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No. 59

## House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 9, 2024, at 12 p.m.

## Senate

MONDAY, APRIL 8, 2024

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.

Precious Lord, we praise You with all our hearts because even when wrong seems to rule, you remain sovereign. You are our strength for today and our hope for tomorrow.

As our lawmakers open their hearts to You, may they sense that Your presence is as pervasive in statecraft as in religion. Illuminate their finite minds with Your eternal light, giving them wisdom beyond their own. Lord, remind our Senators that some problems You will not solve until they are ready to be used by You in working out the solutions.

We pray in your awesome 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, April 8, 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.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

### MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S.J. RES. 67, S.J. RES. 68, S.J. RES. 69

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I understand there are three joint resolutions at the desk due for a second reading en bloc.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the joint resolutions by title for the second time en bloc.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 67) to provide for related procedures concerning the articles of impeachment against Alejandro Nicholas Mayorkas, Secretary of Homeland Security.

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 68) providing for the issuance of a summons, providing for the appointment of a committee to receive and to report evidence, and establishing related procedures concerning the articles of impeachment against Alejandro Nicholas Mayorkas.

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 69) to provide for related procedures concerning the articles of impeachment against Alejandro Nicholas Mayorkas, Secretary of Homeland Security.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, in order to place the joint resolutions on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I would object to further proceedings en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the joint resolutions will be placed on the calendar.

### BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, the Senate gavels back into session today to pick up right where we left off in March: confirming more of President Biden's outstanding nominees and advancing legislation that protects and serves the American people.

There is much the Senate has to accomplish in the coming weeks, and getting anything done—anything—will require bipartisan cooperation. It is not easy but nevertheless essential.

Today, the Senate will commence by voting to invoke cloture on the nomination of Susan Bazis to be a U.S. district court judge for the District of Nebraska. I have also filed cloture on the nominations of Robert White to be a district judge for the Eastern District of Maryland and the nomination of

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



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S2629

Ann Marie McIff Allen to be a district judge for the District of Utah.

On the legislative front, Congress has until April 19 to pass an extension of FISA's national security authorities. That is the next major deadline we face on the calendar. Preventing FISA from lapsing will take bipartisan cooperation and swift action. The House is currently working on the best path forward on FISA, and the Senate stands ready to jump into action to prevent this important national security authority from lapsing. We must get FISA done this work period.

As the Congress gavelled back into session, I also urge Speaker JOHNSON and House Republicans to snap out of their paralysis and pass the Senate's national security supplemental. The situation in Ukraine is desperate. Speaker JOHNSON has now sat on his hands for 55 days as the national security supplemental has collected dust in the House. That is 55 days of America standing on the sidelines while our friends in Ukraine fight and die on the battlefield with no support; 55 days of our European allies wondering when the United States will step up. With each passing day, Ukraine continues to run out of ammo, continues to run out of soldiers, and continues to run out of hope that it can successfully expel the Russians from their borders.

Let's be blunt. The biggest reason Ukraine is losing the war is because the hard right in Congress has paralyzed the United States from acting. That is it. That is the reason. Speaker JOHNSON has to decide for himself whether or not he will do the right thing for Ukraine, for America, and for democracy, or if he will allow MAGA Republicans to hand Vladimir Putin a large victory.

I am confident that if the Speaker puts the Senate's national security supplemental on the floor, it will pass. It remains the best, quickest, and most realistic way to get Ukraine the help it needs.

So, again, there is a lot that the Senate must do in the coming weeks and months, and to get anything done will require bipartisan cooperation. I thank my colleagues for their good work so far in 2024 and look forward to working with all of them to keep delivering for the American people.

#### CAPITAL ONE AND DISCOVER MERGER

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, now on Capital One and Discover, nearly 2 months ago, Capital One and Discover quietly announced plans for an unprecedented, multibillion-dollar merger that in the long run could risk higher costs for consumers and small businesses alike.

Capital One and Discover are two of the largest credit card-issuing institutions in America. If they merge, the new company would likely become the largest credit card issuer in the United States, with over 400 million cus-

tomers. That could risk higher interest rates, bigger fees, and diminished competition.

But even so, most Americans today have no idea that this merger is coming, so yesterday I sent a letter to both Capital One and Discover asking them to share with my office more information regarding antitrust and consumer protections. I want to know more about market shares in this industry. We have already had plenty of consolidation throughout the economy. I want to know about a potential increase in fees. I want to know if workers will be laid off. I would like to hear how consumers are being made aware of this deal.

One thing is certain about credit card companies: Much of their bread and butter is a myriad of fees and sometimes—sometimes—eye-popping interest rates. That is why the proposed merger of Capital One and Discover is such a concern. History is very clear that when big financial institutions get even bigger, the American consumer usually gets the short end of the stick. So before a credit card merger takes a potential swipe at consumers, every question should be answered.

#### STUDENT LOAN DEBT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, now on student loan debt, since the day the President took office, I have urged him to use every tool available to cancel as much student debt as possible. Yesterday, the American people received some exciting news. President Biden, to his credit, announced a new Executive action to provide student debt relief to nearly 30 million more Americans. Specifically, the President's plan will automatically forgive interest accrued on existing student loans for 25 million borrowers. The President's plan will also automatically cancel the full amount of debt for over 4.5 million Americans who have already qualified for forgiveness through a decade in a repayment program, and it will provide more than 10 million borrowers with at least \$5,000 in debt relief.

This announcement is a clear sign that the President is listening. He is listening to Congress's call to take action, which I have done for years, and he is listening to the pleas of millions of borrowers who want to get their lives back on track. So today's announcement is good news. It is good news for everyone, particularly for young people and people of color. Democrats will continue exploring every option under the Sun to lower costs and make college more affordable.

Already, the President's plan has removed the total debt burden for over 4 million Americans. This plan goes much further. But, on the other hand, unfortunately, our Republican colleagues continue to oppose student debt relief and have wrapped their arms firmly around the MAGA Su-

preme Court's cruel decision to block student debt cancellation for millions of Americans, and Democrats are going to make sure the American people won't forget it.

#### RYAN CORBETT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, now on the Ryan Corbett resolution, it has sadly been over 600 days since Ryan Corbett, a New York native, has been unjustly detained by the Taliban. Ryan traveled there to renew his visa and pay the local staff of his nonprofit when he was taken without cause, without explanation, without any semblance of process.

Later this afternoon, I will meet with the Corbett family to talk about our efforts to bring Ryan home. His wife Anna and their three children have been so brave. I have met them already a few times. They have been brave through this tragic situation, and I am in constant awe of their strength and resolve.

Today, I am introducing a resolution, alongside Leader MCCONNELL, calling for Ryan's immediate and unconditional release. I urge the Senate to pass this resolution before Ryan's birthday, which is April 13.

Throughout this process, I have worked closely with the Corbett family, the White House, the State Department, and other high-ranking officials to make sure that Ryan's safe return remains a top priority. We made progress last September when Ryan was designated as "wrongfully detained" by the State Department, giving his case a higher diplomatic priority, but we are still working.

Anna has spoken with Ryan a few times, and he has been reportedly being held in terrible conditions, which has caused his health to deteriorate rapidly. So time is of the essence to get him back.

As long as Ryan is held by the Taliban, I will never stop fighting to bring him back home and reunite him with Anna, his children, and his family as quickly as possible.

I want to thank Leader MCCONNELL for joining me in this resolution and everyone on both sides who has supported this resolution.

#### JUDICIAL CONFERENCE

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, now on forum shopping, last month, I wrote a letter to the chief judge of the Northern District of Texas urging the district to apply new reforms adopted by the Judicial Conference to limit the practice of judge shopping. I was disappointed to learn that the chief judge and his court have decided to ignore the Judicial Conference's reforms and allow judge shopping to continue to run rampant in his district.

The bottom line is this. It is very simple. Judge shopping jaundices the fairness of our entire legal system. No one, regardless of ideology, should tolerate when interest groups cherry-pick

judges of their choice to get a favorable outcome.

If courts like the Northern District of Texas refuse to adopt commonsense reforms to limit judge shopping, Congress should consider legislation to end this dangerous practice and restore trust in our Federal judiciary.

#### CHIPS AND SCIENCE

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, on Chips, well, this morning, another good announcement from President Biden. He and Commerce Secretary Raimondo announced the preliminary agreement with TSMC Arizona to provide billions in Chips and Science incentives to support more than \$65 billion in investments for three leading-edge fabs in Phoenix, AZ.

Just like the announcement of GlobalFoundries, Intel, and others, today's announcement proves Democrats are delivering in a big way on our promise to bring manufacturing back to the United States, to strengthen our national security, and to get ahead of rising costs from supply chain shortages. Today's announcement is precisely the kind of economic good news we have worked for for years in the Senate.

Five years ago, I approached my friend Senator YOUNG and told him we should work together on bipartisan legislation to boost U.S. investment and innovation in advanced manufacturing. I knew that if America wanted to remain No. 1 in terms of scientific might and industry, we had to get serious about getting the Federal Government to invest.

Thanks to the efforts of people like Senators KELLY and BROWN and CANTWELL and WYDEN and WARNER and many more, we passed Chips and Science into law, and we are now delivering these historic investments to power a new generation of American manufacturing. And there is yet more to come, with further investments in projects like Micron's proposed \$100 billion project in Upstate New York.

So I am thrilled to see that Chips and Science is delivering as intended and congratulate President Biden and Secretary Raimondo on this tremendous effort.

#### SOLAR ECLIPSE

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, finally, I have these glasses today, which were given to me by the president of Fordham University—special Fordham eclipse glasses—so now I am going outside to my balcony to take a look at the eclipse, which is reaching its peak at about 87 percent right now.

I yield the floor.

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Susan M. Bazis, of Nebraska, to be United States District Judge for the District of Nebraska.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

#### NATIONAL SECURITY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, America's adversaries are working overtime to undermine our interests and erode the alliances that protect them.

And it is easy to concede that these challenges as playing out exclusively on the high seas of the Indo-Pacific or the borderlands of Europe or the Middle East. But in reality, the competition is not an "away game." America's greatest strategic rival is threatening our security right here on U.S. soil in tens of millions of American homes.

I am speaking, of course, of TikTok. Today, 170 million Americans are active users of the social media platform that the People's Republic of China treats as a tool of surveillance and propaganda.

TikTok officials like to insist that U.S. users' personal information, browsing histories, keystrokes, and other sensitive data are kept out of the reach of the PRC's teams of censors and propagandists. They claim that what it shows young Americans is what they want to see, not what the PRC wants them to think. But the company's own words shatter this fantasy:

Everything is seen in China.

That is the truth TikTok officials were willing to admit in a leaked recording from behind closed doors. And it shouldn't be all that surprising anyway: Chinese law requires that TikTok's Beijing-based parent company coordinate closely with the PRC.

All sorts of social media platforms can be fountains of disinformation and propaganda. Just look at last week's news about the PRC's efforts to manipulate Taiwan's elections with Twitter accounts driven by AI.

But with TikTok, we are not talking about meddling or hijacking an American platform. In this case, PRC influence and control has been baked in from the very beginning.

With Beijing's blessing, TikTok's algorithm pours gasoline on alarming trends from the glorification of Hamas terrorists to a particularly outrageous

fad that emerged last year where young people "discovered" the wisdom of Osama bin Laden.

I wish I was making this up. But let's be absolutely clear: This isn't a debate about restricting speech. After all, the PRC does enough of that itself. Chinese citizens are barred from accessing TikTok at all.

No matter how loudly TikTok's apologists claim that reining in PRC influence violates the First Amendment, the question we will face is about conduct, not content. I take a backseat to no one when it comes to protecting Americans' First Amendment rights. I have firmly defended American's right to even the most noxious forms of free speech like flag burning. But there is a serious difference between the views that Americans might express on TikTok and the actions taken by a platform that is beholden to our foremost strategic competitor.

Let me borrow an analogy from someone who has been relentless on this issue—FCC Commissioner Brendan Carr. Here is what he had to say:

You can use a pen to write salacious anti-American propaganda, and the government can't censor that content. Nor can it stop Americans from seeking such messages out. But if you use the same pen to pick a lock to steal somebody else's property, the government could prosecute you for illegal conduct.

The PRC has spent years trying to pick the lock of America's communications infrastructure, and the Federal Government has a long history of frustrating Beijing's efforts.

Requiring the divestment of Beijing-influenced entities from TikTok would land squarely within established constitutional precedent, and it would begin to turn back the tide of an enormous threat to America's children and to our Nation's prospects in defining the competition of the 21st century.

This is a matter that deserves Congress's urgent attention, and I will support commonsense, bipartisan steps to take one of Beijing's favorite tools of coercion and espionage off the table.

#### SUPPLEMENTAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Madam President, on a related matter, America's national security depends on sustained investment in both cutting-edge capabilities and expanded defense industrial capacity. That is why I continue to insist on overdue steps like the full-year Defense appropriations and national security supplemental the Senate passed earlier this year. As I have said repeatedly, outcompeting our top strategic adversary, the PRC, means projecting American strength far, far beyond the Indo-Pacific.

Beijing continues to menace Taiwan, the Philippines, and other Asian partners, but it is also conducting influence campaigns across the developing world and deepening its partnership with Moscow and Tehran.

Our closest and strongest allies in China's backyard understand this reality. Even as Japan deals with Chinese

maritime incursions and predatory trade practices at home, its leaders continue to remind us that the threats to Western prosperity and security are all connected.

Prime Minister Kishida, who will visit Washington this week and address a joint session of Congress, said just last week that “Russia’s aggression against Ukraine . . . shakes the foundation of the international order” and that “Japan will continue its cooperation [with] Ukraine.”

Critically, our ally’s words are backed up by actions. Over the past 2 years since Putin’s escalation, Japan has pledged \$12 billion to Ukraine’s resistance. Prime Minister Kishida’s trip to Kyiv last year made him the first Japanese leader to visit a conflict zone since World War II.

Just as importantly, Japan’s growing investments in its Self-Defense Force, including in cutting-edge capabilities like long-range strike—have made Japan an essential partner in deterring aggression in the Indo-Pacific.

Today, there is still room to work even more closely with committed allies like Japan to protect our technology from Chinese theft, leverage our advanced industries to improve collective security, and build more resilient supply chains.

More and more, America’s allies and partners—like the one we will welcome this week—understand both the gravity of the threats we face and the links between them. But, if America intends to remain the primary guarantor of our own security, we have to lead by example, and Congress has an opportunity to do that this week.

RYAN CORBETT

Now, Madam President, on another matter, the disastrous consequences of America’s withdrawal from Afghanistan were both foreseeable and foreseen, and as Taliban rule terrorizes the region and brutalizes the Afghan people, it has also inflicted terrible pain on American families.

I have worked closely with the family of Ryan Corbett, an American citizen detained in Afghanistan by the Taliban.

For over a decade, prior to the fall of Kabul, Ryan and his family lived amongst the Afghan people, where they served the community and ran a business focused on providing Afghans with education and training to start their own businesses. As the Taliban returned to power, the Corbett family was forced to flee, but Ryan made the difficult decision to return, hoping to pay his staff and keep his business afloat. And, on August 10, 2022, the Taliban detained him without charge.

For 607 days, Ryan has been confined to a 9-by-9 basement cell, with scraps for food, little to no sunlight, and intermittent contact with his family. After nearly 2 years of wrongful detention, his hopes of ever returning to America are dimming.

Earlier this afternoon, I had a chance to meet with Ryan’s wife, Anna, their

three teenaged children, and his parents, Drue and Evelyn, from Louisville. Now, more than ever, they fear for Ryan’s life.

Today, the Democratic leader and I have introduced a resolution calling for Ryan’s immediate release. It reaffirms America’s commitment to freeing Ryan and raising the international stakes of the Taliban’s wrongful detention of American citizens.

Unfortunately, while Ryan languishes in captivity, the Biden administration sends a different message to his captors. Since his detention, the U.S. Government has sent roughly \$1 billion in aid to a country in the tight grip of a medieval, theocratic regime.

It is time to put the Taliban’s violent rule on notice. It is time to show our enemies that the United States will not let American citizens be used as bargaining chips. It is time to bring Ryan Corbett home.

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

WORLD CENTRAL KITCHEN

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, last week, we saw another tragedy in Gaza—an attack that killed seven people delivering desperately needed, life-saving humanitarian aid. The victims were employees of the World Central Kitchen, an amazing organization run by an extraordinary individual, Jose Andres.

They started to feed people in Haiti after the 2010 earthquake, and they have continued their mission in some of the most challenging parts of the world. Andres’ innovative and courageous team has been helping people in Gaza since the crisis began in October, providing critical food to millions of innocents caught in the conflict.

I joined Mr. Andres in a meeting in our Capitol just a few weeks ago with a few other Senators. He told us of his ambitious plans to increase food aid to Gaza.

I have always admired his ingenuity and tenacity in taking on these truly lifesaving operations for those most in need. Mr. Andres is truly a hero. So my heart goes out to him and the families of those on his team who were recklessly and avoidably killed last week, adding to the more than 200 aid workers who have been killed in Gaza.

We have seen a series of seemingly cascading crises in this conflict, and the list keeps growing: October 7, the Hamas attack on Israel that killed 1,200 and took more than 200 people hostage; the widespread destruction and loss of civilian life and growing humanitarian crisis in Gaza amid Israel’s response that lacks any long-term strategy and is made worse by Hamas’s hiding among civilians; the continued holding of Israeli hostages, including one with ties to our home State of Illinois, by Hamas and Hamas’s refusal to accept a ceasefire in exchange for their release; the bewildering and inexcusable failure of Israel to set up deconfliction mechanisms for adequate aid delivery; and the failure to recog-

nize that a massive military-only response by Israel will never provide a long-term path to stability and end the cycle of violence.

I have long said that I do not think the current Israeli or Palestinian leadership is really up to the challenge needed to bring hope, stability, or a viable two-state solution to the region. Early in the conflict, I cautioned the Israelis not to be blinded by their pain from October 7 and make the same types of mistakes we made after September 11—a warning I believe the current leadership in Israel has failed to heed.

But, if unable to learn from our missteps, then perhaps they should listen to former Mossad Chief Meir Dagan, who, before his death years ago, concluded that Israel, over the decades, “achieved a long string of impressive tactical successes but also disastrous strategic failures.” Tragically, I am worried that that is the same case today.

Chef Andres has made a similar point with which I agree—that Israel’s strategy in Gaza is futile and indefensible with so much innocent loss of human life.

I have long called for a ceasefire that includes the release of the remaining hostages as well as a sustained, U.S.-led Gaza relief operation that includes food, medicine, and other critical basics. The inexcusable deaths of the World Central Kitchen staff in Gaza are reminders that these steps are needed now more than ever.

(The remarks of Mr. DURBIN pertaining to the introduction of S. Res. 629 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 legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. 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.

MAYORKAS IMPEACHMENT

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, as we all know, 2 months ago, the House of Representatives impeached Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, who has led the Department of Homeland Security since the beginning of the Biden administration.

For 3 years, Secretary Mayorkas has overseen the record-breaking crisis at the southern border. During that time, Customs and Border Protection have logged more than 7.4 million migrant encounters—more than two previous administrations combined—and that was over a period of 12 years. In 3 years, the Biden administration has accomplished what took 12 years for the Obama and Trump administrations.

Law enforcement’s focused response on migrant crossings has caused security missions, including drug interdiction, to take a hit. Staffing shortages

have led the Agency to temporarily close international bridges and ports, which have had a severe and negative impact on Texas border communities. And cities across the country, including those located thousands of miles from the border, are being crushed by the weight of caring for migrants.

Well, that is hardly a positive reflection on Secretary Mayorkas's tenure as DHS Secretary. Throughout the Secretary's tenure, rather than acknowledge the reality and double down on efforts to deal with it, he essentially tried to gloss over it or ignore it. The American people have watched as he has repeatedly downplayed the severity of the border crisis, using watered-down language like it is a "challenge" or "situation." They have disputed his claims that the border is secure as they saw footage of migrants walking virtually unimpeded across the border and filling shelters to capacity and beyond.

The American people have raised their eyebrows as he tried to blame Congress for the crisis, even though there are no new laws in effect or no fewer laws in effect than there were during the Trump administration, certainly nothing that Congress has done or did not do which has prompted the dramatic spike in illegal immigration.

The truth is, Secretary Mayorkas is bad at his job. That is not news to anyone. But incompetence, by itself, is not an impeachable offense. We have had a number of inept Cabinet Secretaries throughout our country's history who ended their career without the stain of impeachment.

Well, despite what some of our Democratic colleagues have claimed, Secretary Mayorkas was not impeached because he is unpopular or just because he is incompetent. He was impeached for two serious offenses, in my opinion, the first of which is his willful and systematic refusal to enforce our immigration laws. Secretary Mayorkas has consistently defied the laws that Congress has passed and which have been signed into law by the President of the United States. He has defied the law and the will of Congress by ignoring detention mandates.

Before the U.S. Supreme Court, his lawyer said the words "shall detain" are permissive; it really means "may." Earlier this year, he told Border Patrol agents in Eagle Pass, TX, that the current release rate for migrants caught crossing the border illegally was above 85 percent. So you had a 15-percent chance of not being detained even if you were caught. Apparently, he is proud of that.

Secretary Mayorkas has made catch-and-release the de facto policy of the U.S. Government, which is in direct contravention of our immigration laws. And we can't ignore the Secretary's unprecedented abuse of a process known as parole. Parole was designed to grant temporary entry to foreign nationals in rare and dire circumstances, such as someone experiencing a medical emergency at a port

of entry or donating a kidney or being a witness in a trial. It was never designed to be used categorically or more than on a case-by-case basis.

Congress has made clear that parole is intended for urgent circumstances and should be only granted in extraordinary individual cases. But the Secretary violated that law, too, and has used parole to wave broad classes of migrants into the United States.

In less than 2 years, the Biden administration has used this case-by-case authority to grant parole for more than 1.6 million migrants. That is in clear and blatant violation of the law, but that is OK with Secretary Mayorkas, apparently.

The Secretary's failures, though, extend far beyond policy decisions. As I noted, he was impeached for two offenses, the second of which is breaching the public trust. The American people have watched as Secretary Mayorkas went on cable news programs or testified under oath before congressional committees repeatedly proclaiming that the border was secure. It was clearly a lie. It doesn't take an immigration policy expert to see that his claim has no basis in reality.

Day after day, the American people have seen footage that shows how insecure America's southern border is. From the roughly 15,000 migrants who set up camp in Del Rio, TX, a few years ago to the hundreds of migrants who rushed Texas National Guard troops in El Paso last month, there has been no shortage of evidence about our insecure border.

It is not just the misleading and false statements on cable news networks. On more than one occasion, Secretary Mayorkas lied under oath to Congress. He told Members of Congress that the border was secure when, clearly, it was anything but.

The United States will be dealing with the consequences of this crisis for years, maybe even decades. And Secretary Mayorkas must be held accountable. The House of Representatives was completely correct to impeach Secretary Mayorkas, and now the Senate has a duty under the Constitution to hold a trial.

Unfortunately, this has become a familiar process for a majority of our Senate colleagues. In both 2019 and 2021, the Democratic-controlled House impeached President Trump. At the time, my Republican colleagues and I criticized the motivations and process behind these impeachment inquiries, but those concerns didn't impact the process on the Senate floor.

Despite our personal views about the House's actions, the Republican-led Senate still carried out our constitutional duty to convene a Court of Impeachment. In both cases, Senators were sworn as jurors. We listened patiently to both sides as they presented their arguments. And, in the end, we had a fair "guilty" or "not guilty" vote.

Prior to the impeachment of Secretary Mayorkas, the House had sent

impeachment articles to the Senate 21 times, and the Senate has held a full trial in all but four instances. In three cases, all of whom were Federal judges, the person resigned before the Senate could vote to convict or acquit. And in the final case, the impeached Senator was expelled from this Chamber before his trial.

There has never ever in U.S. history been a case in which the Senate dismissed or tabled impeachment articles and moved on. Not once. Unfortunately, if reports in the news are correct, that is likely to change this week. The House is expected to transmit the Articles of Impeachment this Wednesday.

Senators haven't received direct guidance, but according to the press, the majority leader is expected to take the completely unprecedented step of voting to table the impeachment articles and eliminate a trial entirely, in violation of the Constitution. As I said, this would be the first time in our Nation's history that the Senate failed to do its duty to consider evidence, hear witnesses, and allow Senators to vote guilty or not guilty.

This would be a dangerous precedent to set. It would give future Senates carte blanche to dispense with serious charges against our Nation's most senior officials. What goes around comes around. If Secretary Mayorkas's impeachment articles are tabled, that will become the common practice in the future.

Impeachment is one of the most solemn features in our democracy, and the majority leader must not brush these articles under the rug. I can understand why he may want to because the evidence that will be adduced at trial will be damning, both for Secretary Mayorkas and for the Biden administration's policies, which are essentially open-border policies. But at least House impeachment managers and Secretary Mayorkas's defense team deserve the opportunity to present their best case before the Senate. And the majority leader should not prevent that from happening.

I would like to remind the majority leader of some words he spoke himself back in 2019. At that point, the balance of power in Washington was completely the inverse of what it is today. We had a Republican majority in the Senate, a Democratic majority in the House, and a Republican in the White House.

After House Democrats impeached President Trump, the majority leader, the Senator from New York, came to the Senate floor to talk about the process he would like to see in a Republican-led Senate. He said:

To my Republican colleagues: Our message is a simple one. Democrats want a fair trial that examines the relevant facts . . . The message from Leader MCCONNELL, at the moment, is that he has no intention of conducting a fair trial, no intention of acting impartially, no intention of getting the facts.

But contrary to what Senator SCHUMER predicted, the Senate went on to

fulfill its constitutional responsibility to hold a trial. We spent more than 2 weeks hearing arguments from both sides—so the American people could judge for themselves—before holding a vote at the conclusion of the presentation of the evidence.

So now I would like to echo the Senator's statement from a few years ago, but with a few small changes. To my Democratic colleagues, our message is a simple one: Republicans want a fair trial that examines the relevant facts.

The message from Leader SCHUMER, at the moment, is that he has no intention of conducting a fair trial, no intention of acting impartially, and no intention of getting to the facts.

It would be completely unprecedented and unjustified for the Senate to shirk its constitutional role as a Court of Impeachment. The House voted to impeach Secretary Mayorkas, and the Senate has a duty to hold a trial. The majority leader should perform his duty and should not impede or ignore that constitutional requirement.

So I urge the majority leader to take his own advice from 2019 and to give the Senate an opportunity to hold a thorough and fair impeachment trial and let the chips fall where they may.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Maryland.

FRANCIS SCOTT KEY BRIDGE

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, on Tuesday morning, March 26, I received a phone call early in the morning informing me of a major tragedy in our community.

The Francis Scott Key Bridge is a vital link on the I-95 corridor. It is a bridge that is about a mile and a half long. It goes across the channel that is for the Port of Baltimore, and it is incredibly important to our local economy and to our image. It is iconic to Baltimore.

I was shocked to see the image. There was a video that showed that this bridge—a mile and a half long—came down in a matter of seconds. It was hit by a vessel, the *Dali*. That is a container vessel. It is about the size of the Eiffel Tower, a little less than a thousand feet long, fully contained with containers. Over several thousand were on the *Dali* at the time.

It lost power, and, when you lose power on this type of vessel, you cannot steer. It hit the main support beam of the suspension bridge, and it collapsed almost immediately. Within a minute, it was down.

It was just a tragic sight to see. When we saw this sight, we recognized that there was loss of life. That was our first concern, as to how many people were trapped on that bridge and how many people were at risk of losing their lives.

I want to tell you that there was an immediate Federal response. I am going to show you a picture of what we saw on the morning when we woke up. You saw the bridge before. This is the bridge that came down in a matter of a

minute, less than a minute. This is the *Dali*, fully loaded with containers.

You can see that the bridge is actually lying in part on top of the *Dali* ship, actually entrapping some of the containers. And this is the main channel—the 50-foot main channel—to the Port of Baltimore, completely blocking the Port of Baltimore.

There was an immediate Federal response, and I want to thank President Biden. He initially said that the government would be there to do whatever was needed, whatever we called upon. He called each member of our stakeholders—the Governor, our mayor, Senator VAN HOLLEN, Congressman MFUME, and myself—and pledged the full support of the Federal Government. In a matter of literally hours, the personnel and resources of the Federal Government were deployed to Baltimore.

So I just really want to thank the President, first, for this immediate response, and let me just bring you up to date on some of the facts concerning this tragedy.

We now know that six immigrant workers lost their lives. They were trapped in the water and could not escape. They were on the bridge at the time that it collapsed. They were doing dangerous work—keeping our roads safer, building America. They went to work early that morning to work on the bridge—or late at night—and did not return home.

I need to point out that the first responders saved lives. We have looked at the recordings. In a matter of just a couple of minutes after the pilot broadcast an SOS, basically saying they lost control of the vessel and it was aimed toward the bridge, the first responders went into action. Miraculously, they closed the bridge within those couple of minutes, so that there were no passenger cars on the bridge when it collapsed.

They were able to rescue two of the workers. One was able to escape the bridge by being called off the bridge. The other went into the water and was rescued and had, basically, minor injuries.

But we lost six souls from this tragedy, and our prayers, our thoughts are with those families. We have not yet brought closure to those families. You see, we are still in a recovery mission to locate the remains so the families can bring full closure.

The Port of Baltimore is so critical to our economy. The 50-foot channel that is 700 feet long, which is totally blocked by the bridge collapse, basically shut down the Port of Baltimore.

Now, the Port of Baltimore has been a port of commerce since the 1700s. It is the third largest port in the United States. It is the largest port for roll-on, roll-off of automobiles, of farm equipment, and construction equipment. It moves about \$80 billion—\$80 billion—of import-export products a year. It is estimated that there is between \$100 and \$200 million of cargo moving every day

through the Port of Baltimore. It moves 1.1 million containers a year through the Port of Baltimore.

So, as you can see, this catastrophic event—yes, it affected the people of Baltimore and our workers, but it also affected the entire nation. Twenty thousand workers are directly dependent upon the Port of Baltimore, and their jobs have been put at risk.

But the supply chains of autos affect auto dealers throughout our Nation. The farm equipment that comes through the Port of Baltimore affects farmers throughout the Nation. The raw materials, the coal, the steel, the aluminum, the iron—and the list goes on and on and on—affect our entire country. In fact, 20 percent of the exported coal from the United States is exported through the Port of Baltimore. So, yes, we have workers who are out of work, and one of our top priorities is to help them during this period of time.

I met, for example, with a truck driver. He has two employees. This is typical. Remember, moving 1.1 million containers—many of those goes by truck. Most of those trucking companies are small businesses.

As the Presiding Officer knows, in the Small Business Committee, we are very concerned about the strength of small businesses during these types of events. I am very pleased that we were able to get the Small Business Administrator to Baltimore, and an emergency declaration was made. But it not only affects small businesses in Baltimore, with this emergency, but also in Pennsylvania, also in Virginia, also in Delaware, also in West Virginia, and also in DC. This is a national issue.

Our next priority is to reopen the channel. This is a vessel that is almost a thousand feet long and is fully loaded. I am going to show you a photo that shows you the challenges that we have.

This is the *Dali*, which you can clearly see. This is the bridge that is lying on top of the *Dali*. It is actually trapping a lot of the containers. This is part of what came down. This is a 4,000-ton piece of the bridge that is on the bow of the ship. That is going to have to be removed.

We have looked at underground photos of what is underneath the channel from the collapsed bridge, and we see a real mess. We see concrete, rebar, steel, all mixed together. And here is the challenge—and I want to give a shout-out to the Army Corps. I want to give a shout-out to the divers who have been under dangerous conditions and have been going down and taking a look at what is in the channel. Once they remove a piece of the bridge, they are going to have to cut it and make it into smaller pieces to be able to remove it. We don't know whether that will cause a shift in the debris.

Our first priority is the safety of the people performing this work. It is like cutting a spring. You could have a reaction. And we have to do surveys

again after each one of the removals. This is very, very difficult work, and it is being done by true professionals. And, again, I thank the Federal Government for providing the experts who are all now in Baltimore, figuring out how to get that channel open.

And we are going to need a replacement bridge. This is a main corridor along the I-95 east coast of the United States, and 30,000 vehicles travel through it a day. So we need to replace that bridge. The bridge was built in 1977, 1.76 miles. It is an engineering marvel of its time for a suspension bridge, and it took 5 years to build. So we have an enormous challenge.

I had the chance to personally visit the site. Actually, I think I took this photo from a Coast Guard vessel. You see it. It is just a horrific site to see the work that is being done.

But I want to give a shout-out to the unified command headed by the Coast Guard. They started the day of the tragedy, and they have been there every day, 24/7, leading a unified command that includes the Army Corps of Engineers, which will do most of the salvage work within the channel itself. The Coast Guard, of course, is keeping everyone safe.

We also have the Department of Defense because we need some of their equipment in order to be able to move the debris.

It includes the Department of Transportation. Secretary Buttigieg was there the day of the incident. I talked to him early in the morning. A few hours later, I was with him at the site. And his team has been there every day, and he has returned to provide relief.

I want to thank him for giving us the emergency relief funds, immediately approved, so we could start doing the work in regards to the traffic problems that we had and starting to plan for the replacement of the bridge. I want to thank him for that. Those emergency funds of \$60 million were desperately needed. We got it immediately thanks to the commitment of the Biden administration.

I want to thank Administrator Guzman, of the Small Business Administration. She was there. I talked to her, I think, a day or two after the episode. She came to Baltimore and had a roundtable discussion to talk to the small businesses as to what they need. They are doing EIDL loans, and they have set up business recovery centers—one in Dundalk and one in Baltimore City—so the businesses can get the help they need on site.

And I was there. I have met with a lot of small business owners. They have lots of questions. They impressed upon me the urgency of their needs and that we need to coordinate our response.

I want to give a shout-out also to the Department of Labor, which has been there. They have provided us with displaced worker grants in order to help those who cannot get work so that we can deal with those who have been directly impacted.

Mayor Scott of Baltimore has been one of our true great leaders throughout this. County Executive Olszewski from Baltimore County and County Executive Steuart Pittman from Anne Arundel County—all have been involved in this, along with Senator VAN HOLLEN and Congressman MFUME.

I want to thank our colleagues. Senator SCHUMER was right there at the beginning, saying he is there to help wherever the Senate can.

I want to thank Senator MCCONNELL for his comments, where he said: In situations like this, whether it is a hurricane in Florida or an accident like this, the Federal Government will step up.

Now, the result of this has been that we have provided support for the families of the victims who lost their lives. We have met with the workers—the ILA workers—and we are trying to make sure they can get through this period of time.

We have met with small business owners.

The engineers here have been unbelievable. The Army Corps has been here 24/7. They have opened two alternative channels—one 14 feet, one 11 feet. That gets just a minimal amount of traffic through. But they are working on the northern part of the channel—that is not where the *Dali* is, but the other side of the channel—to open a 35-foot channel by the end of this month. If we can do that, that will return about 75 percent of the business to the Port of Baltimore, which will be extremely important for our economy. By the end of May, the engineers believe they can have the entire 50-foot channel opened.

In the meantime, we have improved Tradepoint Atlantic. Tradepoint Atlantic is not affected by the bridge. We were able to secure a grant for Tradepoint Atlantic in 2020 to help prepare it as a port facility. Those funds were reallocated in a matter of days from the accident so they could use it to pave 10 acres of property for roll-on/roll-off cargo that would normally go to a port inside of the bridge that will be now offloaded and can be done immediately.

The bridge. We already started with the design of the bridge. It may take some time. Remember, it took 5 years to build this originally. It may take more time before we can get that done. We need your support. We are going to need our colleagues to help us through this.

In Minnesota, the full-cost legislation was passed in a matter of days. We are going to be coming to Congress asking for some help in regard to the funding to make sure that 100 percent of it is paid for by the Federal Government. We recognize that when you have a catastrophic event like this, that we come together as a nation. We have done it in the past, and we are going to ask for help this time.

I know that there is going to be third-party liabilities. We hope there are moneys that can be recovered from

those responsible for this tragedy—in insurance proceeds, et cetera. Those funds will go to reimburse the taxpayers. We are going to be aggressive getting every dollar we can. But it cannot delay the opening of the channel and rebuilding of the bridge. We have to make sure that is done as properly as possible. Right now, traffic is detoured. It is a mess through that area. We have to get that bridge replaced.

The story of the Francis Scott Key Bridge does not end here. We will rebuild the bridge. In the 70 years that bridge has been open, the capacity has grown. Cargo capacity has grown in our region by 3,000 percent. The Port of Baltimore will remain strong and we will, as Governor Moore said, be “Maryland tough” and “Baltimore strong.”

I want to thank my colleagues for their understanding of this tragedy and their support as we move forward to open the Baltimore channel and to rebuild the bridge.

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. WICKER. 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.

ISRAEL

Mr. WICKER. Madam President, in 1948, President Truman recognized the State of Israel on behalf of the United States. He clearly called for the world “to accord the State of Israel the right of self-defense.”

In the decades since, American leaders have stood by Israel. Our support has been reliable, spanning Presidential administrations and congressional terms. It has been bipartisan. President Eisenhower continued President Truman’s promise to stand with Israel, establishing a bipartisan tradition cemented by Presidents from Kennedy to Reagan, from Clinton to Trump.

In America, voters regularly select new parties to lead our country. Administrations come and go. Congresses come and go. That volatility makes it all the more profound that we have always kept our solemn promise to stand with our allies.

It has now been 75 years since President Truman made this vow. For those many decades, Israel’s position has always been and will be to live peacefully in its ancestral land alongside its Arab and largely Muslim neighbors.

Slowly, often grudgingly, other nations in that region have come around to that position.

Egypt agreed to peace with Israel in 1979. Jordan has been a longtime U.S. partner and has lived in peace with Israel since 1994. Recently, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain agreed to partnership with Israel in the Abraham Accords.



One regime that has continually rejected the international consensus about Israel is the Islamic Republic of Iran. Three decades into the 21st century, Iran and its proxies continue to pursue Israel's absolute annihilation. Coexistence has never been the policy of Iran or its terrorist proxy group Hamas.

Disturbingly, we find adherents of that view here at home. Last week in Michigan, protesters chanted "Death to Israel" and "Death to America," rejecting either country's right to even exist. This is one example of the rise of anti-Israel and anti-Semitic incidents we have seen since October 7. They show us what our Jewish friends and allies fight against every day.

Of course, the protests and chants remind us of a pivotal event. Yesterday, we marked the 6-month anniversary of the October 7 attacks. Hamas, backed by Iran, demonstrated both its goal—the annihilation of Israel—and its strategy—the murder and hostage-taking of civilians.

October 7 was one of the worst attacks on the Jewish people since the Holocaust. It was a nightmare scenario that eight decades of Israeli citizens have had to guard against. In light of those atrocities, our task is clear: We need to reaffirm Israel's right to self-defense.

Since October 7, Hamas has continued to pursue its goal by the same strategies. It single-mindedly seeks to wipe Israel off the map and does not care how many innocent people are lost on the way, how many families are burned alive. Hamas's entire operation is a violation of international law. By contrast, Israel has essentially been striving to administer civilian aid while uprooting terrorists who hide behind those civilians—all in dense urban settings.

International friends and allies can and should give advice and counsel to each other on issues of mutual security and diplomacy. That has always been the practice between Israel and the United States. On the other hand, it is wrong to make demands of an ally and to suggest that vital aid to them will be withheld unless those demands are met. This is especially true when those conditions are ones which we ourselves could never accept.

War is always a tragedy. On top of that, it also carries accidental sorrows in its wake. The killing of seven World Central Kitchen aid workers was an avoidable and unmitigated tragedy. Our hearts break for their loved ones, their colleagues, and others delivering humanitarian assistance around the world.

And this is personal to me. Teams from World Central Kitchen have come to the aid of my State of Mississippi. World Central Kitchen was there on the ground during the recent Jackson water crisis. They answered the call in the wake of the 2023 tornadoes. I am an advocate and friend of Jose Andres. I have worn the "World Central Kitch-

en" cap in Poland when I spent time serving meals to refugees from the brutal Russian invasion.

I believe that Israel takes the workers' deaths seriously too. The Israeli Defense Forces assumed responsibility right away. Its leaders promptly launched an investigation. Since then, the Israeli Government has said that the military committed "serious violations" of protocol. They have admitted this about themselves. They fired two officers and disciplined three others for mishandling information and breaking the Israeli Defense Forces' rules of engagement.

That is more than the Biden administration can say about themselves. In the chaos of our disastrous Afghanistan withdrawal, our military shelled a car in Kabul. Leaders initially feared the vehicle carried explosives destined for American servicemembers, but it turned out to be a civilian vehicle, and 10 innocent people, including 7 children, died at our hands. The Biden administration took far longer than Israel to own up to that mistake. I am glad our country did eventually acknowledge our fault.

This shows that the free world holds ourselves to exacting standards of care for the innocent caught in harm's way—including the thousands who have died in Gaza since October 7.

Time and again, Israeli combatants have published warnings before taking a building. They regularly give evacuation notices to civilians. In so protecting the innocent, they risk giving the enemy a heads-up, but they do this. Yet it has become fashionable to hold Israel to unachievable standards, benchmarks to which we do not hold ourselves or any other ally.

Hamas does not place itself under such handicaps. This Iranian proxy, Hamas, has no regard for the standards of civilian protection. For one of many examples, look no further than the hostages taken October 7 and their often brutal treatment.

Unfortunately, our President's recent call for a cease-fire plays directly into Hamas's hands. Our Commander in Chief's priority should be the release of hostages and victory for our ally. But instead of displaying American resolve, our President seems to be mollifying the left wing of his party.

Calling for a cease-fire instead of hostage release and unconditional victory creates a false equivalence between Israel and Hamas. After Pearl Harbor, no one asked us about a cease-fire. After 9/11, no one asked the United States about a cease-fire.

We need to remember that Israel is fighting terrorists bent only on the destruction of the Jewish State. Hamas's leadership has vowed to commit repeats of the October 7 massacres. If this terrorist group is not totally eradicated, it will continue killing and kidnapping.

To paraphrase former Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir, if Hamas put down their weapons today, there would

be no more violence; if Israel put down their weapons today, there would be no more Israel.

Hamas started this conflict, and they could end it today. Hamas could let hostages walk out of the tunnels and into the sunshine. Its militants could stop using women and children and aid workers and healthcare workers as human shields.

We need to give our steadfast ally what it needs to win this battle. Victory has to be our position.

I believe we should keep our promises to our friends. Our Commander in Chief threatens to break that promise to Israel today.

The President's call for an immediate cease-fire is tantamount to a call for Hamas to remain in business, to reestablish itself for future atrocities. That is not something Israel will allow—nor should they—and it is not something we should ask of Israel or any other partner or ally.

A world in which a terrorist organization can win by committing mass murder is a more dangerous world for us all. The allies who have stood by us for 7½ decades and who stood by us after 9/11 understood that then, and we should not forget that now.

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. MORAN. 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.

#### TRIBUTE TO RICK WEBB

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, I rise today to recognize Watco Executive Chairman Rick Webb, who recently was inducted into the American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association's Short Line Hall of Fame.

Watco is a transportation and supply chain service company headquartered in Pittsburg, KS, with a 40-year legacy of excellence in industrial transportation. Rick Webb has been, and continues to be, an integral part of that legacy.

Rick's father, Dick Webb, founded the company in 1983, and Rick began working on the Watco team while he was finishing his degree at the local Pittsburg State University.

He joined the family business full time after graduating in 1984, taking on a diverse portfolio of responsibilities including operations, marketing, hiring personnel, and raising capital.

In 1987, Watco purchased its first short line to primarily serve its own railcar repair shop. In 1998, Webb became Watco's chief executive officer, taking the reins from his father. After two decades of service as Watco's chief executive, Rick turned over leadership to Dan Smith and took on the role of executive chairman, where he continues to steward the growth of the business and the family's customer-first model of service.



Rick Webb has been with Watco from the beginning, and during his tenure with the company, it has grown from one facility to more than 190 locations operating in four countries. That growth is in no small part due to Rick Webb's leadership.

Rick is the kind of person you want to follow. He is the kind of person you can always take at his word. When I think about what it means to be a Kansan—a person of good character, strong integrity, authenticity—Rick is that person.

But I cannot talk about Rick's character without recognizing the person who played a tremendous role in shaping him. Kaye Lynne Webb, his mom, helped build Watco and raised a son of the highest caliber. She is an amazing woman and an integral part of the Webb family and the company.

Knowing Rick and the quality of his character, I was pleased to learn that he was inducted into the American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association's Hall of Fame on March 25, 2024.

An article in the *Pittsburg Morning Sun* notes that the American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association established this award in 2020 to acknowledge "visionaries and stars who through their dedication, commitment and achievement best exemplify the qualities of innovation, entrepreneurialism, perseverance and service that have advanced the short line railroad industry." Rick has met and continues to exceed this standard.

The same article highlighted the current Watco CEO Dan Smith's praise of Rick for his consistency as a leader. The article included the following description of Rick by Smith:

He's truly a great man. I would say that he's the best teammate I've ever had; he's the best coach I've ever had; he's the best friend I've had.

Throughout his time at Watco, Rick has been driven by an unrelenting desire to serve the best team possible to serve customers in the best manner. Rick has carried with him the belief that if you want to learn how to grow the top line, you listen to your customer, and if you want to learn how to grow the bottom line, you listen to your team.

Rick's business knowledge and Kansas work ethic have earned him many accolades over the years, including being named the 2010 Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year in the Central Midwest Region and winning the 2022 Railroad Innovator Award from *Progressive Railroad* magazine.

In addition to Rick's induction into the American Short Line Hall of Fame, the American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association has honored Watco with the Veterans Engagement Award for their dedication to veteran recruitment.

I want to congratulate Rick and the entire Watco team on their successful accomplishments and achievements. It is certainly nice to have a great busi-

nessman and a great business in Kansas called Watco, but even better, it is great to have a person of Rick's caliber, his character, and his interest in the community.

Many towns the size of Pittsburg, KS, and many communities in Kansas, generally, have a set of people who are always involved in whatever good happens in the community. Rick Webb and his family have been consistent in their support for the Pittsburg and Southeast Kansas communities and for their support for Pittsburg State University.

I look forward to seeing their business continue to flourish as they fulfill the mission of serving their customers, their employees, and elevating the standard for short line railroads for Kansas, our Nation, and the world. But I especially thank him for being the kind of person he is and how much difference he makes in Pittsburg, in Kansas, in the country, and the world.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Ms. DUCKWORTH. I ask unanimous consent that the scheduled vote begin immediately.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

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

The 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. 534, Susan M. Bazis, of Nebraska, to be United States District Judge for the District of Nebraska.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Peter Welch, Laphonza Butler, Richard Blumenthal, Alex Padilla, Tim Kaine, Christopher A. Coons, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Margaret Wood Hassan, Sheldon Whitehouse, Gary C. Peters, Catherine Cortez Masto, Jeanne Shaheen, Tammy Duckworth, Tina Smith, Chris Van Hollen.

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 Susan M. Bazis, of Nebraska, to be United States District Judge for the District of Nebraska, 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 Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), the Senator from Washington (Mrs.

MURRAY), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 68, nays 18, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 115 Ex.]

#### YEAS—68

|              |              |            |
|--------------|--------------|------------|
| Baldwin      | Heinrich     | Ricketts   |
| Barrasso     | Hickenlooper | Risch      |
| Bennet       | Hirono       | Rosen      |
| Blackburn    | Hyde-Smith   | Rounds     |
| Blumenthal   | Johnson      | Sanders    |
| Booker       | Kaine        | Schatz     |
| Butler       | Kelly        | Schumer    |
| Cantwell     | Kennedy      | Shaheen    |
| Capito       | Klobuchar    | Sinema     |
| Cardin       | Lee          | Smith      |
| Carper       | Lummis       | Stabenow   |
| Casey        | Manchin      | Tester     |
| Collins      | Markey       | Thune      |
| Coons        | McConnell    | Tillis     |
| Cornyn       | Menendez     | Van Hollen |
| Cortez Masto | Merkley      | Warner     |
| Crapo        | Moran        | Warnock    |
| Duckworth    | Murkowski    | Warren     |
| Durbin       | Ossoff       | Whitehouse |
| Fischer      | Padilla      | Wicker     |
| Gillibrand   | Paul         | Wyden      |
| Graham       | Peters       | Young      |
| Grassley     | Reed         |            |

#### NAYS—18

|         |          |            |
|---------|----------|------------|
| Boozman | Daines   | Mullin     |
| Braun   | Hagerty  | Schmitt    |
| Britt   | Hawley   | Scott (FL) |
| Budd    | Hoeven   | Scott (SC) |
| Cotton  | Lankford | Sullivan   |
| Cruz    | Marshall | Tuberville |

#### NOT VOTING—14

|           |        |        |
|-----------|--------|--------|
| Brown     | Hassan | Romney |
| Cassidy   | King   | Rubio  |
| Cramer    | Lujan  | Vance  |
| Ernst     | Murphy | Welch  |
| Fetterman | Murray |        |

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HEINRICH). On this vote, the yeas are 68, the nays are 18.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

#### MAYORKAS IMPEACHMENT

Mr. BRAUN. Mr. President, I come to the floor this evening because we have some serious business ahead of us soon.

For Laken Riley, Ruby Garcia, and the countless Americans who have died from fentanyl, the Senate must hold a full impeachment trial for Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas. Secretary Mayorkas is breaking the law every day he releases illegal immigrants into the United States. The Department of Homeland Security is required under law to detain these immigrants. Biden and Mayorkas's catch-and-release policy releases illegal aliens into the United States without even issuing a notice to appear for immigration proceedings.

Secretary Mayorkas is the most important player in President Biden's open border agenda, but we must first remember it is the President who is calling the shots. President Biden took the actions that opened our border. On day one, he personally stopped construction of the wall. He alone signed

the Executive order to allow illegals to be counted in the census to decide how large congressional districts are. This is a direct attack on our most important democratic institution. It was President Biden who ended the “Remain in Mexico” policy, leading to millions released into our communities.

It was a criminal coward who killed Laken Riley, but it was President Biden and Secretary Mayorkas who welcomed him into the country. It was sanctuary city policies that kept him here. Laken Riley’s death was a complete failure of our government to protect our own citizens. Yet not one person has lost a job due to it.

It is no wonder President Biden’s allies want to sweep this impeachment under the rug and break the rules of the Senate by failing to hold an impeachment trial.

Every Senator must stand up for the American people and vote down the motion to kill the impeachment trial. The American people deserve to hear the truth of how President Joe Biden opened their country’s borders to the world and the American lives lost because of it.

I will be voting to hold a full impeachment trial of Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas. If a full trial does not happen, he has clearly lost the faith of the American people to protect our borders and he should resign immediately and President Biden should be held accountable by the American public this November.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. SCHMITT. Mr. President, I rise to bring attention to the matter of grave importance to the Senate. My friend and colleague from Indiana just spoke about this just a few minutes ago. We are going to be delivered Articles of Impeachment to this Chamber, which is a very important role that the Senate plays in our constitutional structure, our constitutional order. All of us are sworn in as jurors. This is a solemn act. We swear when we take our oath that we will abide by the Constitution, we will protect the Constitution. This is something we are supposed to do.

Politically speaking, Secretary Mayorkas has been a disaster. If you could have a Mount Rushmore of worst Cabinet members in the history of the United States of America, he would be on that Mount Rushmore. Legally speaking, he has undermined the laws of the United States.

But before we get there, we actually have to have a trial. In no instance in the history of this great Republic—in 240-plus years—has this body, the world’s greatest deliberative body ever, in the history of our country, dismissed or tabled Articles of Impeachment for someone who is still serving in office or alive. Let me repeat that: It has never happened.

To quote my colleague from New York who often says this: History is

watching. CHUCK SCHUMER, history is watching, because 200 years from now, God willing, in this Republic, people will be in our chairs. We don’t know their names. They will be referring back to the precedent that is set in this Chamber to go down a road we have never gone down.

Vote how you want to vote based on the evidence, your point of view. Vote how you want to vote. But the idea that we would be setting this very dangerous precedent because CHUCK SCHUMER doesn’t want it in the news cycle for a couple of days is ridiculous. For my friends on both sides of the aisle that care about this place, this is, perhaps, the most dangerous act you could inflict upon us, short of blowing up the filibuster, to say that we are not going to hear the evidence; that we are not going to vote as Senators because we are afraid of a news cycle, which, by the way, would highlight the total and utter disaster that happens at our border.

Mr. President, 9 million people have come across illegally. I rise to point out just one aspect of that that is incredibly dangerous for this country—the number of Chinese nationals that are coming here. There have been 22,233 encounters of Chinese nationals crossing illegally at the northern and southern borders so far in fiscal year 2024. There were 24,125 encounters last year. To put that scale in perspective, there were just 342 apprehensions of Chinese nationals in 1987 and fiscal year 2022. That is a dramatic increase.

They are our greatest adversary. The 21st century will be defined by who wins this great power struggle. And if you don’t think—there have been documented cases—that some of these folks are coming here to spy on us, including military installations, I have some oceanfront property in Missouri I would like to sell you.

Secretary Mayorkas, in his own memo, advocated for ignoring U.S. law. This is a big deal. Again, regardless of how you feel about how you are going to vote on this, my point of view is: There is a lot of evidence that could be presented and will be presented to show that he has purposefully undermined the sovereignty of the United States of America. That is a serious charge. The House of Representatives has voted to send that here. Let’s hear it out. Let’s do our constitutional duty. Let’s not be afraid to do our jobs.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, make no mistake about it, a vote to block the impeachment of Secretary Mayorkas is a vote to keep our borders open. It is a vote to continue the deadly track of lawlessness. It is a vote that tells Laken Riley’s family and all those who have been victims of violent and gruesome crimes at the hands of illegal aliens, as well as the over 250,000 people who have died from fentanyl poisoning—what it says is the Democrats don’t care.

Ask any American and they will tell you that every State is now a border State. We don’t feel safe in our own communities. From inner cities to suburbs and throughout rural America, we are living in the consequences of this wide-open southern border. So it should come as no surprise to my colleagues across the aisle that Americans are demanding accountability. They want to know why the cartel has more control of our border than the DHS does.

Disgracefully, this week, we will witness a complete political charade that undermines this Chamber’s responsibility and the oath we swore to protect this great Nation. Skirting justice, accountability in the very fabric of our democracy, the Senate Democratic leader has taken a historical measure to heighten the deadly border crisis his party has created and embraced.

And why, you might ask, would they do this? They are so afraid that if Americans witnessed an open trial of Secretary Mayorkas and his record was exposed, it would seal the deal on the Democratic Party losing the White House and the majority of the Senate. They are very clearly worried about the next election and not the national security threat our wide-open borders pose to the sovereignty of our Nation.

My hope here today is that America is watching. They will see the Senate Democrats line up to block the impeachment of Secretary Mayorkas and prevent his record from ever enduring a public trial.

But make no mistake about this. Come November, the good people from Montana and Ohio, from Michigan and Wisconsin, from Pennsylvania and Nevada will make their voices heard and hold their Senators accountable. These Democrats had the opportunity this week to address the border crisis and send a clear message to the White House to address our most immediate national security threat and close the border now. Unfortunately, they won’t stand up. They will not allow the American people to see the true lawlessness that has been the direct result of the abject failures of Secretary Mayorkas. Their silence will send a clear message to the thousands of families that have been torn apart by the consequences of our wide-open border. They simply don’t care.

My colleagues across the aisle don’t want answers. They want to shield Secretary Mayorkas and the White House from any accountability and spare their party from the backlash in the press when Senate Republicans outline how dire the situation at our Nation’s border is.

In orchestrating this cover-up, they are willing to undermine our Constitution and disrespect the honor and integrity of the impeachment process that has been observed and held fast by this body for over 200 years.

In our Nation’s history, the Senate has never tabled an impeachment trial. That alone should tell every American

how scared Senate Democrats are to share the true realities of the lawlessness happening right now at our borders across the United States. Secretary Mayorkas has failed his duty to protect our borders and uphold our laws.

We have 11 million reasons to hold him accountable and impeach him. That is the 11 million encounters, including nearly 2 million “got-aways” who have shown up here on our soil under Mayorkas’s watch. He is not just derelict in his duties, he is complicit in endangering the safety of every American.

Yes, we understand the Democratic majority has the votes to table this hearing. But know this: History will not be so forgiving of this decision. The American people will not forget the betrayal of this Chamber and their family’s safety. Come November, we the people will speak loudly. The people, the citizens of this great Republic, they are the true judges and the final jury.

So, please, to my colleagues across the aisle, there is still time to do the right thing: to vote in support of holding Secretary Mayorkas accountable. The American people will be watching. We must impeach Secretary Mayorkas for his failure to uphold his oath. If this Chamber skirts its responsibility, we shall hold every one of the Senators who block this impeachment trial accountable at the ballot box.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. SMITH). The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. BUDD. Madam President, in order to be a strong Nation, we have to have strong borders. Right now, we don’t have that. We haven’t had that for 3 years. I talk with sheriffs from all over all of North Carolina—100 counties—and many of them tell me the same things over and over: Every single county is now a border county because of Joe Biden’s policies. And those policies have been implemented by his Secretary of Homeland Security, Alejandro Mayorkas. From the very beginning of his tenure at DHS, Secretary Mayorkas has intentionally undermined security at the southern border again and again and again.

I have a list right here. Now, I know I have limited time, but let’s try and run through some of the worst examples. On February 1, 2021, DHS implemented a policy requiring “alternatives to removal including, but not limited to, staying or reopening cases, alternative forms of detention, custodial detention, whether to grant temporary deferred action, or other appropriate action.” This telegraphed the Department’s complete unwillingness to enforce the law and to detain illegal aliens.

On March 20, 2021, the Mayorkas DHS began issuing illegal border crossers a Notice to Report to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, as opposed to the standard notice to appear. The

notice to report policy allows illegal aliens to simply be released into the United States, and it relies on them to self-report to ICE at a later date. Now, this, ladies and gentlemen, marked the return of catch-and-release.

On July of 2021, the Mayorkas DHS released at least 50,000 aliens without giving them a notice to appear at all. They were advised to self-report to ICE on their own. To the shock of no one, 87 percent of them didn’t even report.

On August 17, 2021, the Mayorkas DHS announced an expansion of alternatives to detention. It announced the expansion of taxpayer-funded services to illegal aliens in removal proceedings. This further supercharged the policy of catch-and-release.

On August 31, 2021, the Biden administration disclosed that they released over 100,000 aliens into the United States without giving them a notice to appear.

Again, they were asked to self-report to ICE on their own. Nearly half of them didn’t check in with ICE within the 60-day deadline. On September 30, 2021, Secretary Mayorkas issued a memo stating that “the fact an individual is a removable [alien] should [not be the sole] basis of an enforcement action.”

This is willful misuse of prosecutorial discretion, and it effectively gave deportable aliens a path to stay in the United States.

On October 8, 2021, the Mayorkas DHS canceled another large group of border wall contracts related to the Laredo and Rio Grande Valley border sectors.

On October 27, 2021, Secretary Mayorkas issued another memo prohibiting enforcement of immigration laws in the following areas—now listen to these: schools, healthcare facilities, recreational areas, social service facilities, ceremonial locations, as well as at demonstrations and at political rallies.

On October 29, 2021, Secretary Mayorkas formally terminated the “Remain in Mexico” policy, inviting illegal aliens to America’s doorstep.

I could go on, but the bottom line is that this is nothing short of a dereliction of duty on the part of Secretary Mayorkas. He must be held accountable, and that is why he was the second Cabinet Secretary in American history ever to be impeached by the House of Representatives.

The U.S. Senate has a constitutional duty to take these charges seriously and to conduct a full trial on the merits. To do anything less would be an insult to the victims of these open-border policies.

We can’t wait. Too many people are suffering. Too many people are dying. We must say enough.

This administration must face accountability for causing the worst border crisis in American history. Now is the time to act.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, a lot of history has unfolded in this room. The U.S. Senate has been home to some of the most formative debates in our Nation’s tenure. These are fierce arguments among passionate, intelligent people. It is not all that different from the debates today.

The Senate has always welcomed these sometimes intense disagreements by respecting the rules and the traditions of the institution. It is how a Senator like me, who is a Member of the minority party, can stand here and speak freely about the issues that matter to the American people and to the people of Louisiana.

Now, my Democratic colleagues in the Senate, today, may be about to make some new history in this room. Apparently, they think it is a brave new world, and they want to set a dangerous new precedent. For the very first time, Senate Democrats are seeking to table—maybe even dismiss—an impeachment of a sitting Cabinet official without even holding a trial. They are summoning spirits they won’t be able to control.

Please, my colleagues, don’t do it.

I fear though that Senate Democrats are going to try to take the Articles of Impeachment that our colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives thoughtfully crafted and passed with a majority vote and toss them into the trash without hearing from either side.

They don’t want to let the House impeachment managers make their case. They don’t want to let Secretary Mayorkas make his case. They just want to ignore the House’s evidence, summarily sweep it under the rug, and move on. And that is wrong.

The Senate has never in its history tabled an impeachment—never. In the more than 200 years that this body has existed, the House of Representatives has impeached an official 21 times, and we have never once tabled the impeachment—not once.

Now, Senator SCHUMER may also try to dismiss these charges instead of tabling them, but that has never been done before, either. If the Senate dismisses these charges without a trial, it will be the first time in the Senate’s long history that it has dismissed impeachment charges against an official it has jurisdiction over without that official first resigning. And that is a fact.

I want you to consider this: The U.S. House of Representatives has voted to impeach an official 21 times—only 21 times—in our long history. The U.S. Senate has only dismissed 3 of those cases—3 out of 21.

Now, why did they dismiss them? In two of those cases, the impeached official chose to resign instead of facing a trial. As a result, the Senate dismissed the charges. In this case, Secretary Mayorkas has not resigned. In one of those dismissed cases, the impeached official was a U.S. Senator, and the Senate concluded that the Constitution did not give it jurisdiction to remove a

U.S. Senator through the impeachment process.

Here, everyone agrees that the Constitution gives Congress the power to impeach and remove a sitting Cabinet Secretary.

Now, listen to me carefully on this. The U.S. Senate has the right and the responsibility to hold this trial. Yet Senate Democrats want to ignore our Chamber's history and forfeit our constitutional authority by tabling or dismissing these charges without even considering the evidence—without even considering the evidence.

Americans need to hear what I am about to say, even if my Democratic colleagues won't listen. Let me say it again: A majority of the duly elected Members of the U.S. House of Representatives, who represent all of the communities across America, spent months investigating the allegations against Secretary Mayorkas. They spent months drafting the Articles of Impeachment, and a majority of the House then voted yes to bring two very serious charges.

The Senate Democrats are now treating those charges—those Articles of Impeachment—like spam that landed in their inbox.

Americans, however, are not nearly so sanguine about the border crisis that has brought death, drugs, violence, chaos, criminals, and mayhem into their neighborhoods. The Biden administration's border crisis is as unprecedented as the majority leader's move to bury the evidence of who could be to blame here.

I, for one, want to hear the House's evidence, and so do the American people. The majority leader's move is unprecedented. It is undemocratic. And I am confident that my Democratic colleagues, if they do this—please, don't—but if they do it, will regret this new precedent when they find themselves in the minority, just as they regretted breaking the Senate precedent for confirming judicial nominees.

You see, Republicans do not like to break precedent when we are in the majority. We respect the traditions of this Chamber because we respect the voters who sent all 100 of us here.

If my Democratic colleagues set a new precedent that tramples the rights of the minority party and silences the voices of the Americans who elected them—if they do that—Senate Democrats will have to own that decision and bear its consequences.

Now, I have listened to the loon wing of the Democratic Party spend the better part of the past decade making passionate speeches about how important it is to protect democracy, to uphold the rule of law, and they are right. President Biden even ran his campaign on the idea of “restoring our norms,” as he called it, and “defending democracy.” Apparently though, the rules of the loon wing were of the “for thee and not for me” variety. Whenever protecting democracy and upholding the rule of law becomes politically chal-

lenging, the loon wing has been happy to ignore the rule of law and the will of the people. Isn't that special?

Their political expedience is in full view today, but it is not the first time that their cynicism has reared its ugly Democratic head.

I am sure, Madam President, you will remember. I will give you just two examples. The loon wing spent several years promoting a conspiracy that the Trump campaign was an arm of the Kremlin, despite no objective evidence to tie President Trump to Russia. Democrats and several members of the national security community rushed to dismiss any information found on Mr. Hunter Biden's laptop as “Russian misinformation,” despite not having any objective evidence, as we now know, to make that claim. And those are just two of many examples that I could give.

Secretary Mayorkas' impeachment may be the best example of this hypocrisy to date. The same Senate Democrats who have shouted for years about defending democracy and upholding the rule of law seem ready to disregard serious impeachment charges without so much as a second glance. These Senators, if they do that, won't just be silencing the House of Representatives. They will be silencing the American people—the American people who want their border's security back.

You can pick any poll—any one you want—and you will find President Biden's approval rating on the issue of immigration and border security is on a journey to the center of the Earth. A recent Associated Press poll, for example, found that more than two-thirds of Americans—69 percent of Americans—disapprove of how the Biden administration is handling border security.

I can't imagine that these same Americans would approve of Democrats' refusal to even hear the evidence that Americans see play out in their communities every day.

This poll is only surprising if you peaked in high school. Under President Biden and Secretary Mayorkas, the southern border has become an open, bleeding wound. It has become a cesspool of misery. Drug trafficking, human trafficking, sexual abuse of women, sexual abuse of children, drowning, dehydration, widespread illnesses, death—all have become commonplace.

In total, the Border Patrol has encountered illegal immigrants at the southern border more than 9 million times since President Biden took office. That is four Nebraskas. The Biden administration has failed to remove 99 percent of foreign nationals that it has released into this country.

The backlog of immigrant court cases has doubled under the Biden administration's watch. These foreign nationals have overwhelmed American cities. Instead of investing in American citizens, cities throughout the country are raising taxes. They are cutting programs to fund prepaid debit cards for migrants.

America's children have to stay home from school because Democratic officials turned their classrooms into housing units. Democratic leaders in New York City, Chicago, Denver, Houston, and Los Angeles have begged the Biden administration to do something to curb the flow of unvetted people into their cities.

Of course, it is not just people flowing illegally over that border; cartels have flooded the United States with poisonous fentanyl over that border, too. Customs and Border Protection seized nearly 53,000 pounds of fentanyl from 2021 to 2023—not 53,000 grams, 53,000 pounds. That is enough to kill the entire population of our planet. This poison actually did kill more than 70,000 Americans in 2022. It is now the leading cause of death among Americans 18 to 40.

The Biden administration's border policies bring Americans nothing but suffering. If you hate America, however, the Biden border strategy has been a blessing. Cartels' smuggling operations saw revenues increase from \$500 million in 2012 to \$12 billion—that is “b” as in “billion”—in 2022.

The policies that President Biden and Secretary Mayorkas have implemented are directly responsible for this disaster at our southern border. At every turn, the Biden administration has ignored the laws of this land and this Congress and the will of the American people to facilitate their own broken border security policies.

The House has detailed several examples in their Articles of Impeachment, and we ought to hear their evidence.

To start, the law requires that all foreign nationals who are not clearly admissible must be “retained for a removal proceeding.” Instead, Secretary Mayorkas established a catch-and-release—catch, release, repeat—a catch-and-release scheme that incentivized illegal immigrants to flood our country.

The law also requires that law enforcement take an illegal immigrant who commits a crime or has ties to terrorism or both into Federal custody. That is the law. Yet Secretary Mayorkas told his Department not to follow that law regarding the “mandatory arrest and detention” of criminal aliens.

Our law also says that law enforcement must detain illegal immigrants. Instead, Secretary Mayorkas has paroled them wholesale by the thousands into our country, where they could catch a bus or a plane to any unsuspecting community they desire. Not only that, Secretary Mayorkas even gave them the money to do it.

Secretary Mayorkas killed the “Remain in Mexico” program. He quashed contracts to build a border wall. He ended the safe third country agreements that allowed America to work with other countries to find protection for migrants in need.

By tabling or dismissing the Articles of Impeachment without so much as a

trial, my Senate Democratic colleagues will be endorsing the Biden administration's lawless approach to the southern border. They will be setting a precedent that the next administration can ignore the laws of Congress and the will of the American people too.

Impeachment matters. It is an important check we have on the executive branch, and we have an obligation to take it seriously. We have an obligation to give any charges brought the full trial they deserve.

I am going to have a resolution, if I am allowed to present it, that will give the procedures we need to conduct this trial fairly and efficiently. I will be bringing that at the appropriate time. It will be efficient. It will be fair. It will be honest. It won't uproot the longstanding precedent we have given to Articles of Impeachment in the past.

If the majority leader and my Democratic colleagues table or dismiss these charges and destroy Senate precedent—precedent that we have established to conduct full and fair impeachment trials—they will regret it. They will regret it. Senate Democrats, if they do that, will show the world that their proclamations about rule of law and protecting democracy are just tools of their own political experience and arrogance. Senate Democrats will let the American people know that they endorse the lawlessness and the misery the Biden administration's broken border has brought to this country.

I don't think Americans' future should be beholden to the politics of the moment, and that is why I want the Senate to do its job and hear this evidence.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Madam President, I want to make one thing clear to my Democrat colleagues: Your attempt to brush Secretary Mayorkas's impeachment trial under the rug is disgusting and unacceptable. It is truly unprecedented, violates Senate rules, and is possibly unconstitutional.

The House of Representatives adopted two Articles of Impeachment against Secretary Mayorkas. Let me quote for you:

Throughout his tenure as Secretary of Homeland Security, Alejandro N. Mayorkas has repeatedly violated laws enacted by Congress regarding immigration and border security. In large part because of his unlawful conduct, millions of aliens have illegally entered the United States on an annual basis with many unlawfully remaining in the United States.

Alejandro N. Mayorkas has knowingly made false statements, and knowingly obstructed lawful oversight of the Department of Homeland Security, principally to obfuscate the result of his willful and systemic refusal to comply with the law.

Now, it is the constitutional duty of the U.S. Senate to conduct an impeachment trial to determine if Secretary Mayorkas should be removed from office based on those Articles of Impeachment.

I want to stress this again: Never in the history of the U.S. Senate has such a procedural move been attempted to completely avoid an impeachment trial.

Senate Democrats' efforts to avoid fulfilling their constitutional duty to conduct this trial are just the latest attack by the left against our democratic process and institution. Senate Democrats want to eliminate the filibuster. They want to radically change the U.S. Supreme Court. Now they want to trash the impeachment process. This is a disturbing series of direct attacks on our democratic institutions.

My colleagues and I have called on Senate leadership to conduct a trial. I have also personally called on Vice President KAMALA HARRIS, urging her to fulfill her constitutional duty to serve as the presiding officer of Secretary Mayorkas's trial. Her appointment as President Biden's border czar only makes her role in the Mayorkas impeachment trial more critical.

President Biden and his administration have created a crisis at our southern border. Secretary Mayorkas—a complete puppet for this lawless administration—has the audacity to come falsely testify before Senate and House committees that the border is secure. Not just once but multiple times Mayorkas has lied under oath in committee that our border is secure. He is lying to the American public. He is not taking the action needed to defend the homeland by securing the border or upholding the law. That is his job, and he is simply not doing it.

Our Nation is reeling from the consequences of Mayorkas's failures. Our Nation is a more dangerous place because of Secretary Mayorkas's failures. He is allowing criminals, drugs, terrorists, and others into our communities. These are real consequences, and each victim has a name. Real Americans here to live their dream are being killed. Real American families are being torn apart by vicious crimes and deadly drugs because we have a wide-open border. Biden and Mayorkas refuse to enforce Federal law to secure the border, and innocent Americans like Laken Riley are paying the ultimate price for his failures.

Ten million people—ten million people—have illegally crossed, and 6 million have been let into our country. There have been sexual assaults and murders committed by illegal aliens all across the country—even Florida, where a young man was recently killed. The man charged for his death is an illegal alien.

I don't get it. I do not understand why my Democrat colleagues don't care. They don't care about 70,000 people dying of fentanyl overdose. They don't care about vicious crimes. They don't care about terrorists being let go in our country. Senate Democrats are saying they simply do not care.

They are using every power they have to ignore this crisis, while innocent Americans die, and keep Congress

from holding Mayorkas accountable. The proof is not just in this disgraceful effort to dismiss the impeachment trial. Let's remember what Democrats voted against. Democrats voted against a bill to stop illegal aliens from getting on a commercial flight with no verifiable ID. Think about that. You have to have an ID; they don't. Democrats voted against deporting illegal aliens who hurt police, the people who are here to take care of us. Democrats voted against the Laken Riley Act, which simply requires—it is a simple act—simply requires ICE to take illegal aliens who commit crimes into custody before tragedy strikes.

Does Biden hope that millions of immigrants will vote for him? Many in his party want to allow illegal immigrants to vote. They even voted to allow the census to keep counting illegal aliens. It is because they want sanctuary cities and States to have more electoral votes and representation in Congress—not from Americans but from illegal aliens. That is the future the Democrats want.

Biden has intentionally dismantled every ounce of border security Trump put in place and completely undermined our immigration system, and Mayorkas has done absolutely nothing to stop it.

Mayorkas has clearly been derelict in his duties. He has neglected to protect the homeland—his job. He has allowed criminals to come into our country, into each and all of our communities, drugs to flow into our country. When I talk to Floridians, they are terrified. They are concerned about their family's safety because of who and what are coming across the southern border and into each and all of our communities.

Mayorkas may simply be a puppet for the administration, but he is fully responsible for his negligence and failure to do his job. Mayorkas needs to either resign or needs to have the full and thorough trial that we are constitutionally obligated to conduct, as the American people, through their representatives, voted for.

We must have an administration and DHS Secretary who is willing to secure the border, not ignore failure that is killing our citizens.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Madam President, an invasion is taking place on American soil. Over 8 million people have crossed our border illegally since Mayorkas became Secretary, and the numbers just keep rising. They are not going away. This unprecedented, lawless influx includes gang members. It includes drug traffickers and dangerous individuals from every country in the world, including many thousands of military-age males from China. What could go wrong? In December alone, the Department of Homeland Security reported 302,000 encounters—in 1 month. This is the highest month ever on record.

To be clear, Secretary Mayorkas has the tools to stop the invasion today. He could do it right now if he wanted to. It is almost turnkey. It is abracadabra. If he decided to do it, we could have a secure border, and we would. Not only does he have the tools, but he has an obligation and a responsibility, an affirmative duty under the laws of the United States—laws that he agreed he would faithfully enforce.

Let me say that again just to be very clear. Just by enforcing the laws currently on the books, he could bring our state of utter lawlessness on the border to a state of order.

Secretary Mayorkas could bring a complete stop to the crisis. He doesn't need legislative action from Congress. This isn't a policy disagreement. No, it is a blatant defiance of the laws that are already on the books and have been for years.

So to my colleagues: If you are so confident that the charges against Secretary Mayorkas are baseless, then why not hold a trial? Why try to just sweep this under the rug? You realize, don't you, that when you do that, all that does is just make you look more conscious of what is going on, of what is being done that is so very, very wrong—especially where, as here, it is such a departure from nearly two and a half centuries of this institution operating faithfully as a Court of Impeachment, nearly two and a half centuries in which we have had 21 Articles of Impeachment destined for the Senate; at least 20 of those arrived. In 18 of those total of 21 cases during the Senate's existence, 18 of those 21 culminated in a trial resulting in a verdict of guilty or not guilty. Those other three involved cases that were rendered moot in between the time the House of Representatives adopted the Articles of Impeachment and the time they were presented over here. They were rendered moot because of the death or departure—a new vacancy in the office that had been occupied by the impeached official.

So this isn't just an ordinary act of sweeping it under the rug. It is an act of sweeping it under the rug under the circumstances where sweeping it under the rug was never an option. It never has been. We haven't done it.

This isn't just some invisible "Casper the Friendly Ghost" coming in to get rid of it. They are actively doing it, and they are doing it under the full view of the American people.

The American people should be really upset by this, because Article I of the Constitution gives the House of Representatives the power to impeach and the Senate the power to try all impeachments.

Remember, the Senate has only three states of being—exactly three states of being: the legislative calendar, where we do a lot of our work, where we consider law; Executive Calendar, where we do things like confirm Presidential nominees and consider treaties for ratification; and the third state of being for the Senate is as a Court of Im-

peachment. We are always in one of those three states of being, and yet we have never operated in that third state of being unless the case has been rendered moot where the Senate doesn't hold a trial, as it is required to do under the Constitution, culminating in a verdict of guilty or not guilty.

Now, if you trust that Secretary Mayorkas didn't authorize millions of individuals to enter illegally into our country for swift and precursory release, then let's hold a trial.

If you are certain that Secretary Mayorkas hasn't increased the pull factors incentivizing parents across the globe to send 430,000 unaccompanied children illegally into the United States, in many cases to have them end up in the hands of traffickers—drug traffickers and human sex traffickers and otherwise—then let's hold a trial.

If you are confident that Secretary Mayorkas hasn't created at least 13 illegal immigration parole programs designed to increase the flow of people into this country by the hundreds of thousands, then let's hold a trial.

If you are so sure that Secretary Mayorkas—under Secretary Mayorkas' leadership, Customs and Border Protection hasn't dramatically decreased its vetting process for allowing Chinese immigrants to cross our border, including military-aged Chinese males, then let's hold a trial.

If you believe that we haven't seen a dramatic increase in the known terrorist encounters at our border, then let's hold a trial.

If you are confident that Secretary Mayorkas hasn't allowed enough fentanyl to flow across the southern border to kill every man, woman, and child in this country, then let's hold a freaking trial.

These are not victimless crimes.

The tragic case of Laken Riley, a life cut short by an illegal alien, one of the millions whom Secretary Mayorkas has recklessly, intentionally, deliberately, and maliciously allowed to enter our country unchecked, unvetted, is a reminder of the human cost of this abdication of duty. Laken isn't alone. Her case represents hundreds of thousands of families across this Nation whose lives have been upended by the invasion that our leaders allowed to happen.

Think about that for a minute. They allowed it to happen not by negligence, oversight, carelessness, inattentiveness. No, no, no. They encouraged it to happen.

Should Secretary Mayorkas be found guilty, these are crimes of the highest order. This sort of thing doesn't happen very often in this country—the sort of thing that I hope we will never have to experience again; the sort of thing that otherwise would result in a Toby Keith song, may he rest in peace; the sort of thing that unites Americans in surprising ways. The American people understand something is terribly wrong, and they expect us to act.

In all previous impeachments sent to the Senate, we held a trial, save those

rare circumstances where the case was rendered moot by death or vacancy of the office—not facts present here. We held a trial, and that trial culminated, in each and every instance, in a verdict of guilty or not guilty.

But the majority leader CHUCK SCHUMER now seems to want to take the radical step, the unprecedented step, the lawless step, the counter- and anti-constitutional step of trying to table these Articles of Impeachment without even letting us examine the evidence.

This begs the question: What would he do—what would he do—if he were confident, if the majority leader were confident that Secretary Mayorkas had acted lawfully, honorably, in this office?

What would he do if he were confident the American people wouldn't turn on his party because of this act of lawlessness, this interminable succession of absurdities imposed by the myopic logic of their own border non-enforcement strategy? This is exactly what it looks like when someone is aware that there is a problem and wants to sweep the problem under the rug.

There is no rug here. You can't hide this. There is no rug big enough to accommodate that. And shame on us if we play into that strategy.

To colleagues on my side of the aisle and on the other, I implore you. I know many of us are institutionalists. Whether you are a Democrat or a Republican, no matter how far to the left-wing or rightwing or somewhere in between you are, I appeal to your sense that we have an obligation to take seriously our oath to the Constitution. We have an obligation that must be honored to look out for the institutional interests of the Senate and the role that it plays in the sacred order created by the U.S. Constitution.

When the Articles of Impeachment arrive, we have a job to do. The Constitution and our rules and our precedents make that abundantly clear. To ignore the evidence before us is to betray the trust of those who sent us here.

There is no doubt, at this point, that the invasion at the southern border has inflicted indescribable, incalculable, intolerable pain and suffering on the part of the American people. We are obligated to figure out who is responsible and hold them accountable, beginning with Secretary Mayorkas. I urge each of my colleagues to oppose this shameless effort to sidestep our constitutional duty and, by so doing, subvert the constitutional order.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and



be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO STEVE SHAVER

• Mr. DAINES. Madam President, today I have the distinct honor of recognizing Steve Shaver of Flathead County for his courage and swift action that ultimately saved a fellow Montanan's life.

On a routine day working on a project in Hungry Horse, MT, a woman emerged from her home signaling to Steve that she needed help because her husband was in the home unconscious. Steve acted without hesitation and sprang into action as he began facilitating lifesaving cardiopulmonary resuscitation—CPR—until the man regained consciousness and emergency service personnel arrived to the scene. Steve's calm composure and effective responsiveness demonstrated his ability to lead in a stressful emergency situation that many will never face.

Here in the Treasure State, folks hold dear the principles of an honest work ethic and lending a helping hand when someone is in need. Steve's actions exemplify Montanans' commitment to looking out for one another, no matter the time of day or circumstances, and a man's life was saved because of his actions. Our famous Montana skies cannot truly be measured and neither can a man's ability to help out his neighbor when he is needed the most.

Today, as we acknowledge Steve's act of bravery, we also pay homage to the deep-rooted values that Montana is known for, further attributing to our beloved State's title as the Last Best Place. John 13:34 states, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." Steve's actions show that Montanans live that verse out every day.

It is my distinct honor to recognize Steve Shaver for his heroic act of selfless service that saved a fellow Montanan's life. May his bravery and compassion serve as inspiration to each of us to stand by our neighbors in times of trouble. You make Montana proud.●

##### RECOGNIZING BROWNELL, INC.

• Ms. ERNST. Madam 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 Brownells of Grinnell, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

In 1938, Frank "Bob" Brownell II founded Brownells in Montezuma, IA.

He owned and operated a gas station and sandwich shop in Montezuma in addition to being an avid gunsmithing hobbyist. Bob combined his business experience with his passion and founded Brownells to fill a niche in the gunsmithing industry: selling hard-to-find gunsmithing tools to other gunsmiths. In 1947, Brownells began printing their catalog, and by 1951, he had shifted the business from a gunsmith store to a gunsmith product supplier. In 1973, Brownells moved their headquarters to a larger location in Montezuma until 2014 and have since moved to nearby Grinnell. Brownells current location in Grinnell includes a 200,000-square-foot warehouse, corporate offices, and a retail store that opened in 2016. Today, Brownells maintains a supply of over 50,000 gun parts. They supply and ship their products across the world.

Three generations of the Brownell family have worked at the company. Bob's son Frank joined Brownells in 1964 and became president in 1983 after Bob became chairman of the board. Before working at Brownells, Frank Brownell served in the U.S. Navy. Frank's son Pete joined the family business in 1997 and became vice president in 2000. In 2008, Pete became president, with his father serving as the chief executive officer. Bob Brownell passed away in 1991, leaving behind a legacy of hard work, community involvement, and dedication to the firearm industry.

Brownells is actively involved in both the Poweshiek County community and the national firearm industry. Pete Brownell previously served on the board of the National Rifle Association—NRA—and served as president of the NRA from 2017 until 2018. In 2014, Frank Brownell received the NRA Golden Bullseye Pioneer Award for his continued dedication to the firearm industry. Pete Brownell has also been involved in the Grinnell College Ignite Program, a yearly program that brings students from kindergarten to eighth grade experience workshops at the college. Brownells celebrated its 85th business anniversary in 2024.

Brownells' commitment to providing high-quality gunsmithing tools while maintaining its Poweshiek County roots is clear. I want to congratulate the Brownell family and the entire team at Brownells for their continued dedication to the firearm industry. I look forward to seeing their continued growth and success in Iowa.●

##### RECOGNIZING CANTEEN LUNCH IN THE ALLEY

• Ms. ERNST. Madam 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 Canteen Lunch in the Alley of Ottumwa, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

After finding success selling loose meat sandwiches to farmers, Dusty Rhoades opened Canteen Lunch in the Alley in 1927 with just five stools and a single steamer to cook sandwiches. The business's name was inspired by its signature dish: delicious loose meat sandwiches often called canteens. Today, in addition to their signature sandwiches, Canteen Lunch in the Alley serves homemade pies, ice cream, hot dogs, and egg sandwiches. Their current location has 17 seats and uses around 800 pounds of ground beef weekly to keep up with demand.

From 1929 to 1936, Bill and Ruth Carter were the proud owners of Canteen Lunch in the Alley. Following their passing, their daughter Bernita Carter Popchuck became the sole owner. In 1936, the business was moved to its current location on 2nd Street in Ottumwa. Husband and wife Earnest and Shirley McBeth purchased the restaurant in 1976 with the help of Shirley's sister Lauralee Staley and operated Canteen Lunch in the Alley until 2015, when Scott and Janice Pierce purchased it. Scott, an Ottumwa native, has been eating at the restaurant since his childhood and understands the significant role the business plays in the community.

The mom-and-pop shop is well-recognized for great food, hard work, and commitment to customer satisfaction. Owners Scott and Janice Pierce have brought the community together by hosting the World Championship Canteen Eating Contest thrice since 2018. In 2019, professional competitive eater Joey Chestnut won the competition by eating 28 and a half canteens in 10 minutes. Notably, the award-winning television show Roseanne used Canteen Lunch in the Alley as inspiration for the show's fictional restaurant "Lanford Lunch Box." In 2019, Canteen Lunch in the Alley won the People Choice Award from the Iowa Tourism Office, and in 2017, the business was named the best loose meat sandwich in Iowa by USA Today. Due to their hard work, the Canteen Lunch in the Alley team celebrated its 97th business anniversary in 2024.

For nearly 100 years, Canteen Lunch in the Alley has preserved the essence of tradition in Ottumwa by providing a sprinkle of love with their well-loved canteen sandwiches and desserts. I want to congratulate the Pierce family and the entire Canteen Lunch in the Alley team for their continued dedication to serving Iowans while maintaining an important piece of Ottumwa history. I look forward to seeing their continued success in Iowa.●

##### RECOGNIZING KEG CREEK BREWING COMPANY

• Ms. ERNST. Madam President, as ranking member of the U.S. 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 Keg Creek Brewing Company of Glenwood, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

In 2011, Randy Romens, John Bueltel, Art Renze, and Grant Hebel founded Keg Creek Brewing in Glenwood, IA. Randy, John, Art, and Grant started in the beer industry as homebrewers in their garages and basements, brewing 10 gallons of beer at a time. After their beer became a hit with friends and family, they decided to start Keg Creek Brewing Company, named after Keg Creek in Glenwood. What began as one location with three barrels quickly expanded. In 2016, the team expanded their production facility and, 2 years later, moved into their current location, where they now have 15 barrels. In 2015, Keg Creek Brewing added a new owner, Matt Kirsch, who has remained instrumental in their continued success.

Keg Creek Brewing offers 18 beers on tap while distributing bottles and kegs of beer throughout the Midwest. The Brewery has a lively taproom and a patio for customers and regularly hosts trivia nights, live music, and karaoke. During the spring and summer, they hold sand volleyball and cornhole leagues. In addition to beer, they also support other local small businesses by hosting food trucks, pizzas from Roberto's Pizzas of Dunlap, and MinDee's Nuts of Malvern.

Keg Creek Brewing is actively involved in the Glenwood community and has been recognized for its rapid climb in the brewery industry and craft beers. In 2020, they were awarded a bronze medal by the U.S. Open Beer Championship for their "Deviant of the Depths" beer in the Rum Barrel Aged Beer category and another bronze medal for their "Old Marathon" barley wine in the Barrel-Aged Barley Wine category. In 2017, the Brewers Association's list of 50 Fastest-Growing Small and Independent Craft Breweries in the United States recognized the Keg Creek Brewery. Their beers have also won awards at the Iowa State Fair and are a staple at the craft beer tent. Keg Creek Brewery has also hosted fundraising events for Relay for Life, the Mills County K9 Unit, and the local libraries. In 2024, Keg Creek Brewing celebrated its 13th business anniversary.

Keg Creek Brewing Company's commitment to Glenwood and the craft beer industry is clear. I want to congratulate Matt Kirsch, Randy Romens, John Bueltel, Art Renze, Grant Hebel, and the entire Keg Creek Brewing Company team for their continued dedication to the Glenwood community. I look forward to seeing their continued growth and success in Iowa.●

#### TRIBUTE TO TOM HENKE

● Mr. SCHMITT. Madam President, I rise today to recognize and honor a model citizen Tom Henke. Tom's outstanding support of his family and other families who have children with

developmental disorders has earned him the title of "Champion of Missouri."

In addition to the accomplishment of winning the World Series Championship with the St. Louis Cardinals as a pitcher, his efforts in raising support for a cause near and dear to him have established him as a cornerstone of the Jefferson City community. But before I break down what makes him a cut above the rest, let me tell you a little about his family and what inspires him.

Tom's family motivates him both professionally and personally. He and his father used to play catch with a baseball when he was a child. This simple act enabled him with a passion for the sport that would serve him throughout his life as he went on to play on the highest stage possible, the MLB. While in college, he met his wife Kathy, married, and had four wonderful children: Lindsay, Ryan, Kim, and Amanda. His family and his faith are the centerpiece of his life.

Tom's commitment to his family has served as an inspiration in support of the Special Learning Center in Jefferson City. Inspired by his daughter Amanda, Tom established the Tom Henke Charity Classic Golf Tournament, which pairs celebrities and participants to play a round of golf together in support of the center. Through his efforts, this event has been pivotal in support of those with disabilities and has raised over \$1 million in charity for the Special Learning Center in Jefferson City. This center empowers parents and their children with skills that will serve them for their entire lives.

Tom Henke is truly a Champion of Missouri. As a father, I appreciate the unwavering dedication it takes to support a family. I understand from personal experience that caring for someone with a special need requires love and patience. My experiences with my wife and children's family have pushed me to stand here today and honor this distinguished man in his life's journey.●

#### TRIBUTE TO SCOTT CROISANT

● Mr. TUBERVILLE. Madam President, in a time when we are facing shortages in the trucking industry, Alabama's veterans are helping fill this vital need in our economy. One such veteran is Scott Croisant of Florence. Scott joined the U.S. Marine Corps in 1982, after graduating from Wilson High School.

While in the Marines, he trained to become a truck driver. Scott deployed twice to Lebanon, following the 1983 Beirut bombings. There, he helped transport food, water, and ammunition in combat zones. He was also part of Operation Urgent Fury in Grenada. After completing his time in the military, Scott served in law enforcement before entering the trucking industry.

And for more than 24 years, he has driven a truck for Greenbush Logistics

in Abbeville, out of its Tuscumbia location. Scott spends many, many early mornings and late nights on the road, to keep our supply chains moving. He is committed to ensuring folks across the southeast get the building materials that they need on time. Scott has an incredible record of more than 2 million accident-free miles.

Travis Williams, the director of Logistics for Greenbush, says that Scott "epitomizes the essence of a professional driver. His unwavering dedication, skill, and attention to detail make him a role model for all drivers."

Scott is also a trusted mentor for upcoming truckers. He has helped train nearly 100 new truck drivers. Alabama is thankful for Scott's service to our country, and his tireless efforts to keep America's economy moving.

It is my honor to recognize him as the April Veteran of the Month.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and a withdrawal which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following joint resolutions were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S.J. Res. 67. Joint resolution to provide for related procedures concerning the articles of impeachment against Alejandro Nicholas Mayorkas, Secretary of Homeland Security.

S.J. Res. 68. Joint resolution providing for the issuance of a summons, providing for the appointment of a committee to receive and to report evidence, and establishing related procedures concerning the articles of impeachment against Alejandro Nicholas Mayorkas.

S.J. Res. 69. Joint resolution to provide for related procedures concerning the articles of impeachment against Alejandro Nicholas Mayorkas, Secretary of Homeland Security.

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

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

EC-3960. A communication from the President of the United States transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the designation as emergency requirements all funding (including the transfer and repurposing of funds) so designated by the Congress in the Consolidated Appropriations

Act, 2024 pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as outlined in the enclosed list of accounts received during adjournment of the Senate on March 25, 2024; to the Committee on the Budget.

### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. MANCHIN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2581. A bill to extend the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (Rept. No. 118-163).

### 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. TESTER (for himself and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. 4074. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to approve interstate commerce carrier apprenticeship programs for purposes of veterans educational assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. HAGERTY:

S. 4075. A bill to prohibit payment card networks and covered entities from requiring the use of or assigning merchant category codes that distinguish a firearms retailer from a general merchandise retailer or sporting goods retailer, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

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

S. 4076. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1077 River Road, Suite 1, in Washington Crossing, Pennsylvania, as the "Susan C. Barnhart Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Ms. BUTLER):

S. 4077. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 180 Steuart Street in San Francisco, California, as the "Dianne Feinstein Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. MORAN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. DAINES, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BRITT, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. BUDD):

S.J. Res. 70. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to "Credit Card Penalty Fees (Regulation Z)"; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. HAGERTY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. ROMNEY):

S. Res. 626. A resolution recognizing the importance of the United States-Japan alliance and welcoming the visit of Prime Minister Kishida Fumio to the United States; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Mr. RUBIO):

S. Res. 627. A resolution honoring the memory of Jereima "Jeri" Bustamante on the sixth anniversary of her passing; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCHATZ:

S. Res. 628. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of the Rise Up for LGBTQI+ Youth in Schools Initiative, a call to action to communities across the country to demand equal educational opportunity, basic civil rights protections, and freedom from erasure for all students, particularly LGBTQI+ young people, in K-12 schools; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. KAINE, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CASEY, Mr. COONS, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. KING, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WELCH, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. WYDEN, and Ms. WARREN):

S. Res. 629. A resolution condemning the arbitrary arrest of United States citizens by the Government of the Russian Federation and calling for the immediate and unconditional release of such citizens; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 133

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 133, a bill to extend the National Alzheimer's Project.

S. 134

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 134, a bill to require an annual budget estimate for the initiatives of the National Institutes of Health pursuant to reports and recommendations made under the National Alzheimer's Project Act.

S. 334

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 334, a bill to modify the restriction in section 3326 of title 5, United States Code, relating to the appointment of retired members of the Armed Forces to positions in the Department of Defense to apply to positions at or above the GS-14 level.

S. 566

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 566, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify and extend the deduction for charitable contributions for individuals not itemizing deductions.

S. 740

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the names of the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER), the Senator from Mary-

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

S. 815

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 815, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the female telephone operators of the Army Signal Corps, known as the "Hello Girls".

S. 1426

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1426, a bill to improve the identification and support of children and families who experience trauma.

S. 1462

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

S. 1567

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1567, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to address the teacher and school leader shortage in early childhood, elementary, and secondary education, and for other purposes.

S. 1714

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1714, a bill to provide paid family leave benefits to certain individuals, and for other purposes.

S. 1979

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1979, a bill to amend title 9 of the United States Code with respect to arbitration of disputes involving age discrimination.

S. 2307

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2307, a bill to support and strengthen the fighter aircraft capabilities of the Air Force, and for other purposes.

S. 2477

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 2477, a bill to amend title

XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide pharmacy payment of certain services.

S. 2496

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2496, a bill to amend the National Housing Act to include information regarding VA home loans in the Informed Consumer Choice Disclosure required to be provided to prospective FHA borrowers.

S. 2515

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2515, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Small Business Act to expand the availability of employee stock ownership plans in S corporations, and for other purposes.

S. 2825

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST), the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) 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. 2932

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2932, a bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to provide guidance to State Medicaid agencies, public housing agencies, Continuums of Care, and housing finance agencies on connecting Medicaid beneficiaries with housing-related services and supports under Medicaid and other housing resources, and for other purposes.

S. 3231

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3231, a bill to enable the people of Puerto Rico to choose a permanent, nonterritorial, fully self-governing political status for Puerto Rico and to provide for a transition to and the implementation of that permanent, nonterritorial, fully self-governing political status, and for other purposes.

S. 3254

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3254, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow expenses for parents to be taken into account as medical expenses, and for other purposes.

S. 3264

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Cali-

fornia (Ms. BUTLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3264, a bill to establish a manufactured housing community improvement grant program, and for other purposes.

S. 3519

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) and the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) were added as cosponsors of S. 3519, a bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to issue guidance on whether hospital emergency departments should implement fentanyl testing as a routine procedure for patients experiencing an overdose, and for other purposes.

S. 3558

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3558, a bill to prohibit contracting with certain biotechnology providers, and for other purposes.

S. 3740

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3740, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to reauthorize the residential substance use disorder treatment program, and for other purposes.

S. 3961

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3961, a bill to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 to reform certain authorities and to provide greater transparency and oversight.

S. 3992

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3992, a bill to prohibit the Administrator of the Small Business Administration from directly making loans under the 7(a) loan program, and for other purposes.

S. 3998

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3998, a bill to provide for the permanent appointment of certain temporary district judgeships.

S.J. RES. 57

At the request of Mr. SCHMITT, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 57, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of the Treasury relating to "Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds".

S. CON. RES. 32

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the names of the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. Con. Res. 32,

a concurrent resolution supporting the goals and ideals of International Transgender Day of Visibility.

S. RES. 537

At the request of Mr. ROUNDS, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 537, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States should recognize the 1994 genocide in Rwanda as "the genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda".

S. RES. 616

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 616, a resolution condemning the treatment of Dr. Gubad Ibadoghlu by the Government of Azerbaijan and urging his immediate release, and for other purposes.

## STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Ms. BUTLER):

S. 4077. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 180 Steuart Street in San Francisco, California, as the "Dianne Feinstein Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I rise to speak in support of my bill to rename a post office in San Francisco after my former colleague, mentor, and dear friend, the late Senator Dianne Feinstein.

Dianne was a towering figure not just in modern California politics, but in the history of our State and our Nation. She broke barriers throughout her career. Her leadership as the first woman to serve as the mayor of San Francisco in the aftermath of the tragic assassination of Mayor George Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk showcased her unique ability to lead with grace and strength in the face of adversity.

As we look to honor her memory, I believe that one small, but important, way to remember Dianne would be to rename a post office in her beloved hometown after her. Just as Dianne had a keen ability to bridge divides and connect with people from all walks of life, our local post offices symbolize the importance of keeping Americans connected to each other.

My bill would rename the postal facility at 180 Steuart Street in San Francisco as the "Dianne Feinstein Post Office."

The site of this post office is rich with decades of history for the Postal Service, the city of San Francisco, and Dianne's career. It is located adjacent to the Rincon Annex, which served as the city's main postal processing and distribution center from 1940 to 1979. This building is designed in the Streamline Moderne style and is adorned with 27 murals depicting the history of San Francisco, which was

funded through the New Deal-era Works Progress Administration. Due to its history and timeless artwork, the Rincon Annex is listed as a San Francisco Designated Landmark and on the U.S. National Register of Historic Places.

After the postal operations at the Rincon Annex were relocated in 1979, then-Mayor Feinstein oversaw the development of the Rincon Center, which opened in 1988. This large complex, which includes the historic Rincon Annex, contains a network of shops, restaurants, offices, apartments, and the post office that is the subject of my bill.

Located just off the Embarcadero in downtown San Francisco, the “Dianne Feinstein Post Office” would serve all kinds of people—from workers on their lunch break sending a letter, to local residents picking up a package, to tourists sending postcards back home to family—all with a stunning view of the Bay Bridge from its front door.

This post office dedication is just one small way to remember Dianne’s legacy. And just as she served her beloved San Francisco for so many years, I know that this post office will continue to serve San Franciscans for years to come.

I thank Senator BUTLER for joining me in this effort, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 626—RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE UNITED STATES-JAPAN ALLIANCE AND WELCOMING THE VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER KISHIDA FUMIO TO THE UNITED STATES

Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. HAGERTY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. ROMNEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 626

Whereas the United States-Japan alliance remains a cornerstone of peace, security, and prosperity and underscores the unwavering commitment of United States to Japan and the Indo-Pacific region;

Whereas the United States and Japan established diplomatic relations with the signing of the Treaty of Peace and Amity on March 31, 1854;

Whereas January 19, 2024, marked the 64th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security between the United States and Japan;

Whereas, in May 2016, then-President Barack Obama made a historic visit to Hiroshima Memorial Peace Park, and in December 2016, then-Prime Minister Abe Shinzo made a historic visit to Pearl Harbor, demonstrating the willingness both nations to overcome the most sensitive aspects of our shared history to form the powerful alliance that exists today;

Whereas, during the U.S.-Japan Security Consultative Committee (2+2) on January 11, 2023, both countries resolved to advance bi-

lateral alliance modernization initiatives to build a more capable, integrated, and agile alliance that bolsters deterrence and addresses evolving regional and global security challenges;

Whereas, under the premiership of Kishida Fumio, the Government of Japan has taken historic steps to modernize Japan’s national security strategy and defense policy through the release of the 2022 National Security Strategy, the National Defense Strategy, and Defense Buildup Program, including commitments to increase defense spending to 2 percent of GDP within 5 years and to develop counterstrike capabilities;

Whereas the United States and Japan have deepened their defense cooperation through various bilateral and multilateral exercises and across domains that include space and cyber;

Whereas the Government of Japan shares the costs of stationing approximately 55,000 members of the United States Armed Forces, civilians, and family members in Japan, and enables the United States to forward deploy significant military resources such as the USS Ronald Reagan and the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, to meet the alliance’s current and future security challenges;

Whereas the United States’ extended deterrence commitments to Japan remain ironclad and backed by the full range of United States capabilities;

Whereas the Senkaku Islands fall within the scope of Article V of the U.S.-Japan Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security;

Whereas a strong trilateral relationship between and among the United States, the Republic of Korea, and Japan is vital for promoting Indo-Pacific security, defending freedom and democracy, and upholding human rights and rule of law;

Whereas, in August 2023, Japan Prime Minister Kishida Fumio, Republic of Korea President Yoon Suk Yeol, and United States President Joseph R. Biden announced a “new era of trilateral partnership” at the Camp David Summit, including a “commitment to consult” in an expeditious manner regarding regional challenges, provocations, and threats affecting trilateral collective interests and security;

Whereas the United States, Japan, and the Republic of Korea have deepened mutual cooperation and dialogue in a series of fields, including—

- (1) the trilateral Indo-Pacific Dialogue;
- (2) the expansion of a multi-year schedule for trilateral military exercises, including the first-ever trilateral aerial exercise;
- (3) the activation of the real-time Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) missile warning data sharing mechanism;
- (4) the establishment of new trilateral people-to-people exchanges, including a trilateral youth summit and a technology leaders training program; and
- (5) the creation of a trilateral Diplomatic Working Group to counter cyber threats posed by the DPRK;

Whereas the trilateral partnership currently faces a unique opportunity to drive shared priorities at the United Nations Security Council, while both Japan and the Republic of Korea serve as nonpermanent representatives;

Whereas, in May 2023, during the G7 Hiroshima Summit, G7 leaders underscored their enduring support for Ukraine’s sovereignty, reaffirmed the importance of peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait, took steps to secure critical supply chains, demonstrated ongoing commitments to strengthening global health security, and more;

Whereas Japan continues to work closely with the United States and other G7 partners to stand against economic coercion by adversaries, including through the establishment

of the G7 Coordination Platform on Economic Coercion;

Whereas, since the beginning of Russia’s unprovoked and unjustified invasion of Ukraine, Japan has demonstrated its strong support for Ukraine, including through high-level diplomatic engagements, humanitarian and security assistance, financial support, and coordinating sanctions against Russia with the United States and other G7 countries;

Whereas, in February 2024, Japan hosted the Japan-Ukraine Conference for Promotion of Economic Growth and Reconstruction, which facilitated cooperation between Japan and Ukraine, including public-private partnerships, to support Ukraine’s future development across sectors, including infrastructure, energy, agriculture, and information technology, and announced the opening of a new government trade office in Kyiv, as well as \$105,000,000 in new aid for Ukraine;

Whereas Japan has contributed to supporting the Indo-Pacific region’s development, stability, and prosperity through the Quad’s positive, practical agenda with the United States, Australia, and India, including through the third in-person Quad Leaders’ Summit in May 2023, where Quad members reaffirmed their commitment to a “free and open Indo-Pacific that is inclusive and resilient”;

Whereas Japan has worked with the members of the Quad to strengthen cooperation on health security, environment, maritime domain awareness, critical and emerging technologies, space, infrastructure development, cyber resilience, and more;

Whereas Japan has contributed to the promotion of quality infrastructure investment, and the United States and Japan continue to share an interest in energy security and cooperation on advanced energy technologies;

Whereas Japan has made critical contributions to the development of Open Radio Access Network (O-RAN) technology and worked closely with the United States to promote an open, free, interoperable, reliable, and secure internet, including through initiatives such as the Global Digital Connectivity Partnership;

Whereas, in June 2023, Japan joined the United States and Australia in signing an agreement to develop a \$95,000,000 undersea cable project that is expected to connect more than 100,000 individuals across three countries in the Pacific;

Whereas Japan is one of the largest trading partners of the United States, with bilateral trade totaling over \$300,000,000,000 in 2022, and Japan continues to hold the largest share of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the United States, making the United States-Japan bilateral economic relationship one of the world’s strongest;

Whereas, during an official visit in November 2017 to Japan, President Donald J. Trump underscored the importance of expanding trade and foreign direct investment between the United States and Japan to strengthen economic growth and job creation, and on October 7, 2019, the Governments of the United States and Japan signed the U.S.-Japan Trade Agreement and U.S.-Japan Digital Trade Agreement, and these agreements entered into force on January 1, 2020;

Whereas, in January 2022, the United States and Japan established the Economic Policy Consultative Committee (“Economic 2+2”), which convened for a second ministerial meeting in November 2023, on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit;

Whereas the Government of Japan-sponsored Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) program has more than 35,000 United States

alumni and represents one of many exchanges that have cemented our close people-to-people ties;

Whereas, every year, more than 1,000,000 individuals visit Washington, D.C., to celebrate the National Cherry Blossom Festival, which serves as a reminder of the enduring friendship between the United States and Japan; and

Whereas, in April 2024, Prime Minister Kishida Fumio will visit the United States at the invitation of President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) welcomes Prime Minister Kishida Fumio to the United States;

(2) reaffirms the strong and long-standing partnership between the Governments of the United States and Japan, rooted in a shared commitment to upholding peace, security, and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond;

(3) stands ready to support efforts to build a more capable and modernized alliance to address regional and global security challenges;

(4) applauds the commitment of the Government of Japan to defense modernization, including its goal to increase defense spending to 2 percent of GDP by 2027;

(5) reaffirms the commitment of the United States to the defense of Japan under Article V of the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty;

(6) reaffirms that the Senkaku Islands fall within the scope of Article V of the U.S.-Japan Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security, and that the United States remains opposed to any unilateral attempts to change the status quo in the East China Sea or undermine Japan's administration of these islands;

(7) recognizes the unprecedented convergence of the national security and defense strategies between our two nations, as well as the need to further bolster deterrence in the Indo-Pacific;

(8) supports Japan's efforts to expand security cooperation with other United States allies and partners, most notably with the Republic of Korea, Australia, the United Kingdom, the Philippines and India;

(9) applauds recent advancements in trilateral cooperation among the United States, Japan, and the Republic of Korea (ROK), as well as bilateral Japan-ROK relations;

(10) encourages efforts to strengthen engagement with Japan in bilateral and multilateral forums, including the Quad;

(11) acknowledges Japan's leadership as the G7 host nation in 2023, including its coordination among G7 members to address economic coercion, as well as the announcement of the G7 AI Principles and Code of Conduct, and focus on support for Ukraine;

(12) calls for continued cooperation between the Governments of the United States and Japan in promoting our shared democratic values and respect for human rights; and

(13) commits to strengthening and deepening diplomatic, economic, security, and people-to-people ties between the United States and Japan.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 627—HONORING THE MEMORY OF JEREIMA "JERI" BUSTAMANTE ON THE SIXTH ANNIVERSARY OF HER PASSING

Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Mr. RUBIO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 627

Whereas Jereima "Jeri" Bustamante (referred to in this preamble as "Jeri Bustamante") lived the American Dream;

Whereas, after moving from Panama to the United States with her family, Jeri Bustamante—

(1) attended Miami Beach Senior High School; and

(2) earned a Bachelor's Degree in Communication and Media Sciences and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Florida International University;

Whereas Jeri Bustamante had a tireless work ethic and a passion for communication and paid for her education by working while enrolled in school;

Whereas that tireless work ethic propelled Jeri Bustamante to professional success, beginning with an internship at a Miami television station and culminating in a period of service as press secretary to Governor Rick Scott;

Whereas the enthusiasm, compassion, tenacity, and vibrant energy of Jeri Bustamante are greatly missed by her family, friends, and coworkers;

Whereas the spirit of Jeri Bustamante lives on through the Jereima Bustamante Memorial Scholarship, which aims to help graduates of Miami Beach Senior High School achieve their goals and pursue the American Dream through a college education; and

Whereas April 8, 2024, marks 6 years since the life of Jeri Bustamante was tragically cut short in a fatal boating accident: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) honors the life and memory of Jereima "Jeri" Bustamante (referred to in this resolution as "Jeri Bustamante");

(2) offers heartfelt condolences to the family, loved ones, and friends of Jeri Bustamante;

(3) recognizes that living the American Dream remains possible for any individual who, following the example of Jeri Bustamante, works hard to pursue and achieve a goal; and

(4) encourages the recipients of the Jereima Bustamante Memorial Scholarship to carry on the legacy of Jeri Bustamante.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 628—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF THE RISE UP FOR LGBTQI+ YOUTH IN SCHOOLS INITIATIVE, A CALL TO ACTION TO COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY TO DEMAND EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY, BASIC CIVIL RIGHTS PROTECTIONS, AND FREEDOM FROM ERASURE FOR ALL STUDENTS, PARTICULARLY LGBTQI+ YOUNG PEOPLE, IN K-12 SCHOOLS

Mr. SCHATZ submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 628

Whereas young people, teachers, school staff, families, and communities must be free from transphobia, homophobia, racism, sexism, and ableism in K-12 schools;

Whereas K-12 schools must be safe and inclusive learning environments that include and affirm LGBTQI+ young people, especially those who are transgender, nonbinary, intersex, Black, Indigenous, people of color, and people with disabilities and those who are from communities that experience marginalization;

Whereas, for more than 2 decades, Congress has supported a resolution for a National Day of Silence, and, for a decade, Congress has supported a resolution for No Name-Calling Week;

Whereas advocates have designated 2024 to 2025 as a time for communities to support the Rise Up for LGBTQI+ Youth in Schools Initiative in support of LGBTQI+ young people in schools by building on the goals of National Day of (No) Silence and No Name-Calling Week to create a sustained call to action to demand equal educational opportunities, basic civil rights protections, and freedom from erasure for all students;

Whereas LGBTQI+ young people frequently experience bias-based bullying and harassment, discrimination, and punitive discipline that increases the likelihood they will enter the school-to-prison pipeline;

Whereas over 200 anti-LGBTQI+ education bills have been introduced each year in State legislatures across the country, the majority of which specifically target transgender and nonbinary young people, including—

(1) in Idaho, where on March 30, 2020, Governor Brad Little signed the first bill into law barring transgender students from playing on the school sports teams that correspond with their gender identity;

(2) in 24 additional States that enacted policies between 2021 and 2024 that prohibit transgender students from playing alongside their peers on school sports teams;

(3) in Tennessee, where in 2021, Governor Bill Lee signed a bill that allows any student, parent, or employee to sue if they interact with a transgender person in a school bathroom or other facility; and

(4) in 10 States that, between 2021 and 2024, enacted laws that prevent transgender students from using the school bathroom or locker room that corresponds with their gender identity;

Whereas GLSEN's 2021 National School Climate Survey found that LGBTQI+ students who experienced discrimination on the basis of their LGBTQI+ identity at school in the past year, including being prevented from using the restroom that aligns with their gender identity and being barred from playing on the school sports team that aligns with their gender identity, were nearly 3 times as likely to have missed school in the past month, had lower GPAs, reported lower feelings of school belonging, and had higher levels of depression compared to LGBTQI+ students who had not experienced similar discrimination;

Whereas LGBTQI+ young people are more likely than their non-LGBTQI+ peers to experience mental health concerns, including stress, anxiety, and depression;

Whereas nearly half of LGBTQI+ young people seriously considered suicide in the last year, a trend that increases among Indigenous, Black, and multiracial LGBTQI+ young people;

Whereas the GLSEN's 2021 National School Climate Survey found that, among LGBTQI+ students who said that they were considering dropping out of school, 31.4 percent indicated that they were doing so because of the hostile climate created by gendered school policies and practices;

Whereas States have passed or attempted to pass legislation that erases or censors LGBTQI+ individuals, history, and contributions from classroom literature and curricula, including—

(1) in Florida, where in March 2022, Governor Ron DeSantis signed HB 1557 into law, censoring instruction related to LGBTQI+ people, commonly referred to as the "Don't Say LGBTQI+" law;

(2) in the 6 additional States that enacted laws between 2022 and 2024 censoring instruction related to LGBTQI+ people;

(3) in Arizona, where in May of 2021, Governor Doug Ducey signed HB 2035, which requires parental consent for a child to learn about topics such as the United States Supreme Court ruling in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, 576 U.S. 644 (2015), in which the Court held that the fundamental right to marry is guaranteed to same-sex couples; and

(4) in Arkansas, Florida, Montana, and Tennessee, which in 2021 enacted laws that treat instruction related to LGBTQI+ individuals in history, science, the arts, or any academic class as a sensitive topic that requires parental notification and allows parents to opt their child out of such instruction;

Whereas these laws harm students and force families to consider leaving their homes, as demonstrated in a Williams Institute report, which found that 56 percent of LGBTQI+ parents of students in Florida considered moving out of Florida and 16.5 percent have taken steps to move out of Florida because of HB 1557;

Whereas States have gone farther by specifically targeting transgender students and their families with policies that attack mental health counseling and gender-affirming care for transgender students, including—

(1) in Texas, where in 2022, Governor Greg Abbott issued a directive to the Department of Family and Protective Services to investigate the parents of young people seeking gender-affirming care for child abuse, which purported to require school professionals to report parents who are supportive of their transgender child for investigation; and

(2) the introduction of at least 55 bills in 22 States, since the beginning of the 2024 legislative session, that prohibit or create barriers to the social affirmation of transgender and nonbinary students in schools, such as using a student's chosen name and pronouns, regardless of the risk to the student's safety, health, and well-being;

Whereas 85 percent of transgender and nonbinary young people say that recent debates prompted by State legislation restricting the rights of transgender individuals have negatively impacted their mental health;

Whereas data provided by the Department of Justice shows that the number of reported anti-LGBTQI+ hate crimes in schools has increased from 145 reported incidents in 2019 to 251 reported incidents in 2022;

Whereas every young person must have equal educational opportunity and freedom from the fear that their basic civil and educational rights will be taken away from them;

Whereas young people who develop in positive school climates, free from bullying, harassment, and discrimination, report greater physical and psychological safety, greater mental well-being, and improved educational and life outcomes;

Whereas positive school transformation must recognize that safety is too low of a bar and that all communities deserve to be acknowledged and affirmed in schools;

Whereas students and families, educators, and community members in Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Idaho, Montana, Tennessee, Texas, and in all States and territories are advocating for safe and inclusive learning environments that affirm LGBTQI+ young people, particularly those who are transgender, nonbinary, Black, Indigenous, people of color, and people with disabilities;

Whereas affirming policies, such as enumerated anti-bullying protections, gender neutral dress code guidelines, and inclusive learning practices, are proven strategies to address hostile learning environments for all students; and

Whereas we must all demand the best possible future for all young people in schools,

particularly those who identify as LGBTQI+, without exception: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of the Rise Up for LGBTQI+ Youth in Schools Initiative in demanding the best possible future for all young people in schools, particularly those who identify as LGBTQI+;

(2) recognizes the contributions of students and families, educators, and community members who participate in the Day of (No) Silence to draw attention to the bullying, harassment, assault, and discrimination faced by LGBTQI+ students; and

(3) encourages each State, territory, and locality to support the Rise Up for LGBTQI+ Youth in Schools Initiative and adopt laws and policies that prohibit bias-based victimization, exclusion, and erasure.

# SENATE RESOLUTION 629—CON-DEMNING THE ARBITRARY ARREST OF UNITED STATES CITIZENS BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND CALLING FOR THE IMMEDIATE AND UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE OF SUCH CITIZENS

Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. KAINE, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CASEY, Mr. COONS, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. KING, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WELCH, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. WYDEN, and Ms. WARREN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 629

Whereas the Government of the Russian Federation has arbitrarily and cruelly arrested United States citizens under false pretenses in order to extract bargaining leverage on unrelated matters;

Whereas the Russian Federation is a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council;

Whereas, on March 29, 2023, the Government of the Russian Federation arrested United States citizen and accredited Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich on fraudulent charges of espionage for his reporting on the Russian economy;

Whereas Gershkovich has spent more than one year in pretrial detention in the notorious Lefortovo prison in Moscow, including in isolation with limited access to medical care and attorneys;

Whereas, even during the Cold War, the Soviet Union never held a journalist from the United States for similar long-term detention, with the closest parallel being the 1986 arrest and 13-day detainment of U.S. News and World Report journalist Nicholas Daniloff;

Whereas the Department of State determined on April 10, 2023, that Gershkovich has been wrongfully detained by the Government of the Russian Federation;

Whereas, on December 28, 2018, the Government of the Russian Federation arrested United States citizen Paul Whelan and later convicted him on June 15, 2020, on fraudulent espionage charges;

Whereas Whelan has spent nearly four years in various high-security jails and labor camps in the Russian Federation, while enduring solitary confinement, forced labor, and the denial of medical care;

Whereas the Department of State determined on April 10, 2023, that Whelan has been

wrongfully detained by the Government of the Russian Federation;

Whereas United States Ambassador to the Russian Federation Lynne Tracy publicly stated on March 26, 2024, following Evan Gershkovich's court hearing, "Evan's case is not about evidence, due process, or rule of law. It is about using American citizens as pawns to achieve political ends, as the Kremlin is doing in the case of Paul Whelan";

Whereas, on June 2, 2023, the Government of the Russian Federation arrested United States citizen and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty journalist Alsu Kurmasheva on politically motivated charges of working as a foreign agent and "spreading falsehoods about the Russian military," and who now faces a prison sentence up to 15 years;

Whereas the Government of the Russian Federation has repeatedly denied consular access, basic medical care, and ordered Kurmasheva to remain in pre-trial detention in prison conditions Kurmasheva described as "inhumane";

Whereas, on August 14, 2021, the Government of the Russian Federation arrested United States citizen and international schoolteacher Marc Fogel for possession of medical marijuana prescribed by his physician, then sentenced him on June 16, 2022, to an excessive 14-year sentence in a Russian labor camp;

Whereas lawyers from the Russian Federation informed Fogel's family that the typical sentence for the offense is five years of probation, and in 2019, the same Russian court sentenced a Russian defendant to eight years in prison for the possession of 1,500 grams of various narcotics;

Whereas the Government of the Russian Federation sentenced Fogel to punishment vastly disproportionate to the severity of his nonviolent crime, wildly dissimilar to the typical punishments for comparable offenses in the Russian Federation, and clearly motivated by ongoing political tensions between the Russian Federation and the United States;

Whereas, on January 28, 2024, the Government of the Russian Federation arrested United States citizen and amateur ballerina Ksenia Khavana on fraudulent charges of high treason during a visit to the Russian Federation after she donated \$50 to a charity supporting humanitarian aid for Ukraine;

Whereas Khavana has been held in a high-security prison with no access to hot water or heat during winter, and faces a 20-year sentence with limited means of legal defense;

Whereas, on February 17, 2022, the Government of the Russian Federation arrested Brittney Griner on trumped-up charges, kept her in detention for approximately ten months, and eventually released her on December 8, 2022, in exchange for notorious Russian arms dealer Viktor Bout;

Whereas, on April 11, 2022, the Government of the Russian Federation arrested United States permanent resident Vladimir Kara-Murza for criticizing renewed invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation and resulting ongoing war and the criminality of the Government of the Russian Federation, and sentenced Kara-Murza on April 17, 2023, to a 25-year sentence for "high treason";

Whereas human rights groups in the Russian Federation estimate that the Government of the Russian Federation holds nearly 20,000 political prisoners in Russian jails, including, until his February 2024 death in a Siberian gulag, opposition leader Alexei Navalny;

Whereas the Government of the Russian Federation has kidnapped more than 19,000 Ukrainian children and abducted them to the Russian Federation, resulting in President Vladimir Putin being indicted by the International Criminal Court for war crimes;



Whereas, under Vladimir Putin, Russian courts are neither independent nor fair in the administration of justice and are entirely beholden to the political whims of Putin;

Whereas the Government of the Russian Federation has refused to provide neither minimal due process nor fair independent legal proceedings for United States citizens Gershkovich, Whelan, Kurmasheva, Fogel, and Khavana;

Whereas the Department of State has called for the release of Gershkovich, Whelan, Kurmasheva, Fogel, and Khavana;

Whereas the arrest and continued detention of Gershkovich, Whelan, Kurmasheva, Fogel, and Khavana amount to hostage taking by the Government of the Russian Federation: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) condemns—

(A) the arbitrary arrest and continued detention of United States citizens Evan Gershkovich, Paul Whelan, Alsu Kurmasheva, Marc Fogel, and Ksenia Khavana, and United States permanent resident Vladimir Kara-Murza by the Government of the Russian Federation;

(B) the hostage taking of United States citizens by a Permanent Member of the United Nations Security Council; and

(C) the ongoing persecution, arrest, and political imprisonment of ordinary Russian citizens and human rights defenders who call for the end of the war in Ukraine and demand freedom in the Russian Federation;

(2) urges the Department of State to determine that Alsu Kurmasheva, Marc Fogel, Ksenia Khavana, and Vladimir Kara-Murza have been wrongfully detained by the Government of the Russian Federation; and

(3) calls on the immediate and unconditional release of United States citizens Evan Gershkovich, Paul Whelan, Alsu Kurmasheva, Marc Fogel, and Ksenia Khavana, and United States permanent resident Vladimir Kara-Murza.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I want to address what can only be called the hostage-taking of Americans by the government of Vladimir Putin of Russia. The list is troubling and growing.

This month marks the 1-year anniversary of Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich's dubious arrest in Russia. He has spent more than a year in pretrial detention in a notorious Moscow prison, including in isolation, with limited medical attention. Even during the height of the Cold War, the Soviet police state didn't arrest and hold American journalists in such a brazen and transparently crude manner. The longest was a U.S. News & World Report reporter, who was released after 13 days.

But it is not just Evan whom Vladimir Putin is holding hostage. In 2018, Russia arrested American citizen Paul Whelan and sentenced him to 16 years in prison on fraudulent espionage charges. He has spent 4 years in various Russian high-security jails and labor camps, enduring solitary confinement and forced labor.

Last year, Russia arrested American citizen and Radio Free Europe journalist Alsu Kurmasheva for being a foreign agent. She is facing a 5-year sentence. While in pretrial detention, her

conditions are being described as “inhumane.”

In August 2021, Russia arrested American citizen and international schoolteacher Marc Fogel for possessing medical marijuana prescribed by his physician. Then they sentenced him to a ludicrous 14-year sentence in Russian labor camps.

Earlier this year, Russia arrested American citizen Ksenia Khavana on nonsense charges of high treason after she donated—get this—\$50 to a charity supporting humanitarian aid for Ukraine. For that, she is facing a 20-year sentence in prison.

Two years ago, Russia also arrested U.S. legal permanent resident Vladimir Kara-Murza, sentencing him to 25 years for criticizing Putin's disastrous war in Ukraine.

These are some of the photographs of the individuals whom I have just described.

Mr. Kara-Murza was a visitor in my office. I know him personally. I met with him a month before his arrest. And, despite two murder attempts by poisoning, he was determined to go back to Russia to fight for democracy. Evgenia, his wife, is here this week for a bipartisan event on the anniversary of his arrest.

And let us not forget Brittney Griner, whose arrest in 2022 on trumped-up charges was cynically used to secure the release of notorious Russian arms merchant Viktor Bout.

It is outrageous that Russia, a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, is holding hostage American citizens. It is the act of a desperate rogue regime, similar to the criminal actions of countries like Iran, North Korea, and Venezuela.

Today, I am introducing a resolution condemning Russia's hostage-taking, calling for the immediate release of these hostages and urging the administration to consider “wrongfully detained” status.

And, to those detained and their families, I want you to know you are not forgotten. We will continue to advocate for your release.

#### ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 2024

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, this is a very short one tonight.

I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, April 9; 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; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Bazis nomination postcloture; further, that all time on

the Bazis nomination be considered expired at 11:30 a.m. and that following the cloture vote on the White nomination, the Senate recess until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings, with all time during recess counting postcloture; finally, 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 action.

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

#### ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam 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 7:46 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, April 9, 2024, at 10 a.m.

#### NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

##### NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

SUBJECT TO QUALIFICATIONS PROVIDED BY LAW, THE FOLLOWING FOR DIRECTOR, NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION COMMISSIONED OFFICER CORPS AND OFFICE OF MARINE AND AVIATION OPERATIONS.

##### *To be rear admiral*

CHAD M. CARY

##### IN THE AIR FORCE

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

##### *To be brigadier general*

COL. KIMBERLY A. MCCUE

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

##### *To be brigadier general*

COL. JOHN A. CLUCK

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

##### *To be brigadier general*

COL. JACK R. ARTHAUD  
COL. ANTHONY D. BABCOCK  
COL. CATHERINE V. BARRINGTON  
COL. ARIEL G. BATUNGBACAL  
COL. CASSIUS T. BENTLEY III  
COL. MICHAEL D. CURRY  
COL. LINDSAY C. DROZ  
COL. MASON R. DULA  
COL. TODD R. DYER  
COL. TRAVIS L. EDWARDS  
COL. CHAD R. ELLSWORTH  
COL. PAUL G. FILCEK  
COL. BRIAN A. FILLER  
COL. JOHN B. GALLEMORE  
COL. TIMOTHY A. HERRITAGE  
COL. JAMES V. HEWITT  
COL. JAY A. JOHNSON  
COL. MATTHEW E. JONES  
COL. MICHELE A. LOBIANCO  
COL. SEAN E. LOWE  
COL. ROBERT P. LYONS III  
COL. MARK A. MASSARO  
COL. CRAIG D. PRATHER  
COL. JOSEPH L. SHEFFIELD



COL. ANDREW J. STEFFEN  
COL. KRISTEN D. THOMPSON  
COL. SHANE S. VESELY  
COL. DOUGLAS P. WICKERT

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

*To be brigadier general*

COL. BRIAN E. VAUGHN

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601, AND FOR APPOINTMENT AS A SENIOR MEMBER OF THE MILITARY STAFF COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED NATIONS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 711:

*To be lieutenant general*

MAJ. GEN. JOSEPH P. MCGEE

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

MAJ. GEN. MICHAEL J. BORGSCHULTE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

MAJ. GEN. ROBERTA L. SHEA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

MAJ. GEN. PAUL J. ROCK, JR.

IN THE SPACE FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES SPACE FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be major general*

BRIG. GEN. DENNIS O. BYTHEWOOD  
BRIG. GEN. JAMES E. SMITH

WITHDRAWALS

Executive Message transmitted by the President to the Senate on April 8, 2024 withdrawing from further Senate consideration the following nominations:

COAST GUARD NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JENNIFER J. ANDREW AND ENDING WITH CHRISTOPHER J. YOUNG, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE SENT TO THE SENATE ON NOVEMBER 1, 2023.