatest alliance the world has ever known remains strong and remains prosperous.

I thank my colleagues who joined our codel: Senators REED and BLUMENTHAL, BENNET, and HASSAN. It was an immensely productive, insightful, sobering trip. We were honored, above all, to meet with President Zelenskyy, whose courage and resolve are an inspiration. He was an amazing man. He still has strength. He still has that optimism that Ukraine can win this war, and he keeps the people together. To watch him was awe-inspiring, a man with so much on his shoulders moving forward, doing the right thing, and doing it with vigor and without complaint.

As I mentioned, during our meeting, the President was blunt. He said: If Ukraine gets the aid currently stalled in the House, they will win the war. But he also said that if Congress does not pass the supplemental with all the ammo and anti-air defenses and long-range artillery it would provide, they will lose. It was that simple: With aid, Ukraine wins. Without it, they lose.

And we learned about the details of what they need. I spoke to a Ukrainian army officer. Their drones are extremely—extremely—precise. In fact, they are probably even better than the ones we have now. And the drones can find out where the Russian artillery is, exactly and precisely, but then they

don't have the ammo to take out that Russian artillery because they lack that ammo. It is so frustrating to this soldier who is doing his job, risking his life.

Then we heard another instance that Ukrainian artillery is not as long range now—because we haven't given them what they need, and it is in the supplemental—as the Russian artillery. So the Russian artillery can fire and take out Ukrainian artillery, but then Ukrainian artillery can't fire back because they don't have the reach of the Russian artillery. We heard these stories over and over again.

We learned how the withdrawal of Avdiivka is, in large part, a consequence of insufficient weaponry. The top Ukrainian generals told us, if they would have had adequate armaments, Avdiivka would not have fallen. And now they are being pushed back on the front but only because—not because they lack courage, not because they lack strength, not because they lack good leadership but only because they don't have the weaponry they need.

We must help them, and any American who thinks, "Oh, this is far away. It doesn't matter," hasn't learned the lessons—learned the lessons of 1938 and 1960. It is not an exact analogy, of course. But back then, people said: Oh, this is far away. We don't have to pay attention. And in both instances, Americans paid for that lack of foresight, that lack of strength, that lack of vision with lives and of course billions and trillions of dollars spent—certainly billions in those days.

So there was no moment more heart-wrenching, no moment better crystalized the stakes and cost of the war than with the new head of the Ukrainian army, General Syrskiy. We paid a visit to the cemetery dedicated to the courageous Ukrainian dead. Four months earlier, he told us, it was just a parking lot in Lviv, but they needed a place to bury so many of the dead. And we walked up and down the grave sites and saw the pictures—of men, women, young, old—of the dead. On their tombstones, there is a picture of each one. Then, if you look across the way, Ukrainians were busy digging more graves for those they knew who would die in the next few weeks.

It was an amazing, moving moment of the stalwartness of the Ukrainian people, the bravery of the Ukrainian people.

So I believe that if every Congress Member saw what we saw, heard what we heard, learned what we learned, they would understand the urgency of passing the supplemental. With this urgent aid package, Congress has a chance to ensure Ukraine wins the war, to ensure Putin is not victorious, to ensure that Western democracy can thrive in the 21st century.

And let me say that if our allies see that America doesn't support its ally Ukraine, they will no longer be our allies. They will know that they cannot depend on America. And even worse, if

the autocrats and vicious dictators like Putin, like Xi, like the heads of North Korea and Iran see that the United States will turn away from a challenge like this, they will be emboldened.

So anyone who thinks that, "Oh, this is far away, this does not have consequences for the American people," they are wrong. If we turn away from Ukraine over the next decade and several decades, the American people and America will pay the price diplomatically, politically, economically, and militarily.

It is a moment. History is looking at us.

So we must do it. I urge Speaker JOHNSON to go visit and see what I saw. No person of any decent conscience and sight would vote no if they saw what we saw. I hope the Speaker does the right thing. I hope he puts the supplemental that we passed here in the Senate with 70 votes on the floor of the House. I am confident—absolutely confident that if Speaker JOHNSON were to put this supplemental on the floor, it would pass with strong bipartisan support like it did in the Senate.

I hope, I pray, for the sake of our values, for the sake of our country, for the sake of the brave people in Ukraine and those who have died in this war—I hope Speaker JOHNSON recognizes that history is watching us and watching him; that the world is watching; that if he does the wrong thing, I am confident he will regret it in the years to come, no matter what the political outcome. And I am hopeful that Speaker JOHNSON will not just in blind obeisance to Donald Trump do what just about everyone who studies this issue knows is the wrong thing and not give Ukraine the aid it needs.

ALABAMA IVF COURT DECISION

Madam President, on Alabama and the court decision, last week, the Alabama Supreme Court handed down a stunningly radical opinion jeopardizing access to in vitro fertilization—IVF—and other forms of fertility care.

The decision by the Alabama court is utterly revolting. The damage it will cause women, doctors, and families is both heartbreaking and enraging.

Let's not kid ourselves. This didn't happen in a vacuum. What happened in Alabama is a direct consequence—a direct consequence—of the hard-right MAGA Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v. Wade. Thanks to MAGA extremism, today the United States is an embarrassment to the world when it comes to reproductive freedom.

Here in the 21st century, we live in a country where women have to travel hundreds of miles for basic healthcare, where doctors fear criminal prosecution for just doing their jobs, where some Republican State legislators want to police women's movements, and where families who want to get pregnant are worried that even in vitro fertilization will be taken away.

Now we have seen a lot of desperate backpedaling over the past few days

from Republicans trying to sound reasonable and supportive on procedures like IVF because it is dawning on them that their agenda is horribly unpopular with most Americans.

But let us be very, very clear. Republicans who have spent decades packing our courts with hard-right judges, who have called for national abortion bans, deserve zero benefit of the doubt now that the consequences of their agenda are sinking in. The shameful state of women's healthcare and women's healthcare freedoms is a product of the hard-right Republican agenda. Republicans own what happened in Alabama.

Let me repeat that. Republicans own what happened in Alabama.

Republicans own the disasters of Roe v. Wade. And Republicans will learn, when it comes to attacks on their personal freedom, the American people do not easily forget.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 472.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Julie Simone Sneed, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 472, Julie Simone Sneed, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Brian Schatz, Mazie Hirono, Tina Smith, Gary C. Peters, Amy Klobuchar, Raphael G. Warnock, Catherine Cortez Masto, Alex Padilla, Mark R. Warner, Tim Kaine, Sheldon Whitehouse, Martin Heinrich, Christopher A. Coons, Margaret Wood Hassan, Peter Welch.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 469.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Melissa Damian, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 469, Melissa Damian, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Brian Schatz, Mazie Hirono, Tina Smith, Gary C. Peters, Amy Klobuchar, Raphael G. Warnock, Catherine Cortez Masto, Alex Padilla, Mark R. Warner, Tim Kaine, Sheldon Whitehouse, Martin Heinrich, Christopher A. Coons, Margaret Wood Hassan, Peter Welch.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 514.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Marjorie A. Rollinson, of Virginia, to be Chief Counsel for the Internal Revenue Service and an Assistant General Counsel in the Department of the Treasury.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 514, Marjorie A. Rollinson, of Virginia, to be Chief Counsel for the Internal Revenue Service and an Assistant General Counsel in the Department of the Treasury.

Charles E. Schumer, Ron Wyden, Alex Padilla, John W. Hickenlooper, Christopher A. Coons, Tim Kaine, Catherine Cortez Masto, Christopher Murphy, Jack Reed, Margaret Wood Hassan, Thomas R. Carper, Michael F. Bennet, Maria Cantwell, Richard Blumenthal, Peter Welch, Sheldon Whitehouse, Chris Van Hollen.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, February 26, be waived.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, as Congress returns to Washington this week, the deadline to avoid a partial lapse in government funding is fast approaching.

Without action by Friday, the country would face needless disruptions to agriculture, transportation, military construction, and essential services at the VA.

So I will say at the outset what I have said every time Congress has faced this threat: Shutting down the government is harmful to the country. And it never produces positive outcomes—on policy or politics.

What is more, a shutdown this week is entirely avoidable. The Senate passed full-year appropriations for each of these important areas 4 months ago, and our House colleagues have produced full-year legislation of their own. We have the means and just enough time this week to avoid a shutdown and to make serious headway on annual appropriations. But as always, the task at hand will require that everyone rows in the same direction: toward clean appropriations and away from poison pills.

Needless to say, millions of Americans will be watching carefully to see

whether and how Congress fulfills its responsibilities this week.

American farmers and ranchers, like the Kentuckians visiting Washington this week, expect us to take the challenges they face in feeding our Nation seriously. Veterans who swore to protect and defend expect us to keep our promises to care for them when they return home. In the coming days, we will need to do just that.

BIDENOMICS

Now, Madam President, on another matter, since President Biden took office, consumer prices have risen 17.9 percent. On his watch, our economy has seen inflation grow at its fastest rate in four decades. As prices soared, wages failed to keep up. Paychecks have risen just 14.5 percent. In other words, the Biden economy has effectively imposed a pay cut across the board.

The effects of Washington Democrats' reckless spending have forced working families to do more with less. As the American people struggle to make ends meet, they are carrying record-high credit card debt—34 percent more than they were just 3 years ago.

Polls continue to report that the country isn't very bullish on the prospects of undoing the Biden administration's damage anytime soon. By one recent survey, fewer than 3 in 10 Americans rate today's economic conditions positively, and barely 1 in 4 expects things to improve over the coming year. So this President's economy is leaving workers feeling suffocated.

The effects of historic inflation are inescapable. Even after paying the rent or the mortgage and footing steep utility bills, families still have to put food on the table in the face of a food price surge that is making the wrong sort of history. Since January 2021, nationwide grocery costs have increased 21 percent. The cost of dining out has increased nearly the same. By the USDA's own figures, grocery budgets are now taking up a larger share of disposable incomes than at any point since 1991.

As one woman in suburban Chicago recently told reporters, her family's food costs alone were rising faster than their incomes. Surveys indicate that fully 94 percent of Americans share her concerns about the prices of food and other consumer goods.

This is the Biden economy. This is Bidenomics in action. Bizarrely, this is what the Biden administration has decided to spin as a roaring success. Both the White House and the President's reelection campaign continue to insist he is proud of his economic record. Imagine telling anyone who will listen that today's economy has you and your family in a bind, only for the President of the United States to declare a job well done.

Don't get me wrong—the Biden administration is quite keen to assign blame for our economic hardships. They are just looking everywhere but

in the mirror. On Super Bowl Sunday and in the middle of the worst food budget crisis in a generation, the President himself cut an ad, warning that the real problem in American families' pantries was bags of potato chips with fewer chips inside. President Biden calls shrinkflation a rip-off, but the American people know the real rip-off is the historic inflation that has shrunk their paychecks and forced them to make tough choices about tomorrow and get through today. In fact, they say so repeatedly. The only question at this point is when Washington Democrats will start listening.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The senior Senator from Illinois.

SOUTH AFRICA

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, over the recess that just concluded, I had a chance to visit South Africa for an Aspen Institute conference to discuss the future of that continent. With so much of the world's attention on Ukraine, as it should be, and the Middle East, as it should be, we often forget the importance of this dynamic and challenging African continent, with nearly one out of five of the world's population—a percentage that will increase greatly this century.

There were so many different aspects we discussed and so many different opportunities. The thing that I came away with was the clear understanding—the Chinese understand this, as they see a future in Africa that we don't see, and they are investing dramatically in Africa's future—that if the United States and other Western nations ignore this reality, the Africa of tomorrow will be a lot different than the one today and may not be our friend as we want them to be.

During my time in Congress, I have tried to advance several efforts to foster more engagement in Africa, including support for funding to address AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria through the Global Fund and PEPFAR, as well as mobility programs and clean water and sanitation. In fact, Chicago-based World Bicycle Relief is helping lead some of the most innovative mobility programs that help get kids to school and healthcare workers to visit rural, remote areas.

I didn't agree with President George W. Bush on many things, but I want to give him credit for making the United States a leader in stemming the HIV/AIDS pandemic in some of the poorest parts of the world, including Africa.

It was just over 20 years ago that nearly 30 million Africans were infected with HIV/AIDS—30 million. They had almost no access to treatment. President George W. Bush's response was known as PEPFAR, the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. It worked. PEPFAR and its companion effort, the Global Fund, dramatically curtailed the AIDS epidemic ravaging many parts of the world, including much of Africa, saving more than 25 million lives. These programs provide retroviral drugs for

those with AIDS, allowing them to live productive lives and to prevent the spread of disease through childbirth.

Some might have forgotten just how devastating AIDS hit many parts of the world, killing more than 2 million people globally each year and leaving 14 million orphans in Sub-Saharan Africa. I was reminded on my trip just how devastating AIDS was to southern Africa. Take Malawi, where the PEPFAR and Global Fund programs have increased the number of Malawians living with AIDS, on treatment, from 5 percent to 95 percent—survivors.

So it is bewildering to me—I can't understand this—how we are presently engaged in a political debate on Capitol Hill as to whether PEPFAR is a good program. Extremists are arguing that we shouldn't reauthorize this historic, lifesaving program when people are still dependent on these drugs to survive from day to day and week to week.

Last year, President Bush—junior in this situation—wrote an op-ed, urging PEPFAR reauthorization, in the Washington Post in which he quoted his late speechwriter and PEPFAR champion, Michael Gerson, as follows:

What definition of pro-life does not include saving millions of lives from preventable disease and death?

Bush went on to note:

We are on the verge of ending the HIV/AIDS epidemic. To abandon our commitment now would forfeit two decades of unimaginable progress and raise further questions about the worth of America's word.

I agree.

I call on my Republican friends to help authorize this historic, bipartisan, lifesaving effort without further delay.

SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING

Madam President, on a different topic, just before our recent recess, the Senate overwhelmingly passed a bipartisan aid package, notably to help Ukraine defend itself against Russia.

Ukraine has fought a heroic, historic, significant battle to defend its independence and democracy, thwarting a full-scale Russian invasion 2 years ago and showing the world how you stand up to a bully like Vladimir Putin. In fact, its resistance to Russia has major security impacts and benefits for our larger Western security.

But as everyone in Congress knows, Ukraine urgently needs more weapons and assistance, and needs it now. Our European allies approved their aid earlier this month, but despite European and U.S. Senate support, many almost unbelievable events have occurred over the past few weeks that endanger Ukrainians' chance of success and global security.

Closest to home, the House of Representatives has remained passive, detached, and silent for the past 2 weeks on the Senate-passed national security supplemental bill, with its leadership subservient to Donald Trump, who in turn is just enamored—a real bromance—with Vladimir Putin.

Last week, true to form, former President Trump went so far as to even say he would encourage Russia to attack fellow NATO members. Can you imagine anyone responsibly making that suggestion? I can't.

Furthermore, on the global stage, public reports have suggested that Putin is thinking of putting some kind of nuclear weapon in space. For all those who want to embrace Putin as part of our future, look at the reality of the situation in Ukraine and in outer space.

Amidst all of this, Russian opposition leader Alexey Navalny died in a Russian gulag prison just before a sham election in which Putin is afraid of any real competition. In response to this tragedy, Trump sank to a new low, shamefully comparing Navalny's death to his own self-inflicted legal problems.

Is there anyone who doesn't see that Putin is gloating at this perceived impunity and relishing in his congressional apologists?

Why in the world would we play into Donald Trump's delusions? Why would Trump-beholden Republicans fawn over Putin, a wanted war criminal responsible for kidnapping—kidnapping—20,000 Ukrainian children and taking them into Russia—a stunning number that is likely to go higher?

Or imagine the scene shared by my colleague from Hawaii, that of Ukrainian soldiers on the frontlines checking their phones to see whether House Republicans passed our Ukraine aid package. They were watching our votes on the floor of the U.S. Senate while they were risking their lives in the battle against Putin. These soldiers are fighting with their lives for democracy and security in Europe, while House Republicans do nothing.

It is time for the House Republicans to pass this urgently needed aid package without further delay.

(The remarks of Mr. DURBIN pertaining to the introduction of S. 3804 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. DURBIN. I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BUTLER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Mr. CASEY. Madam President, I am honored to rise today on the last couple of days of Black History Month to talk about a program we have had since 2007 in our office. This is a time for us to reflect, in our State, upon the Black Pennsylvanians who have led our communities in years past and who continue to honor us with the trailblazing work that they do throughout their communities.

This year, I again have the privilege of honoring several Pennsylvanians as part of my Senate office's Black History Month celebration. Our honorees this year are Edgar and Barbara Farmer, who reside in State College, PA; Loretta Claiborne of York, PA; Donta Green of Pittsburgh, PA; and Lurline Jones of Philadelphia, PA.

The theme of this year's celebration is "The Voices Empowering Generational Change." I think all of us would agree that change comes with great difficulty, and we know that when we honor these individuals, we honor Pennsylvanians, year after year, who have demonstrated the courage that has enabled others to follow them and to continue their work for change. It is especially important this year that we honor those with the courage to take that first difficult step to create change.

This Black History Month, I am grateful for the opportunity to pay tribute to several trailblazing Pennsylvanians who sparked change and, by doing that, make it possible for later generations to pursue that same powerful change. So I will just give a brief biographical sketch of each of our honorees for the Senate to hear about.

Loretta Claiborne, as I mentioned, is from York, PA. Loretta is a lifelong resident of York. She is a speaker, an athlete, and, above all, an advocate for people with disabilities. She was born in the middle of seven children to a low-income, single-parent family. She was partially blind and with an intellectual disability at her birth. She was unable to speak or run until she was 4 years old. But—you know what—since that age, she hasn't stopped running, having completed 26 marathons—that is 26 more than I have completed—twice placing her in the top 100 women in the Boston Marathon. She has won dozens of medals at the Special Olympics World Summer Games. She introduced President Clinton at the 1995 Special Olympics Summer Games. Loretta has been inducted into the Women in Sports Hall of Fame and the Special Olympics Pennsylvania Hall of Fame.

Loretta is a lifelong learner, communicating in four languages, including American Sign Language, and has received honorary doctoral degrees from Villanova University, Quinnipiac University, and York College—two of those three institutions in Pennsylvania.

More than a learner, Loretta is also a teacher, having given a TED talk on intellectual disabilities and speaking frequently about her story, including twice on the Oprah Winfrey Show.

She tells her story not to promote herself but to teach others that people with disabilities are equal to others. Here is something she said:

I figured if my story could change a person's mind about another person, or especially a child's mind about another child, then it was the right thing to do.

Loretta's story is all the more remarkable given that she was born at a

time when a person with a disability was likely to be placed in an institution. Due to her efforts and others like her, people with disabilities today go to school, they go to work, and they are members of sports teams around the world.

Loretta is a trailblazer for disability civil rights, working to ensure that people with disabilities can grow, live, and continue to contribute to their communities as full members, sharing their own extraordinary gifts.

Our second honoree is Donta Green, from Pittsburgh. He is a mentor, coach, and widely respected community leader in Pittsburgh who brings excellence to all that he does. He is among the next generation of community leaders helping young men to reach for the future and working to empower others to take the first steps toward a better life.

As a coach for the Westinghouse Bulldogs, Donta took over a struggling football program and built it into a winner, even taking the Bulldogs to the State title game in both 2022 and 2023. As a coach, he is not just the architect of a football program but a moldier and teacher of young men, helping them not only achieve on the field but also to translate their success off the field as well.

Donta also serves as the executive director of the Trade Institute of Pittsburgh—known by the acronym T-I-P, or TIP—which seeks to empower men and women with significant barriers to employment by providing them skills training and opportunities for career advancement. The Training Institute of Pittsburgh offers tuition-free trade programs such as masonry and carpentry, as well as related life skills such as financial and math literacy, resume and interview coaching, driver's license prep, and one-on-one life coaching.

Many of the students at TIP are formerly incarcerated individuals trying to make the difficult transition to life after prison. TIP does remarkable work helping them to overcome the societal biases and barriers that many of these Americans face. So many of these individuals are successful, achieving an employment rate of 94 percent among individuals who complete the program.

TIP also runs a workforce housing program that matches homeless students with a Training Institute of Pittsburgh alum who will work one-on-one with them until their lives and income are ready for independent living.

Our third honoree is Lurline Jones. Lurline is yet another coach or involved in athletics, as several of our honorees are. Lurline is from Philadelphia, as I mentioned. She is a teacher, a mentor, and a basketball coach with more than five decades of coaching experience within the school district of Philadelphia, where she recently retired as the head basketball coach of the Martin Luther King High School. Since her coaching career began, more than 300 of Lurline's student athletes

have gone on to college on athletic scholarships, and 3 have played in the WNBA.

Lurline also cofounded the Developmental Basketball League, a nonprofit that helps girls and boys hone their fundamental basketball skills, and she has been doing this for nearly 50 years.

As impressive as her coaching career has been, Lurline is the first to tell you that it is not just about sports. "These kids are my kids," she says. "They know I'm teaching them more than how to play basketball."

Lurline credits her mother, Mary Nixon, a domestic worker who grew up on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, for instilling in her the spirit of an activist. Her mother raised Lurline in the Brewerytown section of North Philadelphia.

After leaving home for Morgan State College in Baltimore, which is now known as Morgan State University, Lurline Jones experienced legal segregation for the first time, spurring her to get involved in the civil rights movement, which landed her and hundreds of other Morgan students at that time in jail after protesting the segregation policy at a nearby movie theater.

Lurline was involved in fighting against gender disparities in athletics as well. As a high school player at Philadelphia's William Penn High School for Girls, she was denied a chance to play varsity basketball because the school did not field a team, spurring her to become a lifelong advocate for the rights of women athletes.

At the age of 80, Lurline's energy and enthusiasm are as strong as ever. Here is what she says:

I want to give these kids a chance to succeed in life. I feel extremely blessed to still have the opportunity to make an impact and pay it forward.

Finally, Madam President, our fourth and fifth honorees are Edgar and Barbara Farmer, as I mentioned, from State College, PA, the home of Penn State. Edgar and Barbara are longtime educators and community pillars in the State College community. They fought for years for progress on issues such as education and diversity.

Barbara Farmer is a retired educator who taught business classes in North Carolina and Virginia before serving as the first Black principal in the State College Area School District. After 40 years as an educator, Barbara became director of multicultural affairs at the Penn State College of Information Sciences and Technology. She also found time to volunteer and to serve her community outside of work, serving on the boards of Centre County United Way and the Women's Resource Center, while also chairing the State College Borough's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Plaza Committee.

Edgar is a retired U.S. Army veteran who served in Vietnam, attended Penn State in the mid-1970s, and worked in higher education in North Carolina for

almost two decades. In 1996, he returned to Penn State as a professor of workforce education and development.

Prior to retirement, Edgar Farmer worked in a number of roles, including head of Learning and Performance Systems and professor-in-charge of the Workforce Education and Development Program.

Barbara and Edgar Farmer have long shared their wisdom and expertise outside the classroom, coauthoring the two books: the first, "Diversity in America: Visions of the Future," and the second, "Leading with Character."

They are leading contributors to local news outlets on the issues of education and diversity. In 2017, they served on Penn State's Policing People of Color Task Force and have long been involved in diversity issues in the Borough of State College.

Barbara and Edgar are also committed philanthropists, establishing and contributing to a number of funds and scholarships at Penn State, as well as Hampton University and Norfolk State University, where Barbara and Edgar received their undergraduate degrees.

Last November, as honorees of Penn State's annual Renaissance Fund celebration, Barbara and Edgar helped to raise nearly \$200,000 for scholarships for students with financial needs. Regarding that event, Barbara summed up their approach to service, saying:

All we have done and all we hope to continue doing is part of the charge that we have been given as our life's task. Supporting one another and taking care of one another make the world and our community a better place.

No one could say it better than Barbara did.

So, once again, it is a privilege to be able to honor these remarkable Pennsylvanians and to speak briefly about their accomplishments here on the Senate floor.

Loretta Claiborne, Donta Green, Lurline Jones, and Edgar and Barbara Farmer are each, in their own right, individually and collectively, truly inspirational figures and leaders who have brought about remarkable change through their own efforts through their courage but who will continue to empower generational change, inspiring others to also fight for the change that we need across our commonwealth and our country.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

NOMINATION OF JULIE SU

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam President, this week, the HELP Committee—the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee—will be holding a vote on the renomination of Julie Su for Secretary of Labor. At the direction of the chair, this committee vote is taking place behind closed doors, without a public hearing, and with no opportunity to hear from Ms. Su directly.

It is important to note that the committee is voting on Ms. Su's nomina-

tion for the second time. Her first nomination failed and was returned to the White House after the majority leader declined to give her a vote on the Senate floor when it was clear that based upon bipartisan opposition, she would not be confirmed.

During Ms. Su's first nomination hearing for the Secretary of Labor last April, the committee addressed a variety of concerns with her past record in California and her tenure at the Department of Labor.

Since then, concerns over her leadership at the Department of Labor have grown, and they warrant further review by the committee.

Earlier this month, I sent a formal request to the HELP Committee chair to hold a public hearing on Ms. Su's second nomination so members of the committee can discuss concerns directly with Ms. Su. Unfortunately, the chair denied our request and, instead, is holding a vote on Ms. Su's nomination behind closed doors, without a full public hearing. This is unacceptable.

It has been almost a year since Ms. Su's nomination hearing. It is important that we examine the many issues that have arisen since then and get an explanation over those serious concerns in her year of being an Acting Secretary.

She has built a troubling record as the Acting DOL Secretary, implementing policies that promote large labor unions at the expense of workers' freedoms and economic growth.

Currently, Ms. Su is overseeing the implementation of DOL's worker classification rule, dismantling the gig economy, and jeopardizing the ability of 27 million Americans who choose to work as independent contractors.

Additionally, the Department of Labor has also proposed a new overtime rule, dramatically increasing the overtime pay threshold by 55 percent, which will decrease job opportunities and raise prices for the American family.

The Department of Labor has also released a new policy that allows an outside union official to influence a workplace inspection even when that workplace is not unionized. The union is not there, but they can influence the workplace inspection.

These are all terribly problematic actions taken by an Acting Secretary who lacks Senate confirmation. The Biden administration's attempt to circumvent the advice and consent provision of the Constitution by leveraging Ms. Su's previous position as Deputy Secretary brings these actions into legal question. And, by the way, there are also serious concerns about Ms. Su's ability to manage the Department of Labor.

Under her leadership, there has been a 50-percent increase in illegal child labor since 2022. There are alarming reports that senior DOL officials repeatedly ignored warnings, downplaying the exploitation of migrant children for cheap labor. When the committee

asked Ms. Su to explain DOL's failure to address child labor violations, she repeatedly failed to comply with congressional oversight.

Additionally, DOL has struggled to process H-2B guest worker visas, crucial for employers that experience workforce shortages based on the season. These delays are already having significant impact on these employers and, again, leading to rising prices on families.

The American people deserve a competent Secretary at the Department of Labor. As outlined in the Constitution, the Senate is still supposed to vote on whether to confirm Ms. Su. HELP Committee members need the ability—the opportunity—to raise their concerns to Ms. Su and get answers.

Nomination hearings are not just checking a box; they are a crucial part of the process. Every Senator needs the information revealed in hearings to evaluate and decide how they will vote on a nomination.

The chair's decision to not hold a public hearing on Ms. Su is unacceptable, shows a lack of transparency from the majority, and undermines the committee's constitutional duty to advise and consent on Presidential nominees.

No one is above accountability, especially an unconfirmed yet acting Cabinet-level nominee with massive influence over our Nation's economy.

As ranking member of the HELP Committee, I will continue to lead Senate Republicans in holding Ms. Su accountable. We need to ensure that she fairly enforces our Nation's labor laws.

With that, I yield the floor.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the scheduled rollcall vote begin now.

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

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 468, Jacqueline Becerra, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Brian Schatz, Mazie Hirono, Tina Smith, Gary C. Peters, Amy Klobuchar, Raphael G. Warnock, Catherine Cortez Masto, Alex Padilla, Mark R. Warner, Tim Kaine, Sheldon Whitehouse, Martin Heinrich, Christopher A. Coons, Margaret Wood Hassan, Peter Welch.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Jacqueline Becerra, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 56, nays 38, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 49 Ex.]

YEAS—56

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

NAYS—38

Barrasso	Fischer	Moran
Blackburn	Grassley	Mullin
Boozman	Hagerty	Paul
Braun	Hawley	Romney
Britt	Hoeben	Schmitt
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Scott (SC)
Capito	Johnson	Sullivan
Cassidy	Kennedy	Thune
Cornyn	Lankford	Tuberville
Cotton	Lee	Vance
Cruz	Lummis	Wicker
Daines	Marshall	Young
Ernst	McConnell	

NOT VOTING—6

Cramer	Fetterman	Risch
Crapo	Ricketts	Tillis

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HEINRICH). On this vote, the yeas are 56, the nays are 38.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nominations en bloc: Calendar Nos. 441 and 442; 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 Summer K. Mersinger, of South Dakota, to be a Commissioner of

the Commodity Futures Trading Commission for a term expiring April 13, 2028 (Reappointment); and Basil Ivanhoe Gooden, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. SMITH. 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.

200TH ANNIVERSARY OF ALBION

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the town of Albion, ME. Albion was built with a spirit of determination and resiliency that still guides the community today, and this is a time to celebrate the generations of hard-working and caring people who have made it such a wonderful place to live, work, and raise families.

The date of Albion's incorporation, February 25, 1824, was but one milestone in a long journey of progress. For thousands of years, the Kennebec River Valley was the home of the Abenaki Tribe. The reverence the Abenaki had for the natural beauty and resources of the region is upheld by the people of Albion today.

In 1790, following America's independence, an early village called Freetown was established by Congregational Church minister Daniel Lovejoy with settlers drawn by the fertile soil and abundant forests. The prosperity produced by hard work and determination was invested in schools and churches to create a true community.

In 1802, a son was born to Daniel and Elizabeth Lovejoy who would grow up to become one of the most inspiring and influential figures in American history. A journalist and fervent abolitionist, Elijah Parish Lovejoy founded a newspaper in the slave State of Missouri and fearlessly stood up to repeated threats and attacks. His murder by a pro-slavery mob in 1837 electrified the Nation and strengthened the anti-slavery movement. Since 1952, the prestigious award that bears his name has been presented annually by his alma mater, Colby College, to journalists who demonstrate uncommon courage. In addition, his brother Owen was a leader of the Underground Railroad in Illinois and a close adviser to Abraham Lincoln.

Albion provides an outstanding example of the Maine tradition of people working together. In 1894, construction began on a narrow-gauge railroad to connect cargo ships on the coast to the

crops and lumber produced inland. The line grew town by town and reached its northern terminus at Albion a year later, and for decades, the unique "Maine Two-Footers"—a reference to the reduced width of the locomotives and cars—helped bring prosperity to the region. Today, the Wiscasset, Waterville, and Farmington Railway is a National Heritage Railroad with excursions that keep alive this fascinating era.

That tradition of working together is evident in the energy and planning that are going into Albion's yearlong bicentennial celebration that demonstrates the pride townspeople have in their community. This 200th birthday party is a time to congratulate the people of Albion who have built a great community with a wonderful history and a bright future.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING WELLS HOMETOWN DRUG

• Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize Wells Hometown Drug of Bloomfield, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Mylo Wells grew up near Bloomfield, IA, on his family dairy farm in Milton. In high school, Mylo had the opportunity to work with his mother, Jana, who is a pharmacist. This experience inspired him to join the industry, and in 2018, Mylo graduated from the University of Iowa College of Pharmacy with a doctorate of pharmacy with the goal to open a pharmacy in his hometown community. When Mylo returned to Bloomfield and learned the local pharmacy had gone out of business, he opened Wells Hometown Drug that same year. Wells Hometown Drug fills a vital role in the area by providing access to critical prescriptions for Bloomfield and surrounding rural residents. In particular, Mylo has worked to develop a relationship with the Amish community and serves them while also respecting their culture. In 2022, Wells Hometown Drug opened a second location in Keosauqua and has grown from a staff of 5 employees to 28 between the two locations.

Wells Hometown Drug also gives back to the community through their Community Rewards Program. The program was established to donate a percentage of Wells Hometown Drug's sales to charities in both the Bloomfield and Keosauqua communities. In the past, they have donated to the Friends of Lake Wapello and Christmas for Kids charity events. In addition to serving his local communities, Mylo Wells served on the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services Medical

Assistance Pharmaceutical and Therapeutics Committee.

Mylo Wells and the team at Wells Hometown Drug have also been awarded for their hard work. In 2022, the Iowa Pharmacy Association named Mylo Wells the Distinguished Young Pharmacist of the Year. Mylo continues to give back to both the pharmacy practitioner-industry and the University of Iowa by hosting University of Iowa College of Pharmacy students for rotations as they pursue their education in the field.

I want to commend Mylo Wells for his hard work and incredible commitment to his local community. Wells Hometown Drug is providing vital pharmacy access for rural Iowans. Congratulations to Mylo Wells and the entire team at Wells Hometown Drug as they continue to achieve the American dream. I look forward to seeing your continued growth and success in Iowa.●

TRIBUTE TO JACK WINSTEAD

● Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Mr. President, it is an honor to pay tribute to Mr. Jack Winstead who, for years, has shown an overwhelming dedication to serving the Friends of Mississippi Veterans nonprofit as a member and former board president. I have had the honor of knowing Mr. Winstead and seeing firsthand the valuable impact his service has on communities throughout Mississippi. Jack has gone above and beyond the average citizen in honoring our Mississippi veterans, and I have the highest admiration for his work.

Jack's commitment to service and being a positive influence in his community has a significant track record that started long before his appointment as board president of Friends of Mississippi Veterans. A native of Neshoba County, MS, Mr. Winstead received his undergraduate degree in agriculture from Mississippi State University. In addition to being the owner and operator of a purebred beef cattle farm for more than 20 years, he was the past chairman of Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation Commission, vice-chairman of the board of trustees of East Central Community College, and president of Mississippi Association of Conservation Districts. He also served 37 years at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service, which benefited from Mr. Winstead's profound knowledge on soil and water conservation. Today, Jack is a consultant to the Mississippi Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce and is a board member for multiple organizations.

As a Mississippi Air National Guard veteran, Jack has worked tirelessly to advocate for and help other veterans in Mississippi. He was instrumental in the 2007 founding of the Friends of Mississippi Veterans, which set an initial goal of establishing a veterans cemetery. Thanks to their leadership and hard work, our brave soldiers can now be laid to rest in two beautiful, State-

operated veterans memorial cemeteries in Newton and Kilmichael. Mr. Winstead's work to not only ensure our veterans have a respectful final resting place but also to see to it that their families have a hallowed place to honor their loved ones is truly laudable.

The Friends of Mississippi Veterans has become a crucial voice and support organization for the veterans in my State, particularly those residing in four veterans' nursing homes, where it offers assistance for construction and improvements and helps cover expenses related to the veterans cemeteries. It also actively promotes the Wreaths Across America national program.

Mr. Winstead has time and time again stepped up as a leader in his community. He has shown true commitment and passion for everything he does, and for that, he has earned numerous special recognitions. In 2007, Jack was named to the Southeastern Association of Conservation Districts' Hall of Fame. In 2008, Jack was recognized as Newton County Citizen of the Year, and he was named East Central Community College's Alumnus of the Year the following year.

In conclusion, I am so grateful for Mr. Jack Winstead's years of service to Mississippi and for being able to consider him a dear friend. I applaud him for his many accomplishments and commitment to our veterans, and I commend him for the positive impact that is felt throughout Mississippi thanks to his influence.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:52 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 533. An act to amend the Tibetan Policy Act of 2002 to modify certain provisions of that Act.

H.R. 2766. An act to support the human rights of Uyghurs and members of other minority groups residing primarily in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region and safeguard their distinct identity, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3016. An act to amend the Anti-Boycott Act of 2018 to apply the provisions of that Act to international governmental organizations.

H.R. 3202. An act to prohibit any official action to recognize or normalize relations with any Government of Syria that is led by Bashar al-Assad, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4039. An act to prohibit the use of funds supporting any activities within the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China.

H.R. 5375. An act to require a strategy for bolstering engagement and cooperation between the United States, Australia, India, and Japan and to seek to establish a Quad Intra-Parliamentary Working Group to facilitate closer cooperation on shared interests and values.

H.R. 5856. An act to reauthorize the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 533. An act to amend the Tibetan Policy Act of 2002 to modify certain provisions of that Act; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 2766. An act to support the human rights of Uyghurs and members of other minority groups residing primarily in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region and safeguard their distinct identity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 3016. An act to amend the Anti-Boycott Act of 2018 to apply the provisions of that Act to international governmental organizations; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 3202. An act to prohibit any official action to recognize or normalize relations with any Government of Syria that is led by Bashar al-Assad, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 4039. An act to prohibit the use of funds supporting any activities within the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 5375. An act to require a strategy for bolstering engagement and cooperation between the United States, Australia, India, and Japan and to seek to establish a Quad Intra-Parliamentary Working Group to facilitate closer cooperation on shared interests and values; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 5856. An act to reauthorize the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-3547. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Raisins Produced from Grapes in California; Temporary Suspension of Continuance Referendum" (Docket No. AMS-SC-23-0007) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 5, 2024; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3548. A communication from the Chairman, Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Corporation's Strategic Plan for fiscal years 2024 through 2029; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3549. A communication from the General Counsel, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Cyber Risk Management" (RIN3052-AD53) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 13, 2024; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3550. A communication from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "United States Standards for Soybeans" (Docket No. AMS-DA-23-0003; 23-J-0019) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 12, 2024; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3551. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "O-Benzyl-P-Chlorophenol (OBPCP); Exemption from the Requirement of a Pesticide Tolerance" (FRL No. 10919-02-OCSPP) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 20, 2024; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3552. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Saflufenacil; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 10919-02-OCSPP) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 20, 2024; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3553. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "U1-AGTX-TaIb-QA protein; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 11563-01-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 12, 2024; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3554. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Final Guidance to Registrants on Activities to Improve the Efficiency of Endangered Species Act Considerations for New Active Ingredient Registrations and Registration Review"; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3555. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Final Guidance to Registrants on Activities to Improve the Efficiency of ESA Considerations for New Outdoor Use Registrations of Conventional Pesticides and Biopesticides"; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3556. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Chlorpyrifos; Reinstatement of Tolerances" (FRL No. 5993-06-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 6, 2024; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3557. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of the Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Further Definition of 'As a Part of a Regular Business' in the Definition of Dealer and Government Securities Dealer in Connection with Certain Liquidity Providers" (RIN3235-AN10) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 14, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3558. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13692 with respect to Venezuela; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3559. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13288 with respect to Zimbabwe; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3560. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursu-

ant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13441 with respect to Lebanon; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3561. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13660 with respect to Ukraine; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3562. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Financial Stability Oversight Council 2023 annual report to Congress; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3563. A communication from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Legislative Affairs, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Annual Performance Plan and Report, and Budget Overview (FY 2024)"; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3564. A communication from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Legislative Affairs, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Annual Performance Plan and Report, and Budget Overview (FY 2024)" received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3565. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of the Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Purpose Acquisition Companies, Shell Companies, and Projections" (RIN3235-AM90) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 12, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3566. A communication from the Director of Regulations, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "2024 Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustments for Oil, Gas, and Sulfur Operations in the Outer Continental Shelf" (RIN1010-AE19) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 14, 2024; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3567. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Material Compatibility for non-Light Water Reactors" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 12, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3568. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Safety Evaluation for BWRVIP-315, Reactor Internals Aging Management Evaluation for Extended Operations" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 30, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3569. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.204 Rev 1, Guidelines for Lightning Protection for Production and Utilization Facilities" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 8, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3570. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "FY 2022 and FY 2023 Pollution Prevention Grant Program"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3571. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "FY 2023-FY 2024 Pollution Prevention Grants: Environmental Justice in Communities"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3572. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "FY 2023 - FY 2024 Pollution Prevention Grants: Environmental Justice Through Safer and More Sustainable Products"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3573. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "FY23 Brownfields Job Training Grants"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3574. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "2023 Clean School Bus Grant Program"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3575. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Revisions; California; Butte County Air Quality Management District; Nonattainment New Source Review Requirements for the 2015 8-Hour Ozone Standard" (FRL No. 11353-02-R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 30, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3576. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Alabama; Birmingham Limited Maintenance Plan for the 2006 24-Hour PM2.5 NAAQS" (FRL No. 11573-02-R4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 30, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3577. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Finding of Failure to Submit State Implementation Plan Submissions for the 2012 Fine Particulate Matter National Ambient Air Quality Standards; California; Los Angeles-South Coast Air Basin" (FRL No. 11617-01-R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 30, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

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. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BUDD, and Mr. CRAMER):

S. 3801. A bill to amend the Federal Reserve Act to prohibit the Federal Reserve

banks from offering certain products or services directly to an individual, to prohibit the use of central bank digital currency for monetary policy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. 3802. A bill to make additional Federal public land available for selection under the Alaska Native Vietnam era veterans land allotment program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. FETTERMAN):

S. 3803. A bill to make price gouging unlawful, to expand the ability of the Federal Trade Commission to seek permanent injunctions and equitable relief, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. Kaine, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. COONS, Mr. WELCH, Mr. CASEY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Ms. SMITH):

S. 3804. A bill to designate the area of Sumner Row between 16th Street Northwest and L Street Northwest in Washington, District of Columbia, as "Alexi Navalny Way"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. ROUNDS):

S.J. Res. 62. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service relating to "Importation of Fresh Beef From Paraguay"; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. Res. 565. A resolution condemning democratic backsliding in Hungary; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mrs. HYDE-SMITH (for herself, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. DAINES, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. SINEMA, and Mr. BUDD):

S. Res. 566. A resolution designating September 2024 as "National Cholesterol Education Month" and September 30, 2024, as "LDL-C Awareness Day"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 25

At the request of Ms. BUTLER, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 25, a bill to regulate assault weapons, to ensure that the right to keep and bear arms is not unlimited, and for other purposes.

S. 131

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 131, a bill to amend chap-

ter 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. 217

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 217, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a special rule for certain casualty losses of uncut timber.

S. 247

At the request of Ms. BUTLER, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 247, a bill to support State, Tribal, and local efforts to remove access to firearms from individuals who are a danger to themselves or others pursuant to court orders for this purpose.

S. 260

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) were added as cosponsors of S. 260, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to permit nurse practitioners and physician assistants to satisfy the documentation requirement under the Medicare program for coverage of certain shoes for individuals with diabetes.

S. 298

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 298, a bill to regulate large capacity ammunition feeding devices.

S. 359

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 359, a bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide for a code of conduct for justices of the Supreme Court of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 495

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 495, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to provide assisted living services for eligible veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 597

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 597, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions.

S. 711

At the request of Mr. BUDD, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 711, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the invaluable service that working dogs provide to society.

S. 747

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr.

MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 747, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to provide grants to States, territories, and Indian Tribes to address contamination by perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances on farms, and for other purposes.

S. 1064

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) were added as cosponsors of S. 1064, a bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out a national project to prevent and cure Parkinson's, to be known as the National Parkinson's Project, and for other purposes.

S. 1110

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1110, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to rebase the calculation of payments for sole community hospitals and Medicare-dependent hospitals, and for other purposes.

S. 1307

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

S. 1351

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1351, a bill to study and prevent child abuse in youth residential programs, and for other purposes.

S. 1418

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the names of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 1418, a bill to amend the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act of 1998 to strengthen protections relating to the online collection, use, and disclosure of personal information of children and teens, and for other purposes.

S. 1558

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1558, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the brave women who served in World War II as members of the U.S. Army Nurse Corps and U.S. Navy Nurse Corps.

S. 1658

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1658, a bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to include certain Federal positions within the definition of law enforcement officer for retirement purposes, and for other purposes.

S. 1669

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1669, a bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to issue a rule requiring access to AM broadcast stations in motor vehicles, and for other purposes.

S. 1756

At the request of Mr. KING, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1756, a bill to amend the Farm Credit Act of 1971 to support the commercial fishing industry.

S. 1838

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1838, a bill to amend the Electronic Fund Transfer Act to require the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve system to prescribe regulations relating to network competition in credit card transactions, and for other purposes.

S. 1957

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1957, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to allow schools that participate in the school lunch program to serve whole milk, and for other purposes.

S. 2311

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2311, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Los Angeles, California.

S. 2675

At the request of Mr. BUDD, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) were added as cosponsors of S. 2675, a bill to clarify minimum altitudes for go-arounds, inspection passes, practice approaches, and qualified instrument approaches, and for other purposes.

S. 2825

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2825, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the United States Army Dustoff crews of the Vietnam War, collectively, in recognition of their extraordinary heroism and life-saving actions in Vietnam.

S. 2829

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS), the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER), the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) and the Sen-

ator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2829, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for an exclusion for assistance provided to participants in certain veterinary student loan repayment or forgiveness programs.

S. 2839

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2839, a bill to clarify the maximum hiring target for new air traffic controllers, and for other purposes.

S. 3021

At the request of Ms. SINEMA, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3021, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to permanently extend certain in-home cardiopulmonary rehabilitation flexibilities established in response to COVID-19, and for other purposes.

S. 3141

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) were added as cosponsors of S. 3141, a bill to provide for the consideration of a definition of antisemitism set forth by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance for the enforcement of Federal antidiscrimination laws concerning education programs or activities, and for other purposes.

S. 3348

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 3348, a bill to amend the Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998 to address harmful algal blooms, and for other purposes.

S. 3373

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3373, a bill to require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to extend the time period during which licenses are required to commence construction of certain hydropower projects.

S. 3444

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3444, a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to improve the accessibility of 9-8-8, and for other purposes.

S. 3459

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3459, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow an above-the-line deduction for attorney fees and costs in connection with consumer claim awards.

S. 3484

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Pennsyl-

vania (Mr. FETTERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3484, a bill to establish the Great Lakes Mass Marking Program, and for other purposes.

S. 3528

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3528, a bill to amend the Small Business Act to establish the position of Coordinator for Disabled Small Business Concerns within the Office of Diversity, Inclusion and Civil Rights of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 3594

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3594, a bill to require governmentwide source code sharing, and for other purposes.

S. 3612

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. 3612, a bill to prohibit the limitation of access to assisted reproductive technology, and all medical care surrounding such technology.

S. 3666

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3666, a bill to amend the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 to establish an additional reporting requirement, and for other purposes.

S. 3704

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) were added as cosponsors of S. 3704, a bill to amend the Natural Gas Act to allow the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to approve or deny applications for the siting, construction, expansion, or operation of facilities to export or import natural gas, and for other purposes.

S. 3785

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3785, a bill to support rural coastal and maritime economic development, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 58

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr.

THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 58, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Energy relating to “Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Consumer Furnaces”.

S. CON. RES. 28

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 28, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding the authority of the President to use appropriate and necessary force to liberate United States citizens being held by Hamas.

S. RES. 450

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 450, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that paraprofessionals and education support staff should have fair compensation, benefits, and working conditions.

S. RES. 540

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 540, a resolution requesting information on Azerbaijan’s human rights practices pursuant to section 502B(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. KAINE, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. COONS, Mr. WELCH, Mr. CASEY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Ms. SMITH):

S. 3804. A bill to designate the area of Sumner Row between 16th Street Northwest and L Street Northwest in Washington, District of Columbia, as “Alexi Navalny Way”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I want to show you photographs of two individuals. Two years ago, I had the privilege of meeting this man, Vladimir Kara-Murza. He is a patriot and a Russian opposition leader—what a risky business to be in.

Putin twice tried to poison him but failed. After his recovery here in the United States, he made a conscious decision that I couldn’t believe. He said: I am going back to Russia. Someone has to be willing to fight and die for freedom and democracy in that country.

I said to him, as he was leaving: You are going to face certain arrest and imprisonment.

He said: I know it, but I have got to do it.

He had to continue the fight. I will never forget that moment of bravery and conviction in my office. Not long after his return to Russia, he was arrested for criticizing Putin’s war in Ukraine.

He showed the same kind of patriotic courage as his compatriot Alexey Navalny, who died just a few days ago at the hands of Vladimir Putin’s henchmen.

Putin tried to kill Navalny by poison too. He barred Navalny from running for office, from sharing stories of massive Kremlin corruption, and from speaking of the horrors of the Ukraine war.

Through it all, like Kara-Murza, Navalny was undeterred, and we know what happened—his tragic fate in that Arctic prison where he had been exiled. He was murdered by Vladimir Putin for fighting for freedom.

Navalny, Kara-Murza, and the Ukrainians on the frontlines are the brave patriots in this world, heroes Congress should look to for inspiration and courage, instead of a resort in Florida known as Mar-a-Lago.

In this small but lasting tribute to Navalny’s courage today, Senator CASSIDY, a Republican from Louisiana, and I are introducing legislation to rename the street next to the residence of the Russian Ambassador to the United States. The new name will be “Navalny Way.”

This will not change what Putin has done or the unspeakable harm he has caused the Navalny family or millions of Ukrainians, including those children who have been kidnapped. But unlike the hooded Putin thugs trying to erase Navalny’s memory by arresting mourners and quickly removing fliers left at makeshift memorials, this will force Russian diplomats in Washington to be reminded every day, as they drive by, of their crimes.

I hope Congress will quickly pass this symbolically important measure and, in a larger tribute to Navalny, our Ukrainian allies, and the thousands of kidnapped Ukrainian children, pass the supplemental without further delay.

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

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

S. 3804

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

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The administration of President Vladimir V. Putin of the Russian Federation has engaged in transnational repression, assassinations of political opponents, poisoning and other attempted murders of political opponents, journalists, and human rights defenders, systemic human rights abuses, and unprovoked military attacks against and deportments to neighboring countries.

(2) The administration of President Vladimir V. Putin of the Russian Federation has carried out arrests and detentions of individ-

uals who peacefully seek democratic freedoms or oppose his repression, corruption, and invasion of Ukraine.

(3) Alexei Navalny was a Russian political dissident and activist dedicated to promoting democratic freedoms and fighting corruption in Russia.

(4) On February 16, 2024, the Russian prison where Alexei Navalny was being held after his conviction on fabricated charges in February 2021 announced that he had died a day after he was seen in good health.

(5) Alexei Navalny had a history of exposing the widespread corruption that sustained the Putin regime by enriching its enablers. He was recognized and awarded on numerous occasions for his work fighting corruption and promoting democratic ideals. Those recognitions and awards include the 2015 Prize of the Platform of European Memory and Conscience, a nomination for the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize, the 2021 Boris Nemtsov Prize for Courage, the 2021 Moral Courage Award by the Geneva Summit for Human Rights and Democracy, the 2021 Knight of Freedom Award by the Casimir Pulaski Foundation, and the 2021 Sakharov Prize by the European Parliament.

(6) Alexei Navalny and fellow dissident Vladimir Kara-Murza endured several poisonings and other attempts on their lives carried out by Putin’s government.

(7) Renaming the street near the official residence of the Russian Ambassador to the United States serves as a continuing expression of solidarity between the people of the United States and the people of the Russian Federation, who are engaged in a sustained, peaceful, and patriotic struggle for fundamental freedoms.

SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF ALEXEI NAVALNY WAY.

(a) DESIGNATION OF WAY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The area of Sumner Row Northwest between 16th Street Northwest and L Street Northwest in Washington, District of Columbia, shall be known and designated as “Alexei Navalny Way”.

(2) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the area referred to in paragraph (1) shall be deemed to be a reference to “Alexei Navalny Way”.

(b) SIGNS.—The District of Columbia shall construct 2 street signs—

(1) that contain the phrase “Alexei Navalny Way”;

(2) one of which shall be placed immediately above existing signs between 1135 16th Street Northwest and 1119–1125 16th Street Northwest;

(3) one of which shall be placed on a sign post at 1555 L Street Northwest; and

(4) that are similar in design to the signs used by the District of Columbia to designate the location of Metro stations.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 565—CONDEMNING DEMOCRATIC BACKSLIDING IN HUNGARY

Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. DURBIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 565

Whereas Hungary transitioned to a democracy in 1989 following decades of ruthless repression by the Soviet Union, including the brutal suppression of the Revolution of 1956 in which thousands of Hungarians were killed;

Whereas Hungary formally joined the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) on March 12, 1999, signaling a commitment to transatlantic unity and democratic resilience;

Whereas, as part of obligations to transatlantic security as a member of NATO, Hungary has sent troops to Kosovo and Afghanistan, contributes to the Baltic air policing mission, and leads Operation Althea, the European Union Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUFOR);

Whereas Viktor Orban first assumed the office of the Prime Minister of Hungary in 1998 and, while in office, restricted the number of plenary sessions held by the Parliament of Hungary, limiting oversight of the government;

Whereas, the Government of Hungary has used migration, the COVID-19 crisis, and the war against Ukraine by the Russian Federation to justify ongoing “states of emergency” in Hungary that allow the Orban cabinet to rule by decree, bypassing the parliament;

Whereas, following the tenure of Orban as Leader of the Opposition from 2002 to 2010, Orban again assumed the office of the Prime Minister of Hungary following the parliamentary elections success of the Fidesz party;

Whereas the Orban government passed a new constitution for Hungary in 2011, which limited the power of independent institutions in Hungary, including the Constitutional Court and the judicial system, reduced the number of seats in the National Assembly of Hungary by almost half, restricted civil liberties, and instituted a politicized media regulation authority with power to shut down outlets critical of the government;

Whereas, in 2019, Hungary became the first European Union member state to be downgraded to “partly free” by Freedom House, an internationally-recognized non-profit organization, in 2022, the European Parliament ruled that Hungary was no longer considered a full democracy, and in 2023, Transparency International, an internationally-recognized non-profit organization, ranked Hungary as the most corrupt European Union member state;

Whereas, in December 2023, Hungary instituted a law purportedly designed to protect the sovereignty of Hungary, but which actually serves as a tool to silence Hungarians who disagree with the current ruling party and has led to infringement proceedings by the European Union;

Whereas the European Union took the unprecedented step of withholding more than \$30,000,000,000 in funds due to concerns about rule of law and corruption in Hungary, and continues to withhold more than \$20,000,000,000 of such funds;

Whereas Hungary has sought to strengthen its relationship with the People’s Republic of China, including by participating in the 16+1 format and the Belt and Road Initiative, the first European country to do so;

Whereas, following the illegal annexation of Crimea by the Russian Federation in 2014, Prime Minister Orban and the Government of Hungary has resisted and diluted European Union sanctions with respect to the Russian Federation;

Whereas, in response to the further invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation in 2022, Hungary announced support for Ukraine to become a member of the European Union, strengthening European and transatlantic unity at a critical juncture;

Whereas, since February 24, 2022, more than 800,000 refugees have fled Ukraine through Hungary in response to the unprovoked and illegal war in Ukraine initi-

ated by Vladimir Putin, and more than 35,000 Ukrainians have sought to stay in Hungary;

Whereas the Government of Hungary has worked with local partners, including non-governmental organizations, to provide essential services to Ukrainian refugees;

Whereas Hungary has blocked the transfer of weapons from partners and allies to Ukraine through the border that Hungary shares with Ukraine, moved to delay financial assistance from the European Union to Ukraine, and carved out exceptions on European Union sanctions against the Russian Federation to continue to allow Russian oil and gas to flow to Hungary;

Whereas Prime Minister Orban has sought a closer relationship with Vladimir Putin, including by meeting Putin in Beijing in 2023, the first leader of a European Union member state to meet with Putin since April 2022 and the only leader of a NATO member state to meet with Putin since the Russian Federation launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine on February 24 2022;

Whereas, in response to the war in Ukraine, NATO is the strongest and most unified it has ever been, as exemplified through the enlargement of NATO to include Finland as the 31st member state;

Whereas, despite approving the accession of Finland to NATO on March 27, 2023, Hungary has delayed joining all other NATO member states in approving the accession of Sweden to NATO, failing to fulfill a commitment not to be last to approve such accession and jeopardizing transatlantic security at a key moment for peace and stability in Europe; and

Whereas, on February 26, 2024, the Hungarian Parliament voted in support of the accession of Sweden to NATO: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the important role Hungary can play in European and transatlantic security;

(2) condemns the ongoing democratic backsliding in Hungary, perpetuated by the closing of civil spaces and the consolidation of power at the highest levels of government, including the restrictions placed on the judicial system;

(3) reaffirms the indispensable role a free and independent media plays in supporting government transparency and democratic accountability, and the efforts of the Government of Hungary to curtail and undermine such activities;

(4) urges Hungary to continue working at the bilateral, multilateral, and regional levels on military cooperation, energy independence, and democratic resilience with other democratic actors;

(5) expresses concern with the deepening relationship between Hungary, the Russian Federation, and the People’s Republic of China;

(6) welcomes the vote of Hungary on February 26, 2024, ratifying the accession of Sweden to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO); and

(7) expresses regret that the Government of Hungary, as the last member of NATO to schedule a vote on the NATO membership of Sweden, unnecessarily prolonged the accession of Sweden to NATO.

SENATE RESOLUTION 566—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2024 AS “NATIONAL CHOLESTEROL EDUCATION MONTH” AND SEPTEMBER 30, 2024, AS “LDL-AWARENESS DAY”

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH (for herself, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. BOOZMAN,

Mr. DAINES, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. SINEMA, and Mr. BUDD) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 566

Whereas cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death for men and women in the United States;

Whereas projected rates of cardiovascular disease are expected to increase significantly in the United States by 2060;

Whereas, compared to urban areas, rural areas in the United States have higher death rates for cardiovascular disease and stroke, and a 40 percent higher prevalence of cardiovascular disease;

Whereas risk factors contributing to cardiovascular disease and poor health outcomes include elevated low density lipoprotein cholesterol (referred to in this preamble as “LDL-C”), high levels of lipoprotein(a) cholesterol, hypertension, obesity, low awareness of personal risk factors, genetics, geographic location, and inequitable access to care;

Whereas lipoprotein(a) cholesterol is predominantly genetically inherited and can build up in the walls of blood vessels, creating cholesterol deposits, or plaques, and lead to atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease;

Whereas LDL-C is a modifiable risk factor for cardiovascular disease, and having lower LDL-C is associated with a reduced risk of heart attack and stroke;

Whereas more than 25.5 percent of adults in the United States have high LDL-C;

Whereas more than 200 studies with more than 2,000,000 patients have broadly established that elevated LDL-C unequivocally causes atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease;

Whereas atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease is the build-up of cholesterol plaque within the walls of arteries and includes acute coronary syndrome, peripheral arterial disease, and events such as heart attacks and strokes;

Whereas the resources needed to bend the curve on cardiovascular disease exist, yet 71 percent of hypercholesterolemia patients at high risk of a cardiovascular event never achieve recommended LDL-C treatment guideline thresholds;

Whereas only 33 percent of individuals with atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease who are taking statins, a guideline recommended lipid-lowering therapy, actually achieve LDL-C goals;

Whereas, although clinical guidelines recommend that a patient hospitalized for heart attack receive an LDL-C test in the 90 days following discharge from a hospital, only 27 percent of patients receive the test;

Whereas African-American adults are less likely to receive an LDL-C test in the 90 days following discharge from a hospital, despite having a higher prevalence of cardiovascular disease;

Whereas significant gaps in care lead to subsequent cardiovascular events;

Whereas the Million Hearts program seeks to improve access to and quality of care to reduce heart disease, stroke, and death; and

Whereas September is recognized as National Cholesterol Education Month to raise awareness of cardiovascular disease and the importance of knowing one’s LDL-C number: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) encourages all individuals in the United States to know their low density lipoprotein cholesterol (referred to in this resolution as “LDL-C”) number;

(2) designates September 2024 as “National Cholesterol Education Month”;

(3) designates September 30, 2024, as “LDL-C Awareness Day”; and

(4) recognizes the urgent need for screening and treating of elevated LDL-C to reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease and cardiovascular events, including heart attacks and strokes.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY,
FEBRUARY 27, 2024

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, February 27; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day and morning business be closed; further, that following the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Becerra nomination postcloture; that all postcloture time be considered expired at 11 a.m. and that following the

cloture vote on the Leibowitz nomination, the Senate recess until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings; that at 2:15 p.m., if cloture has been invoked on the Leibowitz nomination, the Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination; and that if cloture is invoked on the Dellinger nomination, all time be considered expired at 5:45 p.m.; further, that if any nominations are confirmed during Tuesday's session, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.
TOMORROW

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:19 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, February 27, 2024, at 10 a.m.

DISCHARGED NOMINATION

The Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs was discharged from further consideration of the following nomination under the authority of the order of the Senate of 01/07/2009 and the nomination was placed on the Executive Calendar on Tuesday, February 13, 2024:

CARDELL KENNETH RICHARDSON, SR., OF VIRGINIA, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate February 26, 2024:

COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

SUMMER K. MERSINGER, OF SOUTH DAKOTA, TO BE A COMMISSIONER OF THE COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING APRIL 13, 2028.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

BASIL IVANHOE GOODEN, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT.