Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, June 17, 2024, at 3 p.m.

House of Representatives

FRIDAY, JUNE 14, 2024

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

Bhai Mohan Singh, Gurdwara Singh Sabha of Yakima, Washington, offered the following prayer:

“One Universal Creator God, by the Grace of the True Guru.”

Almighty God, Waheguru, we call You by many names but You are one. Keep Your divine hand over the Members of this House as they steer our Nation’s future. Keep truth on our tongues, love in our hearts, and sound judgment in our minds. Remind us of our purpose: to love, serve, and create a peaceful world.

Bless all leaders working for the common good. Give those who govern humility, courage, integrity, and compassion. Release us from ego so we serve selflessly. Help us remember we belong to one family. “Recognize the entire Human Race as One.”

You are everywhere; all are Yours. Whatever is seen is Your form. You are one. Watch over our protectors ensuring our safety and freedom.

Homage to worldwide martyrs who fought for liberty, justice, and equality. “In the name of Nanak, find everlasting Optimism. With Your Will, Almighty God, may there be Grace for all Humanity.”

“Waheguru Ji Ka Khalsa.” “The Khalsa belongs to God.”

“Waheguru Ji Kee Fateh.” “Victory belongs to God.”

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. DEAN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania 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.

WELCOMING Bhai Mohan Singh

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. NEWHOUSE) is recognized for 1 minute.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor my guest Chaplain, Bhai Mohan Singh.

Mohan Singh was the head granthi, or the head priest, at a Gurdwara in Yakima, Washington, and now travels the Nation spreading the teachings of Sikhism.

Sikhism is the world’s fifth largest religion with nearly 30 million followers worldwide, and roughly 1 million of those are located within the United States of America. It was founded by Guru Nanak in west Punjab in 1469 and is based on three cardinal principles: Meditate on God, earn a living by honest means, and share with the less fortunate.

Mohan Singh is a dedicated preacher with an extensive educational background in Sikhism, with experience in both teaching and leading religious services. His career spans over two decades of service in both India and the United States, and we are very fortunate to have him here today with us to lead the opening prayer and to represent the good people of central Washington.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LOUDERMILK). The Chair will entertain up to five further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

IN RECOGNITION OF SUSQUEHANNA REGIONAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Susquehanna Regional EMS/UPMC in north central Pennsylvania’s prehospital team, on being selected as the 2024 Pennsylvania Agency of the Year by the Pennsylvania Emergency Health Services Council.
In their tireless efforts, Susquehanna Regional EMS responded to a staggering number of approximately 20,000 calls in 2023, including 911 emergencies and nonemergency interfacility transfers. Their commitment to community benefit support was equally impressive, with over 13,000 hours dedicated to events such as the Little League World Series, Williamsport’s Fourth of July celebration, and Lycoming County Fair.

Susquehanna Regional EMS educates providers and the public with programs like UPMC’s Minutes Matter and Stop the Bleed. Through a partnership with Susquehanna Health Foundation, 100 AEDs, 100 bleed-control kits, and 100 packages of Narcan have been donated to our community.

Every minute counts in a medical emergency.

Susquehanna Regional EMS’ daily work has saved countless lives throughout Pennsylvania’s 15th Congressional District. On behalf of a grateful community, I thank them for their service to our community, and I congratulate them on this well-deserved award.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE ANNIVERSARY OF DACA

(Ms. GARCIA of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today during Immigration Heritage Month in recognition of the 12th anniversary of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program, known as DACA.

Since 2012, DACA recipients, or Dreamers, have experienced uncertainty about their status and future in this country. Yet, their impact is certain. They are our nurses, writers, lawyers, teachers, activists, and change-makers. They have grown up here, eagerly contributing to the diversity of our country.

If Congress does nothing, we lose our neighbors, our family members, and friends. We lose fellow Americans.

With the American Dream and Promise Act, House Democrats have a plan, with bipartisan support, to finally create a pathway for citizenship for Dreamers. In America, we welcome those fleeing harm and danger. We welcome those who believe in the American Dream. We put people over politics. Americans support Dreamers, and Dreamers support America.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE DEDICATION OF THE ST. LOUIS COUNTY RESCUE SQUAD AND SHERIFF’S OFFICE

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

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my appreciation to the St. Louis County Rescue Squad and Sheriff’s Office for their dedication to responding to emergency situations and to mourn the loss of two Minnesotans. Recently, they responded to a tragic accident where a party of four canoeists went over a waterfall in the Boundary Waters, and two went missing.

One of the missing canoeists, Jesse Haugen of Cambridge, was a constituent of mine. Jesse heroically attempted to save his fellow canoeists before going under himself. Jesse’s bravery was no surprise to anyone who knew him, especially given his military background.

Mr. Speaker, the Boundary Waters are remote, making any rescue attempt complex. During this time of the year, high water levels and fast currents made these efforts even more difficult.

Jesse Haugen and Reis Grams both tragically died, but I am grateful to have the St. Louis County Rescue Squad and Sheriff’s Office for staying on the scene for 2 weeks until both men were located.

Thanks to their determination and professionalism, the families of Jesse and Reis can now have closure, and I will continue to pray for them and our St. Louis County Sheriff’s Rescue Squad.

RECOVERING ECONOMY

(Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, the United States is recovering from the pandemic faster than any other industrialized nation. In fact, the World Bank expects the United States economy to grow significantly faster than they initially predicted, asserting that this is a worldwide economic recovery. Yet, prices remain stubbornly high for groceries, gas, and especially housing. Both realities are true.

One culprit of this is corporate profit-taking and greed because unemployment is low, our job market is strong, and inflation is cooling. Yet, prices are still up almost 19 percent since 2021.

Historically, in the years leading up to the pandemic, corporate profits were responsible for approximately 11 percent of price increases. Contrast that with the second and third quarters of 2023. Corporate profits were responsible for more than 50 percent of price increases. In the latest quarter of 2023, American corporate profits reached an all-time high of $3 trillion.

President Biden and congressional Democrats are working to address this manipulation head on, while my colleagues on the other side of the aisle propose tax cuts for the very corporations taking advantage.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to hear real solutions from the so-called leaders of the House.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 249TH BIRTHDAY OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY

(Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, today we commemorate the 249th birthday of United States Army.

On this day, the Second Continental Congress transformed a local rebellion into a war for independence by establishing the Continental Army, which today is the United States Army. One day after the Army was established, Congress appointed French and Indian War veteran George Washington to be the very first commander of the Army, and the rest is history.

The Army’s birthday is a day where we can express gratitude for the brave men and women who served and continue to serve in our Nation’s oldest of the military. As one of 38 Army veterans currently serving in the U.S. House of Representatives, I am honored to recognize this historic milestone.

One thing everybody knows about the U.S. Army is that, when duty calls, we will rise to the challenge. “This We’ll Defend.”

God bless our troops, Iowa, and God bless the United States of America.

I also acknowledge that today, June 14, is Flag Day. Please remember and honor the values of our flag.

I extend birthday wishes to President Donald Trump.

Happy birthday, Mr. President.

VISIT TO UNION SQUARE GREENMARKET

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I recently visited the Union Square Greenmarket in Brooklyn with Chef Evan Handczor, founder of Little Egg in Brooklyn. Evan is a chef-ambassador for Chefs for Healthy Soil, a coalition that promotes the connection between sustainable agriculture and the foods that sustain us.

We spoke with farmers who produce nutritious, locally grown food by focusing on soil health and sustainability. They understand the deep connection between the quality of delicious food at restaurants like Little Egg and the quality of the environment in which that food was grown.

Access to food is a fundamental human right. Americans deserve a food system that secures that right for everyone while doing right by farmers, food workers, and the planet. Supporting our farmers as they protect soil health and sustain local food systems is one of the best tools we have to end hunger now.

I thank Chef Evan and everyone at Union Square Greenmarket for introducing me to this important work.
HONORING THE 155TH ANNIVERSARY OF JOHN WESLEY POWELL’S EXPEDITION OF THE GREEN AND COLORADO RIVERS

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

Mr. CURTIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 155th anniversary of John Wesley Powell’s daring expedition of the Green and Colorado Rivers. These findings literally put Utah’s Canyonlands on the map. These rivers and canyons are vital to Utah’s economy, culture, and recreation.

First, the expedition successfully navigated Flaming Gorge. The expedition then mapped and surveyed the vast canyons and open sagebrush flats of the present-day Uintah County and the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservations.

The expedition continued through Desolation Canyon, into eastern Utah, before meeting the confluence of the Colorado River in present-day Canyonlands National Park in San Juan County.

This year, Uintah County will commemorate the expedition with a musical, “Let’s Go—a John Wesley Powell Story,” in addition to the sixth annual John Wesley Powell River Festival.

These Western heroes created the records for the lands and rivers we are now so grateful to recreate in and enjoy safely.

RECOGNIZING 25TH ARMY CORPS

Mr. GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise.

Today, I rise to remind us that as we celebrate the Juleenth, let us not forget the men of the 25th Army Corps.

General Gordon Granger came into Galveston, Texas, to read General Order No. 3, announcing that the enslaved persons had been freed, but it was the 25th Army Corps that came in before General Gordon Granger and liberated Galveston, Texas.

They were 1,000 persons who had been enslaved but were now free. The 25th Army Corps deserves recommendation, and they deserve commemoration. Let us remember them, as well.

God bless you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the United States of America.

CONGRATULATING T.C. ROBERSON RAMS BASEBALL TEAM

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

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, we witnessed this week a remarkable baseball contest. In the Congressional Baseball Game, the Republicans defeated the Democrats 31–10, but, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize some real baseball talent.

I rise today to congratulate the T.C. Roberson Rams baseball team for winning North Carolina’s High School Athletic Association’s 4A State title for the second year in a row. The Rams finished with a 14-1 home winning streak, and the team won a decisive 8-1 shutout victory.

The Rams are now the third 4A school in North Carolina to win back-to-back championships and the first to do so in 44 years.

Coach Eric Filipek has mentored this group of young men for more than 13 years, and his dedication has guided them to be better players and better leaders.

Hopefully, one day, some of these great athletes will also join our congressional baseball team. I congratulate the Rams for, again, making western North Carolina proud.

HONORING ANNA PIERCY

Mr. CORREA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life and legacy of Anna Piercy, a devoted educator, community leader, mother, and personal friend.

Anna dedicated about 40 years of her life to serving Anaheim Union High School District. Her journey in education started in 1969 as a seventh-grade teacher at Trindad Junior High School, where she instilled a love for education in all of her students.

Anna went on to serve as a member of the Anaheim Union High School Board, where she continued to advocate for students and educators. She also went to serve our community as a member of Cypress City Council and as Cypress mayor.

Anna leaves behind a lasting legacy, survived by her two daughters and six grandchildren. I join her family and our community in remembering her legacy. I thank her for her community involvement, and I thank her for all she has done for us. We will not forget her.

SERVICE MEMBER QUALITY OF LIFE IMPROVEMENT AND NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CURTIS). Pursuant to House Resolution 1287 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 8070) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes, with Mr. LOUDERMILK (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Thursday, June 13, 2024, amendment No. 53, printed in part B of House Report 118–551, offered by the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN) had been disposed of.

AMENDMENTS EN BLOC NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. ROGERS OF ALABAMA

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Chair, pursuant to House Resolution 1287, I offer amendments en bloc.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendments en bloc.


Add at the end of title XI of division A the following:

SEC. 11. OMB EMPLOYMENT FORM REQUIREMENT FOR DOD CONTRACTORS.

The Secretary shall require all individuals hired to Department of Defense contracts to use Declaration for Federal Employment Form OMB No. 3206-0812.

AMENDMENT NO. 236 OFFERED BY MR. AMODEI OF NEVADA

At the end of subtitle D of title III, insert the following:

SEC. 3. BRIEFING ON ARMY ORGANIZATIONAL CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT USED IN COLD AND EXTREME COLD WEATHER ENVIRONMENTS.

(a) In general.—Not later than March 31, 2025, the Secretary of the Army shall provide to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a briefing on the modernization and sustainment plans of the Army for organizational clothing and equipment used in cold and extreme cold weather environments. The briefing shall include the following topics:

(1) The planned requirement of the Army for organizational clothing and equipment used in cold and extreme cold weather environments.

(2) The current inventory of the Army of such clothing and equipment.

(3) The modernization plan of the Army with respect to such clothing and equipment.

(4) Any relevant investments currently programmed for such clothing and equipment in the Future Years Defense Program.

(5) The cost and timeline associated with implementing such plan, including any additional outlays by Congress necessary to fulfill the plan.

(6) Such other matters as the Secretary finds appropriate.

(b) ORGANIZATIONAL CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT USED IN COLD AND EXTREME COLD WEATHER ENVIRONMENTS.—In this section,
the term “organizational clothing and equipment used in cold and extreme cold weather environments” includes extreme cold weather clothing, footwear, handwear, shelters, sleep systems, sleep mats, snowshoes, and skis.

AMENDMENT NO. 27 OFFERED BY MR. JAMES OF MICHIGAN

At the end of subtitle C of title XVII, add the following:

SEC. 17. REPORT ON THE USE OF MAJOR NON-NATO ALLY STATUS FOR KENYA.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the designation of a country as a major non-NATO ally is intended to facilitate an increased security relationship between the United States and the designated country and is not intended to be merely a symbolic gesture;

(2) Kenya is an increasingly important security partner in East Africa and the Western Indian Ocean; and

(3) major non-NATO ally status for Kenya should be utilized to facilitate increased security cooperation with Kenya to advance our shared security priorities.

(b) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of State, shall submit a classified report, along with an unclassified summary, to the appropriate congressional committees containing a report that identifies all opportunities to increase security cooperation with Kenya as a result of its major non-NATO ally designation;

(1) identify all opportunities to increase security cooperation with Kenya as a result of its major non-NATO ally designation;

(2) assess the feasibility of implementing the identified opportunities, including cost, timeline, and availability of defense articles as applicable; and

(3) assess the priority of identified opportunities based on the Kenyan government’s requests and input and the impact on advancing the national security interests of the United States.

(c) SUPPLEMENTAL REPORTS.—On the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of State, shall submit a classified annex, along with an unclassified summary, to the appropriate congressional committees containing a report that identifies all requests by the Kenyan government on cooperation on activities covered under the major non-NATO ally status, including—

(1) a detailed summary of each request, including cost and the defense articles requested; and

(2) whether those requests were approved or denied; and

(3) an explanation for why each request was approved or denied.

(d) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee of Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

AMENDMENT NO. 28 OFFERED BY MR. SMITH OF NEW JERSEY

At the end of subtitle B of title XIII, add the following new section:

SEC. 18. REPORT ON THE FEASIBILITY OF DEVELOPING AND DEPLOYING ASYMÉTRIC NAVAL ASSETS IN DEFENSE STRATEGY D.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, shall submit a classified report, along with an unclassified summary, to the appropriate congressional committees that contains an assessment of—

(1) the feasibility of developing and deploying asymmetric naval assets for a potential defense of Taiwan;

(2) whether Taiwan’s ability to deter, or in the alternative confront, a maritime invasion by the People’s Republic of China would be enhanced by deployment of small, high-speed, long-range (200 or more nautical miles), extreme-weather-capable, reduced-radar-stature frigates, with the capacity for launching missiles, addressing suburface threats or delivering and recovering small troop units to coastal and littoral locations in the vicinity of the Taiwan Strait, and, if so, in what number and in what configurations;

(3) whether existing and planned Tuo Chiang class catamaran-hulled corvettes are naval assets capable of fully meeting the needs of an effective asymmetric naval defense strategy; and

(4) the vulnerability of Taiwan’s existing larger-platform surface naval fleet, including Keelung-class destroyers, Chung Kung-class frigates, Chi Yang-class frigates, Kang Ding-class frigates.

(b) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees’ means—

(1) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

AMENDMENT NO. 29 OFFERED BY MR. BUCHANAN OF PENNSYLVANIA

At the end of subtitle F of title X, insert the following:

SEC. 10. STUDY ON USE OF UNMANNED VEHICLES TO REDUCE DEFENSE EXPENSES.

(a) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study to assess ways unmanned vehicles can reduce overall operating expenses and costs at the Department of Defense. Such study shall include—

(1) an analysis of unmanned ground and air systems and a comparison of the capability, capacity, and cost tradeoffs associated with each such system and those associated with similar manned technologies or systems;

(2) recommendations regarding new areas in which unmanned technology could supplement or complement manned systems in order to reduce overall force operating costs; and

(3) such other matters as the Comptroller General determines appropriate.

(b) BRIEFING AND REPORT.—Not later than March 31, 2025, the Comptroller General shall—

(1) provide to the congressional defense committees the preliminary findings of the study required under subsection (a); and

(2) agree to a format and timeline for providing to such committees a final report on the study.

AMENDMENT NO. 30 OFFERED BY MR. CARBAJAL OF CALIFORNIA

At the end of subtitle G of title XVI, insert the following new section:

SEC. 4201. USE OF UNMANNED VEHICLES TO REPLACE HUMAN DEPLOYMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—A cut flower or a cut green may not be officially displayed in any public area of a building of the Executive Office of the President or of the Department of Defense unless the cut flower or cut green is produced in the United States.

(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The limitation in subsection (a) may not be construed to apply to any cut flower or cut green grown by a Federal officer or employee for personal display.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term “cut flower” means a flower removed from a living plant for decorative use.

(2) The term “cut green” means a green, foliage, or branch removed from a living plant for decorative use.

(3) The term “produced in the United States” means grown in—

(A) any of the several States; or

(B) the District of Columbia; or

(C) a territory or possession of the United States; or

(D) an area subject to the jurisdiction of a federally recognized Indian Tribe.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect on the date that is 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act.
AMENDMENT NO. 24 OFFERED BY MRS. SPARSK OF INDIANA

At the end of subtitle C of title XV, insert the following:

SEC. 15. ASSESSMENT OF INNOVATIVE DATA ANALYSIS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report containing the results of an assessment of the implementation by the Department of Defense of innovative data analysis and information technology solutions that could improve risk management, agility, and capabilities for strategic defense.

AMENDMENT NO. 25 OFFERED BY MR. GREEN OF TEXAS

At the end of subtitle C of title V, insert the following new section:

SEC. 5. POSTHUMOUS COMMISSION AS CAPTAIN IN THE REGULAR ARMY FOR MILTON HOLLAND.

(a) Posthumous Commission.—Milton Holland, who, while sergeant major of the 5th Regiment, United States Colored Infantry, was awarded the Medal of Honor in recognition of his actions on September 12, 1864, during the Battle of Chaplin's Farm, Virginia, when, as the citation for the medal states, he “took command of Company C, after all the non-commissioned officers had been killed or wounded, and gallantly led it,” shall be deemed for all purposes to have held the grade of captain in the regular Army, effective as of that date and continuing until his separation from the Army.

(b) Prohibition of Benefits.—Section 1523 of title 10, United States Code, applies in the case of the posthumous commission described in subsection (a).

AMENDMENT NO. 26 OFFERED BY MS. GARCIA OF TEXAS

At the end of subtitle E of title V, insert the following new section:

SEC. 5. ANNUAL TRAINING ON THE PREVENTION OF SEXUAL ABUSE FOR STUDENTS IN THE JUNIOR RESERVE OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS.

Chapter 102 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"§ 2037. Training on prevention of sexual abuse

"(a) Establishment.—There is hereby established a training program for students enrolled in the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps regarding prevention of sexual abuse.

"(b) Training.—The training established under this section shall—

"(1) be age-appropriate;

"(2) be evidence-based in polyvictimization research;

"(3) be comprehensive, including elements regarding—

"(A) grooming;

"(B) bullying, including cyberbullying;

"(C) appropriate relationships and interactions between such students and instructors;

"(D) signs of inappropriate behavior between adults and adolescents; and

"(E) digital abuse; and

"(3) be conducted in a manner that appropriately protects sensitive information and United States and Israel national security interests.

"(d) Training Program.—The activities described in paragraph (1) and subsection (c) may be conducted in a manner that appropriately protects sensitive information and United States and Israel national security interests.

"(e) Definitions.—In this section:

"(1) 'covered entity' means a supplier of the Department of Defense that is a small or medium business and registers to access the online platform of Project Spectrum.

"(2) The term 'defense acquisition system' has the meaning given to it in section 2911 of title 10, United States Code.

AMENDMENT NO. 29 OFFERED BY MR. WILSON OF SOUTH CAROLINA

At the end of subtitle E of title X, insert the following:

SEC. 10. PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS FOR BADR ORGANIZATION.

None of the amounts authorized to be appropriated by this Act, or otherwise made available, directly or indirectly, to the Badr Organization, or any entity to which the Badr Organization directly or indirectly transfers any funds, may be used to perform any activity carried out after the end of the fiscal year 2025.
what the funds have been used for, when funds were expended, and an identification of entities that expended the funds.

(e) ANNUAL LIMITATION ON AMOUNT.—The amount provided under this section in any year may not exceed $47,500,000.

(ii) LEAD AGENCY.—The Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Congres sional Intelligence Oversight Official the Technology Support Directorate as the lead agency of the Department of Defense in carrying out this section.

(iii) AMENDMENTS.—The Secretary of Defense shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress on a semianual basis a report that contains a copy of the most recent semiannual report provided by the Government of Israel to the Department of Defense pursuant to subsection (c).

(b)(2)(iii) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘appropriate committees of Congress’ means—

(1) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Homeland Security, and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate;

(2) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives;

(3) the authority in this section to carry out activities described in subsection (b), and to provide support described in subsection (c), shall expire on the date that is 6 years after the date of the enactment of this section.

AMENDMENT NO. 21 OFFERED BY MR. WILSON OF SOUTH CAROLINA

At the end of subtitle C of title II, insert the following new section:

SEC. 2 . REPORT ON POTENTIAL INCLUSION OF ISRAEL IN THE NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY AND INDUSTRIAL BASE.

(a) ASSESSMENT.—The Secretary of Defense shall assess the feasibility and advisability of including Israel in the national technology and industrial base.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The assessment under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) A detailed assessment of the potential benefits to the national security of the United States of including Israel in the national technology and industrial base.

(2) An assessment of how Israel’s inclusion in the national technology and industrial base may affect research and development projects on which Israel and the United States are collaborating.

(3) Detailed delineation of the specific steps Israel must take to facilitate eligibility for inclusion in the national technology and industrial base.

(4) An analysis of the progress Israel has made, as of the date of the assessment, with respect to the steps described in paragraph (3).

(5) Analysis of how Israel’s potential inclusion in the national technology and industrial base could aid United States strategic competitiveness with China.

(6) An analysis of any barriers—

(A) to expansion of the national technology and industrial base generally; and

(B) to Israel’s inclusion in the national technology and industrial base specifically.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the con gressional defense committees a report on the results of the assessment conducted under subsection (a).

(d) DETERMINATION OF DEFENSE DEPARTMENT.—The Secretary of Defense report required under subsection (c) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(e) NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY AND INDUSTRIAL BASE DEFINED.—In this section, the term “national technology and industrial base” has the meaning given that term in section 4901 of title 10, United States Code.

AMENDMENT NO. 22 OFFERED BY MR. BUCHANAN OF FLORIDA

At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following new section:

SEC. 10 . SECRETARY OF DEFENSE REPORT ON THREAT OF RIFLE-TOTING ROBOT DOGS USED BY CHINA TO THE NATIONAL SECURITY OF THE UNITED STATES.

The Secretary of Defense shall submit to Congress a report containing—

(1) the use of rifle-toting robot dogs by China; and

(2) the threat such use poses to the national security of the United States.

AMENDMENT NO. 23 OFFERED BY MS. SPANBERGER OF VIRGINIA

At the end of subtitle B of title IX, insert the following:

SEC. 9 . DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SENIOR INTELLIGENCE OVERSIGHT OFFICIAL.

Subchapter I of chapter 21 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"§ 430c. Senior Intelligence Oversight Official

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Defense, or a designee of the Secretary deter mined by the Secretary, shall designate as the Senior Intelligence Oversight Official a civilian employee or contractor directly reporting to the Secretary of Defense in the Senior Executive Service to serve as the Senior Intelligence Oversight Official.

(b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Senior Intelligence Oversight Official shall—

(1) exercise independent oversight of all intelligence, intelligence-related, and sensitive activities of the Department of Defense, including activities involving—

(A) tradecraft;

(B) the operational use of an individual; or

(C) clandestine operational tactics, techniques, and procedures;

(2) carry out the responsibilities and functions of the Senior Intelligence Oversight Official;

(3) direct access to the Secretary of Defense and the Deputy Secretary of Defense, as circumstances require in the determination of the Secretary Intelligence Oversight Official.

(c) REVIEW OF REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of Defense shall review and update Department of Defense Directive 5148.13, and any associated or successor regulation or directive, to reflect the official.

AMENDMENT NO. 24 OFFERED BY MS. SLOTKIN OF MICHIGAN

Page 272, lines 22–23, strike ‘‘located within the continental United States’’ and insert ‘‘located within a State, the District of Columbia, or a territory or possession of the United States’’.

AMENDMENT NO. 25 OFFERED BY MR. KILDEE OF MICHIGAN

At the end of subtitle C of title XXXI, insert the following:

SEC. 31 . SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING DEVELOPMENT OF STORAGE FACILITIES FOR PERMANENT STORAGE OF NUCLEAR MATERIAL WITHIN THE GREAT LAKES BASIN.

It is the sense of Congress that the Government of the United States and the government of Canada should develop storage facilities for the permanent storage of spent nuclear fuel, low-level or high-level nuclear waste, or military-grade nuclear material within the Great Lakes Basin.

AMENDMENT NO. 265 OFFERED BY MS. PLASKETT OF VIRGIN ISLANDS

At the end of subtitle B of title XIII, add the following new section:

SEC. 13 . REPORT ON IMPACT OF THE MALIGN INFLUENCE OF CHINA AND RUSSIA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the heads of other Federal departments and agencies as necessary, shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report that includes a detailed assessment of the impact of the malign influence of Russia and China in Africa, South America, Central America, and the Caribbean on the national security and economic interests of the United States.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection (a) shall also include the following:

(1) Detailed descriptions of the—

(A) current political, economic, and social stability of Africa, South America, Central America, and the Caribbean;

(B) economic investments of Russia and China in Africa, South America, Central America, and the Caribbean, and the collateral conditions;

(C) impact of the presence of Russia and China in Africa, South America, Central America, and the Caribbean on democracy and diplomacy; and

(D) use of private military companies by Russia and China to advance political, economic, and military interests.

(2) An assessment of the—

(A) direct and indirect impacts of Russia and China’s presence in Africa, South America, Central America, and the Caribbean on the national and regional security interests of the United States;

(B) current United States military and diplomatic strategies in response to the expansion of Chinese and Russian influence in Africa, South America, Central America, and the Caribbean;

(C) assets and resources available to counter threats from Russia and China, and

(D) United States military posture in Africa, South America, Central America, and the Caribbean.

(c) FORM OF REPORT.—The report required under subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form without any designation relating to dissemination control, but may include a classified annex.

AMENDMENT NO. 27 OFFERED BY MS. WETTON OF VIRGINIA

At the end of subtitle E of title VIII, insert the following new section:

SEC. 8 . IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF MANUFACTURING INNOVATION INSTITUTES ON THE DEFENSE INDUSTRIAL BASE.

Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees an assessment of the impact of continued investment in Department of Defense sponsoring manufacturing innovation institutes on the defense industrial base in the United States.
AMENDMENT NO. 26 OFFERED BY MR. RASKIN OF MARYLAND
At the end of subtitle F of title XVIII, add the following:

SEC. 17. REPORT ON REDUCING MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH AND SECURITY CLEARANCE ELIGIBILITY.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and House of Representatives a report on the Department’s activities to inform members of the Armed Forces about how mental health affects security clearance eligibility. The report required by this section shall include the following topics:

(1) The Department’s outreach and education activities to inform members of the Armed Forces that seeking mental health care will not affect their security clearance status or eligibility.

(2) The Department’s outreach and education activities to ensure that health care providers in the military health system, non-medical counselors, TRICARE providers, and other relevant personnel convey accurate information to members of the Armed Forces regarding mental health and security clearance eligibility, making clear that seeking mental health care will not affect their security clearance status or eligibility.

AMENDMENT NO. 259 OFFERED BY MRS. RADEWAGEN OF AMERICAN SAMOA
At the end of subtitle A of title XXVIII, insert the following new section:

SEC. 28. ASSESSMENT OF WORKFORCE NEEDS IN THE FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES TO SUPPORT FUTURE MILITARY CONSTRUCTION.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Energy, Installations, and Environment shall conduct a study and submit a report to the congressional defense committees:

(1) summarizing planned military major and minor construction in the Freely Associated States ("FAS") over the next 5 fiscal years;

(2) assessing the ability of the local workforce in the FAS to support future military construction; and

(3) detailing options for the Department of Defense to cooperate with the Department of Labor, the Department of the Interior, and the FAS to develop plans to help address any construction workforce shortages.

AMENDMENT NO. 260 OFFERED BY MR. NUNN OF IOWA
In subtitle G of title V, add at the end the following:


(a) TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.—Section 112(b) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (5), by inserting "(11)" before "(10);" and

(2) by striking paragraph (11) and inserting the following:

(11) Information concerning mental health shall include—

(A) the availability of mental health services furnished by the Secretary concerned, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and a non-profit entity;

(B) the treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, anxiety disorders, depression, chronic pain, sleep disorders, substance abuse, other mental health conditions associated with service in the armed forces;

(C) the risk of suicide, including signs, symptoms, and risk factors (including adverse childhood experiences, depression, bipolar disorder, homelessness, unemployment, and related strains);

(D) the availability of treatment options and resources to address substance abuse, including alcohol, prescription drug, and opioid abuse;

(E) the potential effects of the loss of community and support systems experienced by a member separating from the armed forces;

(F) isolation from family, friends, or society; and

(G) the potential stressors associated with separation from the armed forces.

(b) SOLID START PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.—Section 6320(b)(1) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraphs (G) and (H) as subparagraphs (I) and (J), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subparagraph (F) the following new subparagraphs:

(1) assisting eligible veterans who elect to enroll in the system of patient enrollment under section 1701 of title 38, United States Code;

(2) educating veterans about mental health and counseling services available through the Veterans Health Administration;

(c) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall jointly submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the information and materials developed pursuant to the amendments made by this section.

(d) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term "appropriate congressional committees" means—

(1) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives.

AMENDMENT NO. 261 OFFERED BY MR. BUCHANAN OF FLORIDA
At the end of subtitle B of title VII, insert the following new section:

SEC. 7. COMBATTING OBESITY IN CERTAIN COVERED ARMED FORCES.

(a) STRATEGY AND EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall—

(A) develop a strategy to align the obesity-related programs of the Department of Defense with the classification of obesity as a medically accepted disease; and

(B) conduct an educational campaign to promote awareness, diagnosis, and treatment of obesity as a disease in the covered Armed Forces.

(2) REQUIREMENTS FOR STRATEGY.—The strategy developed under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) A plan to coordinate obesity-related programs across the Department of Defense to treat obesity as a disease and reduce the prevalence of obesity in the covered Armed Forces.

(B) An assessment of the effectiveness of health programs of the Department of Defense that are intended to educate, prevent, or treat obesity among members of the covered Armed Forces, and a plan to modify or update such programs to treat obesity as a disease.

(C) An assessment of the adequacy of nutrition education for physicians and other health care practitioners in the military health system to evaluate and treat obesity as a disease, including the need for any additional education or guidelines for such physicians and other health care providers.

(D) A strategy to work toward members of the covered Armed Forces with obesity receiving appropriate treatment.

(b) SOLID START PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.—The educational campaign conducted under paragraph (1)(B) shall include the following:

(1) Information to educate members of the covered Armed Forces regarding best practices to prevent, reduce, or mitigate obesity, and available resources to address the root causes of obesity.

(2) Information targeted to physicians and other health care practitioners in the military health system to promote diagnosis and treatment of obesity as a disease.

(c) CONSULTATION.—In developing the strategy and educational campaign required by paragraph (1), the Secretary of Defense shall consult with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, and other health care providers in the covered Armed Forces.

(d) GAO REPORT.—

(1) EFFECTS OF OBESITY ON READINESS OF COVERED ARMED FORCES.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the effects of obesity on the readiness of the covered Armed Forces. Such report shall include legislative recommendations to the Secretary to address such effects.

(2) EFFECTIVENESS OF OBESITY, FOOD, AND NUTRITION-RELATED PROGRAMS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Director of the Defense Health Agency shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the effectiveness of the obesity, food, and nutrition-related programs of the Department of Defense in reducing obesity and improving military readiness.

(e) ADDITIONAL DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE REPORTS.—

(1) EFFECTS OF OBESITY ON READINESS OF COVERED ARMED FORCES.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report analyzing the existing obesity, food, and nutrition-related programs of the Department of Defense.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) An assessment of programs directed to members of the covered Armed Forces.

(B) An assessment of programs directed to health care providers in the military health system.

(C) An assessment of the effectiveness of such programs in reducing obesity and the impact of obesity on military readiness.

(D) Recommendations to coordinate and integrate existing programs to reduce obesity and the impact of obesity on military readiness.
(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:
(1) The term “appropriate congressional committees” means the following:
(A) The Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives;
(B) The Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives;
(C) The Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives;
(D) The Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives;
(E) The Committee on Armed Services of the Senate;
(F) The Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate.
(2) The term “covered Armed Force” means the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, or Space Force.

AMENDMENT NO. 286 OFFERED BY MR. IVEY OF MARYLAND

At the end of subtitle B of title XVII, add the following:

SEC. 17. COMPETROLLER GENERAL STUDY AND REPORT ON ANTAGONISTIC USE OF SATELLITES.

(a) STUDY.—
(1) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study to assess threats to the interests of the United States by the antagonistic use of satellites by adversarial foreign states, including—
(A) use of a satellite for combat;
(B) damage, destruction, or incapacitation of a satellite that is owned, operated, controlled, or used by—
(i) the United States Government;
(ii) a commercial entity organized under the law of the United States or any jurisdiction within the United States; or
(iii) a country that is a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization; and
(C) conducting or attempting to conduct espionage or surveillance of, or a cyber intrusion that affects—
(i) a physical resource of the Department of Defense, including a Department of Defense installation; or
(ii) critical infrastructure (as defined in section 1036(e) of the USA PATRIOT Act (42 U.S.C. 5150c(e)));
(2) issues of the Comptroller General to conduct the study as follows:
(A) a description of the cooperation between the National Guard and the Republic of India; and
(B) recommendations to enhance such cooperation.

AMENDMENT NO. 286 OFFERED BY MR. CRNISHAW OF TEXAS

At the end of subtitle A of title XII, add the following new section:

SEC. 12. REPORT ON COOPERATION BETWEEN THE NATIONAL GUARD AND THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than February 15, 2024, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the feasibility and advisability of enhanced cooperation between the National Guard and the Republic of India. Such report shall include the following elements:
(1) A description of the cooperation between the National Guard and India during the 10 preceding calendar years, including mutual visits, exercises, training, and equipment opportunities;
(2) An evaluation of the feasibility and advisability of enhancing cooperation between the National Guard and India on a range of activities, including—
(A) disaster and emergency response;
(B) cyber defense and communications security;
(C) military medical cooperation;
(D) mountain warfare;
(E) jungle warfare;
(F) counterinsurgency;
(G) counterterrorism;
(H) cultural exchanges and education of members of the National Guard in Hindi; and
(I) programs for National Guard advisors to assist in training the reserve components of the military forces of India.
(3) Recommendations to enhance such cooperation and improve interoperability, including through familiarization visits, cooperative training and exercises, and co-deployments.
(4) Identification of States that may serve as potential partners with India through a State partnership under section 341 of title 10, United States Code.
(5) Any other matter the Secretary of Defense determines appropriate.
(b) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—
(1) the congressional defense committees;
(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;
(3) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

AMENDMENT NO. 286 OFFERED BY MR. KAPTUR OF OHIO

In subtitle I of title V, add the end of the section:

SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION FOR LAST SERVICEMEMBER STANDING MEDAL.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—Chapter 57 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—
(1) by redesigning sections 1135 and 1136 as sections 1136 and section 1137, respectively; and
(2) by inserting after section 1134 the following new section:—

“1135. Last Servicemember Standing medal

“(a) MEDAL AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary concerned may issue a service medal, to be known as the ‘Last Servicemember Standing medal’, to persons eligible under subsection (c).

“(b) DESIGN.—The Last Servicemember Standing medal shall be of a suitable design approved by the Secretary of Defense, with ribbons, lapel pins, and other appurtenances.

“(c) ELIGIBLE PERSONS.—Subject to subsection (d), a person eligible to be issued the Last Servicemember Standing medal is any member who—
“(1) served on active duty;
“(2) was deployed during war or overseas contingency operation;
“(3) as a result of a combat instance during such war or overseas contingency operation, was the last surviving member of a unit;”

(“4) demonstrated extraordinary heroism in defense of the United States during such combat instance; and
(“5) whose character is recommended for recognition by their commanding officer and at least two peers.
(“d) ONE MEDAL AUTHORIZED.—Not more than one Last Servicemember Standing medal may be issued to any person.
(“e) ISSUANCE TO NEXT-OF-KIN.—If a person described in subsection (c) is deceased, the Secretary concerned may provide for issuance of the Last Servicemember Standing medal to the next-of-kin of the person.
(“f) REGULATIONS.—The issuance of a Last Servicemember Standing medal shall be subject to such regulations as the Secretaries concerned shall prescribe for purposes of this section. The Secretary of Defense shall ensure that any regulations prescribed under this subsection are uniform to the extent practicable.”.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary of Defense should take appropriate actions to expedite—
(1) the design of the Last Servicemember Standing medal provided for by section 1136 of title 10, United States Code, as added by subsection (a); and
(2) the establishment and implementation of mechanisms to facilitate the issuance of the Last Servicemember Standing Medal to persons eligible for the issuance of the medal under such section.

AMENDMENT NO. 286 OFFERED BY MR. GRAVES OF LOUISIANA

At the end of subtitle I of title V, add the following section:

SEC. 5. ELIGIBILITY OF VETERANS OF OPERATION END SWEEP FOR VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL.

The Secretary of the military department concerned may, upon the application of an individual who is a veteran who participated in Operation End Sweep, award that individual the Vietnam Service Medal.

AMENDMENT NO. 286 OFFERED BY MR. NUNN OF IOWA

At the end of subtitle G of title VIII, insert the following new section:

SEC. 8. PROHIBITION RELATING TO COVERED DISTRIBUTED LEDGER TECHNOLOGY AND BLOCKCHAIN EQUIPMENT OR USE.

(a) PROHIBITION ON ACQUISITION.—The Secretary of Defense may not acquire, or enter
into, extend, or renew a contract or other agreement for, any equipment, system, or service that uses covered distributed ledger technology and blockchain equipment or services—

(1) a substantial or essential component of such equipment, system, or service; or

(2) critical technology as part of such equipment, system, or service.

(b) Prohibition on Loan and Grant Funds.—

(1) Prohibition.—The Secretary of Defense, in administering a loan, grant, or subsidy program, shall prioritize available funding and technical support to assist affected entities as is reasonably necessary for those affected entities to cease use of covered distributed ledger technology and blockchain equipment or services, to acquire replacement equipment and services, and to ensure that communications service to users and customers is sustained.

(2) Rule of Construction.—Nothing in subsection (a) or (b) shall be construed to—

(A) prohibit the Secretary of Defense from acquiring equipment or third-party validators that connects to the facilities of a third party, such as blockchain protocols or interconnection arrangements; or

(B) apply to wireless telecommunications equipment or third-party validators that cannot connect user data traffic or permit visibility into any user data or packets that such equipment transmits or otherwise handle.

(c) Effective Date.—The prohibitions under subsections (a) and (b) shall take effect on the date that is two years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) Waiver Authority.—

(1) In General.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), beginning on the effective date under subsection (d), the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Director of the Defense Health Agency, shall develop and implement a centralized program to—

(A) provide a compelling justification for the application of the requirements under subsection (a) with respect to such entity for a period of not more than two years.

(B) The Secretary may only provide a waiver under this subsection if the entity seeking the waiver—

(i) provides a compelling justification for the application of the requirements of this section; and

(ii) submits to the Secretary, who shall not later than 30 days thereafter submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, a full and complete description of the presence of covered distributed ledger technology and blockchain equipment or services in the entity’s supply chain and a phase-out plan to eliminate such covered distributed ledger technology and blockchain equipment or services.

(2) Elements of the Intelligence Community.—Beginning on the effective date under subsection (d), each head of an element of the intelligence community may waive the requirements under subsection (a) if such head determines the waiver is in the national security interests of the United States.

(3) Definitions.—In this Act:

(A) The term “covered distributed ledger technology and blockchain equipment or services” means any of the following companies or subsidiaries thereof:

(i) The Blockchain-based Services Network.

(ii) The Spartan Network.

(iii) The Conflux Network.

(iv) Finex Inc.

(v) Red Date Technology Co., Ltd.

(B) The term “foreign adversary” has the meaning given the term in section 133 of title 41, United States Code.

(c) Members of the Armed Forces at Risk of Suicide.—For purposes of this section, the term “members of the Armed Forces at risk of suicide” includes members of the Armed Forces who have attempted suicide and members of the Armed Forces who have been discharged as patients and who have been clinically assessed as benefitting from follow-up support related to suicide prevention.
not be denied an allowance under this section solely on the basis that such member has been detailed for a period of training under section 2001 of title 10.

(2) Requirements.—A member of the Armed Forces who, on or after August 1, 2023, the Secretary of the military department concerned determined, under section 502 of title 37, United States Code, was absent for a period that is longer than the leave authorized by section 701 of title 10, United States Code, because the member was detailed or assigned by the Secretary of the military department concerned as a full-time student to a civilian institution to pursue a program of education, is entitled to the basic allowance for housing under section 403 of title 37, United States Code, to which the member would have been entitled if the member were not so absent.

AMENDMENT NO. 276 OFFERED BY MR. NUNN OF IOWA
At the end of subtitle C of title II, add the following new section:

SEC. 2. REPORT ON POTENTIAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS FOR DEFENSE INNOVATION UNIT AND THE TAIWAN MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall assess the feasibility and advisability of establishing a strategic partnership between the Defense Innovation Unit and the Taiwan Ministry of National Defense, pursuant to which the Unit and the Ministry would—

(1) coordinate on defense industrial priorities;

(2) collaborate on the development of dual-use defense capabilities.

(b) Establishing mechanisms to streamline emerging defense technology research and development and microchip supply chain security;

(c) create additional pathways to market for relevant defense technology startups; and

(d) carry out other activities to—

(1) enhance market opportunities for United States-based and Taiwan-based defense technology companies;

(2) bolster Taiwan’s defense industrial base;

(3) harmonize global security posture through emerging technology; and

(4) counter the development of dual-use defense technologies by the Chinese Communist Party.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the results of the assessment conducted under subsection (a).

AMENDMENT NO. 277 OFFERED BY MR. BANKS OF IOWA
At the end of the report described in paragraph (1) in—
(B) An assessment of the timeline required by Iran to produce weapons-grade uranium in May 2021.
(C) An assessment of the current timeline required by Iran to produce weapons-grade uranium.
(D) An assessment of whether Iran has moved advanced centrifuges to facilities other than the Natanz or Fordow enriched uranium plants, including where and how many, if applicable.
(E) An assessment of how many advanced centrifuges Iran would need of each type to enrich to weapons-grade.
(F) An assessment of whether a heavily fortified nuclear facility Iran is building near the Natanz site contains or will contain an enrichment plant.
(3) FORM.—This report shall be transmitted in unclassified form and may contain a classified annex.
AMENDMENT NO. 278 OFFERED BY MR. DONALDS OF FLORIDA
At the end of subtitle C of title II, add the following new section:
SEC. 31. SENSE OF CONGRESS SUPPORTING PROJECT PELE. It is the sense of Congress that—
(a) Congress supports Project Pele, which seeks to develop, demonstrate, and deploy an advanced portable nuclear microreactor at Idaho National Laboratory by 2022; and
(b) Project Pele will be critical in maintaining and bolstering United States national security by providing firm, reliable, clean, and dense baseload energy to power United States military bases and other distributed military operations, both domestically and abroad.
AMENDMENT NO. 282 OFFERED BY MR. WALBERGER OF IOWA
At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following new section:
SEC. 10. STUDY ON TESTING OF FOREIGN ADVANCED HIGHLY AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES. (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the relevant Federal agencies, shall conduct a study on the effects on the national security of the United States of highly automated vehicles in the United States.
(b) That manufacture highly automated vehicles; and
(c) Are currently operating highly automated vehicles in the United States.
(3) The study shall include such vehicles currently operating in the United States that are owned or operated by such entities.
(d) Analysis of whether any such entity has contracted with or supplied any technology to the military of a foreign adversary country.
(e) The locations where highly automated vehicles owned or operated by such entities are operating in the United States.
(f) Potential vulnerabilities posed by the operation of such highly automated vehicles in the United States.
(g) Submission of the results of the study conducted pursuant to subsection (a) to—
(1) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate; and
(2) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Homeland Security, and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives.
AMENDMENT NO. 280 OFFERED BY MR. DONALDS OF FLORIDA
At the end of subtitle A of title XVI, insert the following:
SEC. 16. REPORT ON SPACE FORCE USE OF NUCLEAR THERMAL PROPULSION AND ELECTRIC PROPULSION SPACE VEHICLES. The Chief of the Space Force shall submit to Congress a report on the use by the Space Force of nuclear thermal propulsion and nuclear electric propulsion space vehicles. Such report shall include—
(1) a description of how the Space Force uses such vehicle;
(2) a description of how the Space Force plans to use such vehicles in the future; and
(3) an identification of any potential benefits that such vehicles can provide to bolster the national security of the United States.
AMENDMENT NO. 281 OFFERED BY MR. DONALDS OF FLORIDA
Add at the end of subtitle C of title XXXI, add the following new section:
SEC. 31. SENSE OF CONGRESS SUPPORTING PROJECT PELE. It is the sense of Congress that—
(a) Congress supports Project Pele, which seeks to develop, demonstrate, and deploy an advanced portable nuclear microreactor at Idaho National Laboratory by 2022; and
(b) Project Pele will be critical in maintaining and bolstering United States national security by providing firm, reliable, clean, and dense baseload energy to power United States military bases and other distributed military operations, both domestically and abroad.
AMENDMENT NO. 282 OFFERED BY MS. KELLY OF ILLINOIS
At the end of subtitle D of title VI, add the following new section:
SEC. 6. EXPANSION OF PERIOD OF AVAILABILITY OF MILITARY ONE SOURCE PROGRAM FOR RETIRED AND DISCHARGED MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES AND THEIR IMMEDIATE FAMILIES. (a) IN GENERAL.—Under regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Defense, the period of eligibility for the Military OneSource program of the Department of Defense of an eligible individual retired, discharged, or otherwise released from the Armed Forces, and for the eligible immediate family members of such an individual, shall be the 18-month period beginning on the date of the retirement, discharge, or release, as applicable, of such individual.
(b) INFORMATION TO FAMILIES.—The Secretary shall, in such manner as the Secretary considers appropriate, inform military families and families of veterans of the benefits available through the Military OneSource program.
AMENDMENT NO. 281 OFFERED BY MR. JAMIS OF MICHIGAN
At the end of subtitle A of title VIII, insert the following new section:
SEC. 8. BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MULTYEAR PROCUREMENT OF PRIORITY ITEMS. (a) RECOMMENDATION.—Along with the budget materials submitted to Congress in support of the annual budget request of the President (submitted to Congress pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, United States Code), for fiscal year 2025 and for each fiscal year thereafter, the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget and the Comptroller General of the United States, shall include an annex with recommendations to Congress—
(1) contracts for priority items that could be considered under a covered multiyear contract that were not considered as such in the budget materials submitted, and the rationale for exclusion of such priority items from such materials;
(2) the cost of implementation of such contracts for priority items under a covered multiyear contract;
(3) any challenges to implementing such contracts for priority items under a covered multiyear contract; and
(4) any technical assistance required to include contracts for such priority items under a covered multiyear contract in a subsequent fiscal year.
(b) PRIORITIZATION.—The Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the covered officials, shall designate any contracts for priority items based on need that will best serve the commanders of the geographic combatant commands for contingency planning and execution.
(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—
(1) the term “covered multiyear procurement” means a contract for goods for any the following:
(A) Shipbuilding.
(B) Fighter aircraft.
(C) Submarines.
(D) Ground vehicle systems.
(E) Unmanned aerial systems.
(F) Hypersonics.
(G) Any goods needed to address supply chain disruptions and constraints for the Department of Defense.
(2) the term “covered officials” mean—
(A) the Secretary of the Army;
(B) the Secretary of the Navy;
(C) the Secretary of the Air Force; and
(D) the Director of the National Guard Bureau.
(3) The term “covered multiyear procurement” means a multiyear contract described under subsection (a) of title 10, United States Code, except that—
(A) such contract shall be for a term of greater than one but less than three years;
(B) the contract awarded under this section shall be a multiyear contract during the second or subsequent year of such term may be contingent upon the appropriation of funds and may provide for a cancellation fee to be made to the contractor if such appropriations are not made.
AMENDMENT NO. 281 OFFERED BY MR. MOYLAN OF GUAM
At the end of subtitle C of title XXVIII, add the following new section:
(b) RESEARCH ON HEALTH IMPACTS OF INDOOR RESIDENTIAL MOLD.—

(1) RESEARCH.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Director of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Secretary of Energy, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the President of the National Academy of Sciences, and the Chair of the Board of Directors of the National Institute of Building Sciences shall conduct a comprehensive study of the health effects of indoor residential mold growth in barracks or other housing on military installations, using the most up-to-date scientific peer-reviewed medical literature.

(B) CONTENTS.—The study conducted under subparagraph (A) shall ascertain—

(i) detailed information about harmful or toxicigenic mold that may impact the services and those living on military installations, as well as any toxin or toxic compound such mold can produce;

(ii) the most accurate research-based methods of detecting harmful or toxicigenic mold;

(iii) potential dangers of prolonged or chronic exposure to indoor residential mold growth in residential areas on military installations;

(iv) the hazards involved with inadequate mold inspections on military installations and improper indoor residential mold remediation in barracks or military installations;

(v) the estimated current public health burden of new or exacerbated physical illness resulting from exposure to indoor residential mold on the military services and its effect on quality of life as it impacts readiness, including its impact on children in military families;

(vi) improved understanding of the different health symptomology that can result from exposure to mold in indoor residential environments on military installations, including asthma attacks;

(vii) ongoing surveillance of the prevalence of idiopathic pulmonary hemorrhage in infants living on military installations; and

(viii) ongoing studies on the effects of indoor mold exposure in early childhood on the development of asthma and other respiratory illnesses of children living on military installations.

(C) AVAILABILITY.—Not later than the expiration of the 3-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the results of the study conducted under subparagraph (A) shall be submitted to Congress and the President and made available to the public.

(c) HEALTH, SAFETY, AND HABITABILITY STANDARDS AND MODEL STANDARDS.—

(1) MODEL CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, the Executive Director of the National Institutes of Building Sciences, and the President of the National Academy of Sciences, to the extent such Director and President agree to participate, shall develop model standards and techniques for preventing and controlling indoor residential mold in new residential properties on military installations.

(B) USE.—The model standards and techniques shall provide for geographic differences in construction types and materials, geology, weather, and other variables that may affect indoor residential mold levels in new buildings and on military installations.

(2) CONSULTATION.—To the maximum extent possible, such standards and techniques shall be developed with—

(i) the assistance of organizations involved in establishing national building construction standards and techniques, especially the military community.

(3) PUBLICATION.—The Secretary shall make a draft of the document containing the model standards and techniques available for public review and comment. The Secretary shall make final model standards and techniques available to the public not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(4) APPLICABILITY TO NEW CONSTRUCTION.—Within 1 year of the publication of the final model standards and techniques required by subparagraph (d), the Secretary of Defense shall include such model standards and techniques as a requirement for residential rehabilitation or new construction projects funded with Federal appropriations made available by such agencies.

(5) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term “indoor residential mold” means any form of multi-cellular fungi in indoor environments, including cladosporium, penicillium, alternaria, aspergillus, fusarium, trichoderma, monnila, mucor, stachybotrys chartarum, streptomyces, and epococum found in water-damaged indoor environments and building materials.

(2) The term “toxicigenic mold” means any indoor mold growth that may be capable of producing a toxin or toxic compound, including toxins and their effects, that can cause pulmonary, respiratory, neurological, gastrointestinal, or dermatological illness, or other major adverse health impacts, as determined by the Secretary of Defense in consultation with the Director of the National Institutes of Health, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
AMENDMENT NO. 289 OFFERED BY MR. KRISHNA MOORTHY OF ILLINOIS
At the end of subtitle A of title VIII, insert the following section:

SEC. 8. PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN CHINESE E-COMMERCE PURCHASES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—None of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2025 for the Department of Defense may be obligated or expended to acquire any good from Temu or Shein through a service operated by either such entity except as provided by subsection (b).

(b) Waiver.—Subsection (a) shall not apply with respect to the acquisition of a good to the extent that the Secretary of Defense determines that such acquisition of such good from Temu or Shein through a service operated by either such entity is in the interest of national security.

AMENDMENT NO. 287 OFFERED BY MR. JOHN M. SMITH OF MICHIGAN
Page 599, lines 1 and 2, strike ‘‘(d)(1)(A) of such section is amended’’ and insert ‘‘(d)(1) of such section is amended—’’.

Page 599, line 2, strike ‘‘by’’ and insert the following:

(1) in subparagraph (A), by

Page 599, line 3, strike the period at the end and insert ‘‘;’’.

Page 599, line 3, strike ‘‘by’’ and insert the following:

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Page 599, line 4, strike ‘‘by’’ and insert the following:

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Page 599, line 4, strike ‘‘by’’ and insert the following:

Page 599, line 4, strike ‘‘by’’ and insert the following:

Page 599, line 5, strike an em dash after ‘‘amended’’.

Page 599, line 2, strike ‘‘by’’ and insert the following:

Page 599, line 2, strike ‘‘by’’ and insert the following:

Page 599, line 2, strike ‘‘by’’ and insert the following:

AMENDMENT NO. 286 OFFERED BY MR. KRISHNA MOORTHY OF ILLINOIS
At the end of subtitle H of title V, insert the following new section:

SEC. 10. REPORT ON EFFECTIVENESS OF THE OPTIMIZING THE HUMAN WEAPON SYSTEM PROGRAM.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Army shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report that includes—

(1) an analysis of the effectiveness of the Optimizing the Human Weapon System Program of the Army; and

(2) recommendations for improving and expanding the program.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1287, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ROGERS) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. SMITH) each will control 10 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Chair, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. NUNN).

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Chair, I thank Chairman ROGERS for his leadership on the National Defense Authorization Act. I rise in support of four amendments today included in this en bloc.

I offer my first amendment in memory of Corporal Adam Lambert, a proud marine from Adel, Iowa. He Battled home and, unfortunately, lost his life to suicide shortly after his combat tour of duty.

Today, America loses 22 of its veterans to suicide every single day. We must do more to stop this silent epidemic. My amendment No. 1002 aims to reduce the number of veteran suicides by improving our Transition Assistance Program, or TAP, and the Solid Start program to alert transitioning veterans of the mental health services available to them today through the VA.

Second, fighting Communist China requires America to be a leader in cybersecurity. My amendment No. 1012 bans the Department of Defense from acquiring, producing, or utilizing blockchain technology created by our foreign adversaries.

The CCP is developing new technology to manipulate America and infiltrate our national security by rerouting our hard infrastructure.

America is investing heavily in blockchain technology today, developing cloud storage technology. This technology is the future of data management, with worldwide adoption expected in the next decade.

Let me be clear: Failure for America to be able to act or for the Department of Defense to become a subsidiary of a Chinese blockchain is a thousand times worse than anything even TikTok could present today.

This is a critical step to stop this crisis before it is too late, Mr. Chair, and protect Americans.

Last, innovation in America’s defense demands a public-private partnership, particularly with our most strategic allies. Amendment Nos. 1098 and 1099 address the adversities in the Middle East and tackle the tech advances that Communist China has made.

As Iran, Hamas, and Hezbollah rain down terror on Israel, we must support our strongest ally in the Middle East as she defends herself.

With these strategic partnerships, we can support not only our allies but also the innovations being created by our allies, create new pathways and new markets for our defense tech startups, and continue to leverage America’s dominance and spirit of innovation to shape a safer world.

These amendments would also establish a key strategic partnership between the Defense Innovation Unit, where I have worked, with our allies in Israel and Taiwan.

From Alabama, Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support this en bloc in a bipartisan way across both sides of the aisle, and I thank the chair for including this in his overall package.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE).

Mr. KILDEE of Michigan. Mr. Chair, I thank the ranking member for allowing me to speak on my amendment. It is a bipartisan amendment expressing the sense of Congress that we should not permanently store nuclear waste near the Great Lakes.

My amendment responds to the Government of Canada’s recent plans to build a facility that would permanently hold thousands of tons of high-level nuclear waste in the Great Lakes Basin, the greatest source of freshwater known to mankind.

Permanently storing hazardous nuclear waste so close to our Great Lakes does not make any sense at all. A potential accident involving nuclear waste would threaten the drinking water of millions of people in the United States and Canada and jeopardize thousands of jobs in the fishing, boating, and tourism industries.

Surely, absolutely, there must be a safer location to permanently store radioactive waste than adjacent to the world’s greatest source of freshwater.

My amendment, if adopted, would ban nuclear waste from being stored in the Great Lakes. It is a bipartisan amendment expressing the sense of Congress that we should not permanently store nuclear waste near the Great Lakes.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support this en bloc.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG).

Mr. WALBERG of Michigan. Mr. Chair, I thank the chairman for including these amendments in this en bloc.

I rise today in support of the en bloc, which contains two of my amendments.

The first amendment would help identify the national security risk of autonomous vehicles from foreign adversaries operating in the U.S. AVs will transform the future of transportation and increase safety on roads, but we must ensure our adversaries are not deploying data-collecting vehicles across our country, giving the likes of the CCP an unprecedented vantage point in the United States.

The next amendment would help ensure our Department of Defense schools...
are not using TikTok for instructional purposes. As we know, ByteDance is beholden to the CCP, and we cannot allow our military installations or the schools operated by the DOD to become spy cells for the Chinese Communist Party.

Mr. Chair, I urge adoption of the en bloc and the underlying bill.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN).

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Chair, and still I rise. I thank the gentleman for yielding 1 minute and I thank those members of the Rules Committee who made this moment possible.

Mr. Chair, today, I rise to call attention to a 159-year-old injustice. Milton Holland was given a battlefield promotion. When he received that promotion, it was not validated later on when it was discovered that he was a person of African ancestry.

The battlefield promotion he was given was denied because of who he was. He was a member of the Union Army, by the way. He received the Medal of Honor but could not maintain the promotion that he received for the valor he displayed in battle.

This injustice will be corrected today. Every person who votes will be bending the arc of the moral universe toward justice and Milton Holland.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chair, I urge adoption of the amendments en bloc, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendments en bloc offered by the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ROGERS).

The en bloc amendments were agreed to.

AMENDMENTS EN BLOC NO. 5 OFFERED BY MR. ROGERS OF ALABAMA

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support the en bloc package, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. AMO).

Mr. AMO. Mr. Chair, I thank Ranking Member SMITH for allowing me to speak on my amendment No. 267 in the en bloc.

The Australia, United Kingdom, and United States security pact, also known as AUKUS, is one of the most significant security arrangements in generations. It is essential to maintaining free trade and security in the Indo-Pacific.

As we strengthen our coordination of defense article production with our allies, we must continue to prioritize domestic research, producers, and procurement.

AUKUS is a premier example of the domestic benefits. The University of Rhode Island and Naval Undersea Warfare Center, Division Newport, formed research and education partnerships with Australian partners. AUKUS will also support good-paying jobs and small businesses across Rhode Island.

My amendment reinforces twin ideas that AUKUS is critical to protecting national security and that it boosts local economies by enhancing defense production capabilities.

Let’s ensure the Pentagon promotes and prioritizes domestic production as we work alongside our allies for a safer and more stable future.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

☐ 0930

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN).

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Chair, and still I rise. I thank the gentleman for yielding 1 minute and I thank those members of the Rules Committee who made this moment possible.

Mr. Chair, today, I rise to call attention to a 159-year-old injustice. Milton Holland was given a battlefield promotion. When he received that promotion, it was not validated later on when it was discovered that he was a person of African ancestry.

The battlefield promotion he was given was denied because of who he was. He was a member of the Union Army, by the way. He received the Medal of Honor but could not maintain the promotion that he received for the valor he displayed in battle.

This injustice will be corrected today. Every person who votes will be bending the arc of the moral universe toward justice and Milton Holland.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chair, I urge adoption of the amendments en bloc, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendments en bloc offered by the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ROGERS).

The en bloc amendments were agreed to.

AMENDMENTS EN BLOC NO. 5 OFFERED BY MR. ROGERS OF ALABAMA

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Chair, pursuant to House Resolution 1287, I offer amendments en bloc.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendments en bloc.


AMENDMENT NO. 290 OFFERED BY MR. LEVIN OF CALIFORNIA

At the end of subtitle G of title V, insert the following:

SEC. 17. AMENDMENTS TO PATHWAYS FOR COUNSELING IN TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

Section 1142(c) of title 10, United States Code, is amended,—

(1) by redesignating subparagraph (M) as subparagraph (R); and

(2) by inserting after subparagraph (L) the following:

"(P) The effects of operating tempo and personnel tempo on the member and the household of the member.

(2) Whether the member is an Indian or urban Indian, as those terms are defined in section 4 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (Public Law 94-437; 25 U.S.C. 1603)."

AMENDMENT NO. 291 OFFERED BY MR. WENSTRUP OF OHIO

At the end of subtitle B of title VII, add the following:

SEC. 7. PODIATRISTS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

(a) QUALIFICATION OF DOCTORS OF PODIATRY FOR ORIGINAL APPOINTMENT AS COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.—Section 1232(b)(1) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting "podiatry," after "osteopathy,.

(b) MEMBERS OF MEDICAL CORPS.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall ensure that podiatrists are assigned to the Medical Corps of each military department. The Secretary shall notify the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and House of Representatives in writing upon carrying out this subsection.

AMENDMENT NO. 292 OFFERED BY MS. TENNEY OF NEW YORK

At the end of subtitle B of title VIII, insert the following new section:

SEC. 8. ADDITION OF DOMESTICALLY PRODUCED STAINLESS STEEL FLATWARE TO THE REQUIREMENT TO BUY CERTAIN ARTICLES FROM AMERICAN SOURCES.

(a) ADDITION TO COVERED ITEMS.—

In general.—Section 4862(b) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following new paragraph:

"(b) Stainless steel flatware.

"(c) By redesigning paragraph (5) as paragraph (4)

"(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall take effect on October 1, 2025.

AMENDMENT NO. 293 OFFERED BY MS. TENNEY OF NEW YORK

Page 920, after line 5, insert the following new section:

SEC. 28. FEASIBILITY STUDY BY THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE ON REPLACING THE ARMY FUTURE SOLIDER PREP COURSE THROUGH THE OTHER SERVICE BRANCHES.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to Congress a feasibility study on replicating the Army Future Soldier Prep Course through the other services that contains the following:

(1) A cost estimate for each of the services including—

(A) Any military construction or Facilities sustainment, restoration and modernization costs;

(B) Additional personnel costs; and

(C) Additional operations and maintenance costs.

(2) Existing bases for each service that could host such a program.

AMENDMENT NO. 294 OFFERED BY MR. MCCaul OF TEXAS

At the end of subtitle B of title VII, insert the following new section:

SEC. 7. REPORT ON MEDICAL INSTRUMENT STERILIZATION.

(a) STUDY REQUIRED.—

In general.—The Inspector General of the Defense Health Agency shall conduct a study on the adequacy of sterilization of medical instruments at medical facilities of the Defense Health Agency.

(b) Contents. The study required by paragraph (1) shall include the following elements:
At the end of subtitle B of title V, insert the following new section:

SEC. 5. REPORT ON SMALL PURCHASES OF CRITICAL MINERALS AND MAGNETS.

AMENDMENT NO. 290 OFFERED BY MR. MULLIN OF MASSACHUSETTS

Page 288, insert after line 10 the following:

SEC. 8. REPORT ON COMPETITION AND EQUIPMENT REPAIR.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that it is integral that the military be able to fix its own equipment and that efforts deliberately designed to prevent the military end user from fixing equipment in the field harm our nation’s military readiness.

(b) REPORT AND PLAN.—The Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Chair of the White House Competition Council the report required under clause (ii) of section 5(b) of Executive Order 14006 titled “Executive Order on Promoting Competition in the American Economy”.

AMENDMENT NO. 290 OFFERED BY MR. MILLS OF FLORIDA

At the appropriate place in subtitle E of title VIII, insert the following:

SEC. 10. COMPTROLLER GENERAL STUDY ON DREDGING CAPACITY AND PORT READINESS.

(a) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study to assess the capability and capacity of Department of Defense to complete harbor and port dredging at seaports that require such dredging.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The study under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) a review of the capacity of the domestic dredging industry to complete the dredging work identified under paragraph (1);
At the end of subsection E of title I, add the following new section:

SEC. 17. REPORT ON SYSTEM DEPENDENCIES, UPTIME, AND KEY FACTORS OF ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD SYSTEMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the results of the study conducted under subsection (a).

AMENDMENT NO. 302 OFFERED BY MS. SCHRIER OF WASHINGTON

At the end of subsection B of title XVII, insert the following new section:

SEC. 18. BRIEFING ON INSTANCES OF ATTEMPTED BREACHES OF DEFENSE INFORMATION SYSTEMS.

(b) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) When awarding him the distinguished-service cross, Sergeant Perez’s chain of command was unaware of the full extent of his valorous actions and the numerous risks he took for his soldiers, all above and beyond the call of duty.

(2) Although Sergeant Perez absorbed the lethal explosion of a hand grenade, the fire team returned fire. Without hesitation or concern for his personal safety, Sergeant Perez absorbed the full lethal explosion of the grenade and shielded his fellow soldiers from the blast.

AMENDMENT NO. 305 OFFERED BY MR. MOULTON OF MASSACHUSETTS

At the end of subsection B of title XVII, insert the following new section:

SEC. 18. BRIEFING ON INSTANCES OF ATTEMPTED BREACHES OF DEFENSE INFORMATION SYSTEMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall provide to Congress a briefing on any perpetrator of an attempted breach described in such subsection, a statement of the applicable immigration status and citizenship status.

AMENDMENT NO. 306 OFFERED BY MR. MOULTON OF MASSACHUSETTS

At the end of subsection E of title III, insert the following:

SEC. 3. AVAILABILITY OF OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE APPROPRIATIONS FOR SOFTWARE.

Section 2241(a) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(8) Acquisition, development, modification, and sustainment of software."
(d) ACTS OF VALOR DESCRIBED.—The acts of valor described in this subsection are the actions of Joseph M. Perez on May 26, 1967, while serving as a member of the Army during the Vietnam War, for which he was previously awarded the distinguished-service cross.

AMENDMENT NO. 350 OFFERED BY MR. PORTER OF CALIFORNIA

At the end of subtitle C of title XXVIII, insert the following:

SEC. 28. REPORT ON LAND USE PRACTICES AROUND MILITARY INSTALLATIONS IN THE FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Energy, Installations, and Environment shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report that includes the following:

(A) An assessment of land use policies and encroachment risks near military installations (as defined in section 2301 of title 10, United States Code) located in the Freely Associated States, real property used in the Freely Associated States used to support the Armed Forces, and real property located in the Freely Associated States that may be used to support the Armed Forces during the five-year period following the date of submission of the report.

(B) An assessment of the feasibility and advisability of establishing a coalition to include representatives from Federal agencies, the governments of the Freely Associated States, nongovernmental organizations, and landowners and land managers in the Freely Associated States to advance sustainable land use practices around military installations that would assist in efforts to prevent encroachment and promote conservation.

AMENDMENT NO. 352 OFFERED BY MR. DUNN OF FLORIDA

At the end of subtitle B of title XVII, add the following:

SEC. 17. UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR POLICY STUDY AND REPORT ON EXPANSION OF NATIONAL GUARD STATE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM.

(a) STUDY.—The Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, shall conduct a study to assess the feasibility and benefits of expanding the National Guard State Partnership Program to additional countries in the First Island Chain and the Second Island Chain, including—

(1) Brunei Darussalam;
(2) the Federated States of Micronesia;
(3) the Republic of Kiribati;
(4) the Republic of the Marshall Islands;
(5) the Republic of Nauru; and
(6) the Republic of Vanuatu.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the results of the study conducted under subsection (a).

AMENDMENT NO. 353 OFFERED BY MR. LARSEN OF WASHINGTON

At the end of subtitle B of title XII, add the following new section:

SEC. 2. EXPANSION OF PARTICIPATION IN THE DIGITAL ON-DEMAND PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall take such steps as may be necessary—

(1) to expand participation in the Digital On-Demand Program to—

(A) all organizations and elements of the Department of Defense; and

(B) all members of the Armed Forces and civilian employees of the Department; and

(2) to actively promote the Program throughout the Department.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and on an annual basis thereafter through 2029, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on the progress of the Secretary in expanding and promoting the Digital On-Demand Program as described in subsection (a).

(c) DIGITAL ON DEMAND PROGRAM DEFINED.—In this section, the term “Digital On-Demand Program” means the Program described in subsection (a).
On-Demand Program—means the program overseen by the Chief Digital and Artificial Intelligence Officer pursuant to which educational resources on artificial intelligence, emerging technologies, data literacy, and related topics are made available to personnel of the Department of Defense through a digital platform on an on-demand basis.

Amendment No. 311 Offered by Mr. Lalota of New York

At the end of subtitle G of title X, insert the following:

SEC. 10. ESTABLISHMENT OF MULTILATERAL ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE WORKING GROUP.

(a) Establishment.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish a working group, which shall be known as the “Multilateral Artificial Intelligence Working Group”, to develop and coordinate an artificial intelligence initiative among the allies and partners of the United States.

(b) Organization.—

(1) Designation of Head.—The Secretary shall designate a senior civilian officer of the Department of Defense or senior military officer with experience leading relevant efforts, as determined by the Secretary, to serve as head of the Working Group.

(2) Participation by other Member Countries.—The Secretary shall determine which allies and partners of the United States shall be authorized to participate as member countries in the Working Group.

(c) Responsibilities.—The responsibilities of the Working Group shall be to develop and coordinate efforts to implement an artificial intelligence initiative between the Department of Defense and allies and partners of the United States, including by—

(1) comparing—

(A) the various artificial intelligence systems and the elements thereof (including machine learning and generative artificial intelligence such as large language models) used for covered operational uses by member countries; and

(B) the respective practices associated with the employment of such systems for covered operational uses by member countries; and

(2) identifying (including by experimenting, testing, and evaluating) potential solutions to advance and accelerate the interoperability of artificial intelligence systems; or

(3) testing and evaluating the effects of artificial intelligence on counterintelligence, including the risks and safety measures associated with operating multiple artificial intelligence systems, including in tandem with one another;

(4) developing a shared strategy for the research, development, test, evaluation, and employment of artificial intelligence systems for covered operational uses carried out jointly by the member countries;

(5) developing a shared strategy for—

(A) managing data-informed artificial intelligence; and

(B) testing and evaluating artificial intelligence systems with combined data sets at the unclassified and classified levels;

(6) testing and evaluating the capabilities of the defense industrial base of the member countries to incorporate artificial intelligence systems into systems used for covered operational uses; and

(7) expanding innovation efforts by the member countries and share among such countries best practices for the accelerated procurement and adoption of artificial intelligence technologies for covered operational uses;

(8) leveraging commercially available artificial intelligence technologies to advance near-term jointness between the armed forces of the member countries; and

(9) jointing and sourcing artificial intelligence systems, as practicable, and advising member countries with respect to export controls applicable to such systems; and

(11) carrying out such other activities as the Secretary determines to be relevant to such responsibilities.

(d) Control of Knowledge and Technical Data.—The Secretary shall seek to ensure that any knowledge or technical data produced by any cooperative project carried out by the Working Group shall be controlled by that country under the export control laws and regulations of that country and shall not be subject to the jurisdiction or control of any other member country.

(e) Plan and Reports.—

(1) PLAN.—

(A) Submission.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees a plan for the establishment and activities of the Working Group.

(B) Elements.—The plan under paragraph (A) shall include—

(i) a plan for the establishment of the Working Group;

(ii) a description of any funding requirements or administrative support necessary to carry out this section;

(iii) a description of any additional statutory authorities necessary to carry out this section;

(iv) a plan for the fulfillment of responsibilities under subsection (c) by the Working Group;

(v) an evaluation of existing multilateral artificial intelligence efforts; and

(vi) a plan for the integration of the artificial intelligence initiative developed and coordinated by the Working Group with other programs and initiatives of the elements of the Department of Defense with responsibilities relating to national intelligence, sharing, battlespace awareness, and other covered operational uses;

(vii) performance indicators by which the activities of the Working Group will be assessed; and

(viii) a description of how efforts of the commanders of the combatant commands relating to military interoperability and test and evaluation of artificial intelligence systems will be tasked and executed by and through the Joint Artificial Intelligence Center.

(2) SEMIANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and on a semianual basis thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the activities and milestones of the Working Group; or if any—

(A) an assessment of the activities of the Working Group based on the performance indicators set forth in the plan under paragraph (1); or

(B) a description of any efforts of the commanders of the combatant commands taken in support of the responsibilities of the Working Group.

(f) Termination.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Working Group shall terminate on September 30, 2028.

(2) Authority to Extend.—The Secretary may extend the termination date under paragraph (1) if the Secretary determines such extension to be in the national security interests of the United States.

(3) Definitions.—In this section:

(1) The term “battlespace awareness” has the meaning given that term in the Joint Publication 1-02 of the Department of Defense, titled “Department of Defense Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms”, or successor publication.

(2) The term “covered operational use” means use by a government for operations in a defense context.

(3) The term “member country” means a member country of the Working Group.

Amendment No. 313 Offered by Mr. Lalota of New York

At the end of subtitle F of title VIII, add the following new section:

SEC. 8. REPORT ON BUNDLED CONTRACTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on—

(1) the effects of awarding bundled contracts (as defined in section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631)) by the Department of Defense and small business concerns (as defined under such section); and

(2) the potential effects of reducing the number of bundled contracts awarded.

Amendment No. 316 Offered by Ms. Edwards of North Carolina

At the end of subtitle E of title X, insert the following new section:

SEC. 10. SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF CERTAIN PRIVILEGES TO ACCESS CLASSIFIED INFORMATION.

(a) In General.—The Secretary of Defense shall suspend or revoke a security clearance held by a covered individual if such individual has expressed support for a terrorist organization or engaged in a demonstration supporting a terrorist organization.

(b) Definitions.—In this section—

(1) The term “covered individual” means any—

(A) a retired or active member of the Armed Forces; or

(B) employee of the Department of Defense.

(2) The term “terrorist organization” means any foreign terrorist organization designated by the Secretary of State in accordance with section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189), as amended, or those designated by Executive Order 13224.

Amendment No. 317 Offered by Ms. Ocasio-Cortez of New York

At the end of subtitle G of title X, add the following new section:

SEC. 10. DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW OF DOCUMENTS RELATING TO INvolvement of United States in 1973 COUP IN CHILE.

The Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State and the Director of Central Intelligence, shall conduct a declassification review of documents relating to the involvement of the United States in the 1973 coup in Chile, including—

(1) any record of financial support provided by the United States Government to any organization or other entity, whether private or public, that supported the coup; and

(2) any record of communication between an officer or employee of the United States Government and a senior military or intelligence official of the Government of Chile during the period beginning on September 11, 1972, and ending on September 11, 1974; and
At the end of subtitle D of title XV, insert the following new section:

**SEC. 15. REPORT ON USER ACTIVITY MONITORING PROGRAMS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.**

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on user activity monitoring programs of the Department of Defense. The report will include—

(a) a description of the implementation and enforcement of the requirements of section 1537 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (10 U.S.C. 2224 note; Public Law 118–31; 137 Stat. 570);

(b) a detailed description of the status of user activity monitoring on the Non-classified Internet Protocol Router Network;

(c) a comprehensive accounting of the funds made available funds made available for user activity monitoring on the Non-classified Internet Protocol Router Network in fiscal years 2022, 2023, and 2024; and

(d) information on how any such user activity monitoring programs might deviate from the minimum standards outlined in—

(A) the National Insider Threat Policy and Minimum Standards for Executive Branch Insider Threat Programs;

(B) the Department of Defense Directive 5250.16 (issued on September 30, 2014, relating to the insider threat program of the Department of Defense).

**AMENDMENT NO. 329 OFFERED BY MRS. RADEWAGEN OF AMERICAN SAMOA**

At the end of subtitle J of title V, add the following new section:

**SEC. 5. INTEGRATION OF CHAPLAINS INTO ACTIVITIES IN THE INDO-PACIFIC REGION.**

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report assessing the use of chaplains at the Chaplain Corps during campaigning efforts in the Indo-Pacific, that also includes the following:

(a) a summary of the manner and extent to which chaplains are deliberately integrated into campaigning events in the Indo-Pacific to build relationships and partnerships with partners and host countries;

(b) a description of the deployment and exercise events chaplains are integrated into;

(c) a list of host country or partner outreach events that chaplains hosted or supported;

(d) an assessment of future integration planned for chaplains in the Indo-Pacific area of responsibility.

**AMENDMENT NO. 325 OFFERED BY MR. HUIZENGA OF MICHIGAN**

At the end of subtitle D of title XII, insert the following:

**SEC. 2. FUNDING ALTERNATIVE DOMESTIC SOURCE C-130J IRSS.**

(a) INCREASE.—Notwithstanding the amounts set forth in the funding tables in division D, the amount authorized to be appropriated in section 201 for research, development, test, and evaluation, Defense-wide, as specified in the corresponding funding table in section 2301, for operational system development, Aviation Systems, line 261 (PE 1160031B) is hereby increased by $6,000,000 (with the amount increase to be made available for Alternative Domestic Source C-130J IRSS).

(b) OFFSET.—Notwithstanding the amounts set forth in the funding tables in division D, the amount authorized to be appropriated in section 201 for research, development, test, and evaluation, Defense-wide, as specified in the corresponding funding table in section 2301, for operational system development, Aviation Systems, line 261 (PE 1160031B) is hereby reduced by $6,000,000 (with the amount decrease to be made available for Alternative Domestic Source C-130J IRSS).

**AMENDMENT NO. 320 OFFERED BY MRS. LUNA OF FLORIDA**

At the end of subtitle E of title V, insert the following:

**SEC. 5. DIVE SCHOOL REQUIRED ELEMENT OF QUALIFICATION AS A COMBAT CONTROLLER OF THE AIR FORCE.**

The Secretary of the Air Force shall require that training to qualify as a combat controller of the Air Force includes dive school.

**AMENDMENT NO. 321 OFFERED BY MR. MILLIS OF FLORIDA**

At the end of title V, insert the following new title:

**TITLE VI. MANDARIN AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY.**

**AMENDMENT NO. 322 OFFERED BY MRS. LUNA OF FLORIDA**

At the end of subtitle E of title V, insert the following:

**SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF MEMBERS TO WEAR THE UNIFORM WHEN NOT ON ACTIVE DUTY.**

Section 772 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by inserting''(1)'' before ''In the case'';

(B) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(2) The Secretary concerned shall provide to a member described in subsection (a) an electronic copy of the member's separation document (including a Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214)) not later than 15 days after such member separates, retires, or is discharged.''

**AMENDMENT NO. 324 OFFERED BY MR. KNUSSMAN OF COLORADO**

At the end of title V, insert the following:

**TITLE VI. RECORDS OF A SEPARATING MEMBER: PROVISION OF ELECTRONIC COPIES.**

Section 1142 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection—

(A) by inserting ''(1)'' before ''In the case'';

(B) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(2) The Secretary concerned shall provide to a member described in subsection (a) an electronic copy of the member's separation document (including a Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214)) not later than 15 days after such member separates, retires, or is discharged.''

**AMENDMENT NO. 326 OFFERED BY MR. HUIZENGA OF MICHIGAN**

At the end of subtitle D of title XII, insert the following:

**SEC. 15. REPORT ON MILITARY ACTIVITIES OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND THE PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF CHINA IN THE ARCTIC REGION.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the following:


2. Any military activities of the People’s Republic of China in the Arctic region.

(b) MILESTONES.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the following:

1. A description of military activities of such country in the Arctic region, including—

(a) the placement of military infrastructure, equipment, or forces;

(b) any exercises or other military activities; and

(c) any activities that are ostensibly non-military in nature but are considered to have military or other strategic implications.

2. An assessment of—

(a) the intentions of such activities by each such country;

(b) the extent to which such activities affect or threaten the United States and allies in the Arctic region; and

(c) any response to such activities by the United States or allies.

3. A description of future plans and requirements with respect to such activities.


5. A description of the Russian Federation’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022, and the resulting damage.
to its military forces have impacted the Russian Federation’s posture, activities, and policy in the Arctic region.

(6) A description of how the Russian Federation’s actions on February 24, 2022, has impacted the People’s Republic of China’s posture, activity and policy in the Arctic region.

(7) A description of how the United States and its allies in the Arctic region have adjusted their posture in response to any recent changes by the Russian Federation or the People’s Republic of China.

(8) A description of the activities of the Arctic Council and other Arctic fora of which the United States is a member over the preceding 3-year period, including—

(A) a description of how the U.S. Ambassador-at-large for the Arctic region would engage with the Arctic Council and other established Arctic fora;

(B) a description of the United States current role in the Arctic Council and what steps are being taken to ensure that the involvement of the Russian Federation does not detract from continued engagement with regional partners;

(C) a detailing of all meetings, round tables, and other engagements of activities of the Arctic Council and other Arctic fora, including a description of which such events in which the Russian Federation did and did not participate; and

(D) a description of how the United States is utilizing current Arctic fora to develop and implement regional security strategies.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the Congress shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report containing the information required by subsection (a).
AMENDMENT NO. 32 OFFERED BY MR. GOTTHEIMER OF NEW JERSEY
At the end of subtitle D of title XII, add the following new section:

SEC. 12 . REPORT ON COOPERATIVE EFFORTS TO STOP UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS.
(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the status of cooperation between the United States and Israel on efforts to counter threats by Iran in the form of unmanned aerial systems, including loitering munitions otherwise known as ‘suicide’ or ‘kamikaze’ drones.

(b) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘appropriate congressional committees’ means—
(1) the congressional defense committees;
(2) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and
(3) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

AMENDMENT NO. 32 OFFERED BY MR. TONY GONZALES OF TEXAS
At the end of subtitle F of title XVIII, insert the following:

SEC. 18 . BRIEFING ON IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF QUALITY OF LIFE PANEL.
Not later than March 1, 2025, the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretaries of the military departments, shall provide, to the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives, a briefing on the implementation of the recommendations in the report, dated April 2024, of the Quality of Life Panel of such Committee. Such briefing shall include—

(1) updates to pay and compensation of members of the uniformed services, including—
(A) the basic allowance for housing under section 403 of title 37, United States Code;
and
(B) implementation of any increase to the family separation allowance under section 427 of such title, as authorized by section 626 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118-31);

(2) improvements to child care accessibility and affordability;

(3) increased transparency on the condition and funding of unaccompanied and privatized family housing;

(4) improvements in access to health care;

and

(5) expansion of support programs for military spouses.

AMENDMENT NO. 38 OFFERED BY MR. MULINARO OF NEW YORK
At the end of subtitle H of title V, add the following new section:

SEC. 5 . SKILLBRIDGE FOR THE SUBMARINE INDUSTRIAL BASE.
(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than September 30, 2025, the Secretary concerned shall—
(1) conduct a survey to determine which such employers in the submarine industrial base are experiencing workforce shortages; and

(2) use the Skillbridge program to provide members training under such program with such employers.

(b) PREFERENCE.—In selecting an employer under subsection (a), the Secretary concerned shall give preference to smaller employers.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and House of Representatives a report on implementation of this section.

AMENDMENT NO. 38 OFFERED BY MR. MULINARO OF NEW YORK
At the end of subtitle C of title VII, add the following new section:

SEC. 7 . ANNUAL REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL DETERRENNCE DISTRIBUTION.
Section 706 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (10 U.S.C. 1090 note) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

‘‘(4) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this subsection and annually thereafter, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to Congress a report on the implementation and effectiveness of naloxone distribution to members of the Armed Forces.’’.

AMENDMENT NO. 32 OFFERED BY MR. PFLUGER OF TEXAS
At the end of subtitle F of title X, insert the following:

SEC. 19 . REPORT ON NAVY USE OF IMMERSIVE LEARNING CAPABILITIES.
Not later than December 1, 2024, the Secretary of the Navy shall submit to the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives a report that includes—
(1) an identification of any immersive learning capabilities, including augmented, virtual, and mixed reality, that might be applicable to the Navy;

(2) a description of any efforts of the Navy to coordinate with the Air Force on lessons learned in the development of Head Heart Hands, which was an Air Force HAF/AIL Air Force Maintenance and Logistics Extended Reality (XR) Strategy and what elements of that strategy might be applicable to the Navy;

(3) an identification of the status of any activities of the Navy to build a comprehensive and executable strategy to invest, develop, and sustain immersive learning training capabilities across the Navy; and

(4) a description of any limitations or barriers to integrating immersive learning capabilities into the Navy, including ensuring compliance with relevant cybersecurity requirements.

AMENDMENT NO. 38 OFFERED BY MR. MAGAZINER OF RHODE ISLAND
At the end of subtitle G of title V, add the following new section:

SEC. 5 . STUDY ON HIGH-IMPACT TUTORING IN DODGE SCHOOLS.
Not later than September 30, 2025, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and House of Representatives a report containing the results of a study on—
(1) the current usage of tutoring programs in Department of Defense Education Activity elementary and secondary schools;

(2) the extent to which current tutoring programs in Department of Defense Education Activity elementary and secondary schools incorporate elements of high-impact tutoring, including tutoring that—
(A) is in math, reading, or both subjects for at least 30 minutes per student per day for at least 3 days per week during the school year;

(B) is taught by a licensed Department of Defense Education Activity education professional in classrooms or small groups; and

(C) is on a set schedule and with the same tutor each week;

(3) the case of tutoring that takes place during a regular class, occurs in a classroom or area that is separate from such regular class; and

(E) with respect to a student, is related to and aligned with the coursework in the student’s regular classroom; and

(4) how to increase the participation of students enrolled in Department of Defense Education Activity elementary and secondary schools in tutoring programs, particularly those tutoring programs with the elements described in paragraph (2), while not reducing funds available for existing Department of Defense Education Activity programs and teacher and staff compensation; and

(5) how to develop a licensed tutoring workforce for Department of Defense Education Activity elementary and secondary schools.

AMENDMENT NO. 38 OFFERED BY MR. MOYLAN OF GUAM
At the end of subtitle I of title V, insert the following:

SEC. 5 . AUTHORIZATION OF AWARD OF MEDAL OF HONOR TO JUAN OGO BLAZ FOR ACTS OF VALOR WHILE SERVING AS A MEMBER OF THE ARMY DURING THE VIETNAM WAR.
(a) AUTHORIZATION.—Notwithstanding the time limitations specified in section 7274 of title 10, United States Code, and any other time limitation with respect to the awarding of certain medals to persons who served in
the Armed Forces, the President is authorized to award the Medal of Honor, under section 7271 of such title, to Juan Ogo Hlaz for the acts of valor described in subsection (b).

At the end of subtitle A of title VIII, insert the following:

SEC. 3. FUNDING FOR DEFENSE HEALTH PROGRAMS FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING.

(a) INCREASE.—Notwithstanding the amounts set forth in the funding tables in division D, the amount authorized to be appropriated in section 1405 for Education and Training is hereby increased by $25,000,000.

(b) OFFSET.—Notwithstanding the amounts set forth in the funding tables in division D, the amount authorized to be appropriated in section 1405 for Education and Training is hereby reduced by $25,000,000.

AMENDMENT NO. 339 OFFERED BY MR. POSEY OF FLORIDA

Add at the end of subtitle C of title VII of division A the following:

SEC. 5. FUNDING FOR VIRTUAL ENGINEERING FOR ARMY READINESS AND SUSTAINMENT.

(a) INCREASE.—Notwithstanding the amounts set forth in the funding tables in division D, the amount authorized to be appropriated in section 201 for Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Next-Generation Combat Vehicle Advanced Technology, line 43, as specified in the corresponding funding table in section 4201, for Virtual Engineering for Army Readiness and Sustainment, is hereby increased by $1,000,000.

(b) OFFSET.—Notwithstanding the amounts set forth in the funding tables in division D, the amount authorized to be appropriated in section 201 for Research, Development-Wide, for the office of the Secretary of Defense, line 470, as specified in the corresponding funding table in section 4051, is hereby reduced by $1,000,000.

SEC. 6. LIMITATION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR INSTALLATION OF PHOTOVOLTAIC MODULES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—None of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2025 for the Department of Defense may be used to contract for the installation of photovoltaic modules at any facility or real property of the Department of Defense, as specified in the corresponding funding table in section 4051, is hereby reduced by $1,000,000.

AMENDMENT NO. 340 OFFERED BY MR. WILSON OF SOUTH CAROLINA

At the end of subtitle G of title VIII, add the following new section:

SEC. 10. LIMITATION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR INSTALLATION OF PHOTOVOLTAIC MODULES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—None of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2025 for the Department of Defense may be used to contract for the installation of photovoltaic modules at any facility or real property of the Department of Defense, as specified in the corresponding funding table in section 4051, is hereby reduced by $1,000,000.
the expected amount to be obligated fiscal year 2025 to install photovoltaic modules at facilities.

(c) LIMITATION.—Subject to the availability of appropriations and except as explicitly provided in a provision of law enacted after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary of Defense may not obligate or expend from amounts otherwise authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2025 for the purpose of installing photovoltaic modules to improve the real property of the Department of Defense more than the amount certified in the report required under subsection (b) for such purpose during fiscal year 2025.

(2) LIMITATION ON TRANSFER AUTHORITY.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, amounts are not authorized to be transferred or reprogrammed pursuant to any authority under section 421 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, to procure photovoltaic modules to improve the real property of the Department of Defense.

SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF AWARD OF MEDAL OF HONOR TO MARTIN A. MAGLONA FOR ACTS OF VALOR.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—Notwithstanding the time limitations specified in section 7274 of title 10, United States Code, or any other limitation with respect to the awarding of certain medals to persons who served in the Armed Forces, the President is authorized to award the Medal of Honor, under section 7271 of such title, to Martin A. Maglona for the acts of valor described in subsection (b).

(b) ACTS OF VALOR DESCRIBED.—The acts of valor described in this subsection are the actions of Martin A. Maglona on February 23, 1969, while serving as a member of the Army security detachment in Vietnam, in which he was previously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

Mr. Chair, pursuant to House Resolution 1287, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ROGERS), and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. SMITH) each will control 20 minutes.

I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Alabama.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SELF).

Mr. SELF. Mr. Chair, today, I rise in support of an amendment, which requires the Secretary of Defense to review and report on the personnel records of military chaplains who suffered retaliation for seeking a religious accommodation for the COVID–19 vaccine.

By way of background, the Department of Defense’s COVID–19 vaccine mandate violated servicemembers’ and chaplains’ religious liberty and caused substantial harm to their careers.

The DOD’s handling of the chaplains’ religious accommodation requests was an utter disgrace, involving blanket dismissals instead of dismissals considered on an individual basis. My amendment seeks to account for the injustices suffered by the military chaplains.

The primary duty of chaplains is to provide spiritual guidance to our servicemembers. To do so, like every American, they must be free to follow their conscience without facing retribution from the government they swore to defend.

This amendment is an important first step to ensuring that those who serve our country can do so without sacrificing their freedoms, to quote the Declaration of Independence, “endowed by their Creator.”

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment as part of this en bloc package.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. MOLINARO), my colleague.

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Chair, I thank Chairman ROGERS for his leadership and steadfast support for the men and women of our armed services.

Yesterday, I was proud to see three of my amendments pass the House and the Senate, and I appreciate the opportunity to speak about three more.

My first amendment requires critical oversight of the DOD’s Education Activity Disability Emphasis program to ensure it operates to support the employment, retention, and job advancement of those living with intellectual, physical, and developmental disabilities.
Employment opportunities offer those with disabilities the experience to strengthen their soft skills and lead more independent lives.

Nearly 70 percent of working-aged people with disabilities are unemployed. Amendment I offered, included in the en bloc, will require a study on the effectiveness of the Exceptional Family Member program and outline how it currently supports individuals with disabilities.

Special needs families cannot be left in the dark and too often are left on the sidelines, so we must ensure that they have the necessary resources and programs to support their family members’ special needs.

The third amendment I offer requires the DOD to provide consistent reporting on the implementation and effectiveness of naloxone distribution for our servicemembers. Opioid overdose and addiction remain a real risk for our transitioning servicemen and -women. We must together ensure they have access to effective reversal treatments in the event of an overdose to help save lives.

Enabling our servicemembers have the resources to support their mental health, tackle substance use disorder, and support their families, especially those with children with disabilities, is essential to our mission of strengthening and enhancing their quality of life.

Mr. Chair, I thank my colleagues for the support of my previous amendments as well as their consideration of these upgrades and urge their adoption. Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chair, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chair, I will take this opportunity on the last en bloc package to give my closing remarks on the bill.

We do have a few more amendments to go, but this will be the last opportunity to speak about the broad issues surrounding the bill.

The first thing I will do is thank Chairman ROGERS, his staff, and the entire team on the Armed Services Committee for the work that they have done in pulling this bill together. As we often lay out from the beginning of the process in committee, there were well over a thousand amendments offered in committee, well over a thousand amendments offered to the Rules Committee that we all had to sort through to try to produce a piece of legislation.

Coming out of committee, we produced an outstanding piece of legislation. I think even on the floor and even where we are at right now, this is a very, very good bill. The chairman, Mr. ROGERS, deserves an immense amount of credit for the hard work he and his staff did to get these proposals in.

I also thank my staff on the Democratic side. We have a real spirit of bipartisanship in this committee that I think serves us well. They have done an outstanding job of getting us to where we are.

The amendments that were adopted yesterday, unfortunately, mean that I am going to vote against this bill and the bulk of the Caucus is going to oppose this bill as well, and there are three main reasons for that.

Number one is the prohibition on the travel policy within the military. This is something that we didn’t need to address. We did not address it in committee, but it is a crucial issue. It is a crucial issue because so many States across the country have passed restrictive laws that prevent access to healthcare for women.

You may find yourself stationed in one of those States, and you may not have access to that healthcare. The travel policy was meant as a way to protect our future airmen, crucially, their family members, access to the healthcare that they need.

Passing a piece of an amendment to this bill that basically eliminates that access to healthcare is a readiness problem and is a problem for the military.

Women serving, and even if you have a spouse and you are serving, you will have concerns as to whether or not you are going to be able to access the healthcare that you need. The stories have been documented over and over again: A woman has a miscarriage and can’t get the healthcare that she needs because of some law that was passed.

That is a debate that will be fought out State by State across the country, sadly, for years to come, but our servicemembers shouldn’t be caught in that debate and denied healthcare when they need it. That provision alone is extremely problematic.

Also, along the healthcare theme, we have two severe restrictions now in this bill on trans people and their families receiving the healthcare they need. I am not going to presume to say what the right healthcare is. I am not a doctor. I am not a trans person. It should be between them and their doctor.

We placed two restrictions in this bill that presumed that the United States Constitution is a better profession than a doctor. It is a restriction on that access.

Again, it hurts the military because not only are you a trans person serving, but if you are someone who is serving, you have a trans child, you now have to wrestle with the fact that if you are in the military, your child is not going to be able to get the healthcare that he or she may need. That is a problem for our servicemembers. It has got nothing in this bill. We had these discussions in committee and decided that we weren’t going to do it and didn’t. The fact that it is added undermines the credibility of this bill.

Lastly, we have the whole epic fight over diversity, equity, and inclusion.

My position is the Department of Defense ought to be able to deal with that issue as is necessary and as they see fit. I understand we are in a very, very difficult culture war right now, but the restrictions in this bill that say you can’t do DEI ever for anything fundamentally misunderstands that culture war. I don’t think anybody, even on that side of the aisle, would disagree that this fight is going on.

If you are running the Department of Defense or even a commander of a local base, you have to deal with that. I don’t like the extremes on either the left or the right when it comes to this. Absolutely there are some people on the left that interpret diversity, equity, inclusion to mean that basically our country is nothing but a racist country, has never been anything but a racist country, we ought to teach people that, and that all White people are racist and we ought to teach people that as well. That is wrong. That is not what the Democratic Party supports. It is certainly not what the Department of Defense is doing right now.

On the other side, we have the approach that says racism isn’t a thing, let’s pretend that it wasn’t ever that big a deal, we don’t have to deal with
Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Chair, I encourage Members to support the amendments en bloc, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. Chair. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Chair, I will take a minute to thank the ranking member for his leadership. He has been an outstanding partner in this process. I yield back.

Mr. Chair. I encourage Members to support the amendments en bloc, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. MEUSER). The question is on the amendments en bloc offered by the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ROGERS).

The en bloc amendments were agreed to.

ADDITIONAL TESTIMONY

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chairman, let me start out by saying happy birthday to the United States Army. I spent a fair amount of time in my life in uniform in the Army. It is a defining thing in anybody’s life who has spent time in uniform, and it has been a wonderful institution for many, many Americans over a long period of time.

I also thank the chairman for the work on this bill. I know that while we are debating it here today and we are going to vote later today, that the work for next year’s bill will start tomorrow. I thank him for his hard work.

This amendment is pretty straightforward. It just requires the Secretary of Defense to report on the use of taxpayer-funded union time by DOD employees. We are not saying it is bad. We are not saying it is good. We are not saying it is too much. It is too little. We just want to know what it is. We just want to know.

For those who may be unfamiliar, Congress granted certain employees the ability to perform certain tasks for labor unions while on duty. To be clear, that means that these employees are being paid by our constituents to work on union activities instead of doing the job that they were hired to perform.

I think maybe it would be fine if we said in the job description that your job is to do organized labor activities, but that is not what is in the job description. The job description is what is needed for the country for the Department of Defense; but instead of doing that work, you are doing other work. Unacceptably, the statistics on the use of official time are very few and far between.

Take a GAO report from January of 2017, so we are a few years beyond that now, which is telling in itself. According to the data from the Department of Defense’s Public Affairs Office, they spent 100 percent of their time on official union activities instead of taking care of our Nation’s veterans.

Now, the Trump administration took some steps to improve transparency, including actually reporting the use and the cost of official time by agencies.

A VA press release dated November 8, 2018, cites a particularly egregious example. A VA registered nurse, who was elected as a local union official, spent 100 percent of her time doing organized labor activities. That might be fine if the job description was organized labor activities, but the job description is registered nurse. How much time taking care of veterans as a nurse was this person spending? Well, zero, that is how much time.

To use examples from the Department of Defense, the most recent available data or estimates of the data from the Trump administration’s final report was that 3,335 DOD employees used official time in FY19 for a total of 536,980 hours at a cost of millions upon tens of millions of dollars, not to mention the equipment.

We are here debating the National Defense Authorization Act.

There are very serious threats around the world. While we stand here, while we sit here, while we watch, the Russians are moving a fleet into Cuba about 100 miles off the coast of the United States of America. Now, I don’t know about you, but for me, I want every DOD employee focused on keeping America safe.

We are here debating the National Defense Authorization Act.
Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to amendment No. 56, which would require a report that would be prejudicial to the rights and interests of Federal employees by calling into question something called official time.

Official time is a system that we, Congress, established in law almost 40 years ago to ensure that all employees entitled to union representation receive it, regardless if they are in the union or not.

Through official time, Federal employees who volunteer as union representatives spend time on what they call representational activities, working with employers and managers to resolve disputes, to resolve disputes, improvements in the workplace that benefit all employees, one of which—and many people consider it the highest—safety issues, so they can walk around, they can do the very inspections that save lives and save people from injury instead of waiting for it to happen and reacting before somebody gets hurt or dies on the job.

Simply put, let's call it what it is. This is an attack on official time, and my colleagues want to gut public sector unions. Call it what it is. The report that this amendment requires would only tally the cost of official time, ignoring many benefits. That official time provides for management as well as workers, their safety, and their productivity.

Workers have the right to have a voice on the job. They have that right. That is exactly what the official time provides for. I know that workplaces are more productive and efficient when management and workers come together. This amendment would lay the groundwork to take us in the opposite direction.

As co-chair of the Labor Caucus, I continue to oppose these efforts to take away rights from workers. When we look back at some of the history on this, it has been incredible. This has been an enhancement for the government.

There has been report after report on this already, but the bottom line is, this is about protecting workers on the job who become more protective of the people who work on the job.

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

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chairman, there are many things that I agree with the gentleman, my friend on the other side of the aisle. These are important tasks that need to be done. Disputes need to be resolved. We all care about the people who are working for the Federal Government, but to think that after 40 years we have gotten it perfect, and we can't take a look and we can't ask for a report, I think is a little bit shortsighted. This isn't an attack on anyone because those things do need to be done.

However, I would say this: Yesterday I received an email from the AFL-CIO from someone working on official time. This is yesterday. Today is Friday. Yesterday was Thursday. The time stamp on it is 1:38, so 1338 if you are in the middle of the business day. That is in the middle of the business day. That is in the middle of working hours. That is not handling disputes. That is lobbying Members of Congress to vote one way or the other. We want them to be able to do the work to make sure employees are protected and the good work of DOD is done, but I, for one, would like a report on how this is the work that taxpayers should be paying for and how that is happening.

Mr. Chairman, my friend on the other side of the aisle, these are important tasks that need to be done. Disputes need to be resolved. We all care about the people, the workers on the job.

This is about protecting workers on the job. When management and workers come together, they work to support our nation's defense. That is exactly what the official time provides for management as well as workers, their safety, and their productivity.

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Chair, hundreds of thousands of people, the workers on the job. They have that right. That is not handling disputes. That is happening. When disputes happen, they can do the very inspections that save lives and save people from injury instead of waiting for it to happen and reacting before somebody gets hurt or dies on the job.

Yesterday was Thursday. The time the email came was 1:38, so 1338 if you are in the middle of the business day. This is yesterday. Today is Friday.

Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. HOYLE).

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to this unnecessary amendment that seeks to restrict the rights and interests of Federal employees by calling into question the role of official time.

Forty years ago, Congress established official time to ensure that all employees entitled to union representation receive it regardless of whether or not they choose to join the union. Official time ensures Federal employees have a voice at the worksite to resolve disputes, address issues of discrimination or retaliation, and propose improvements to the workplace.

The Federal Government covers the cost of official time activities because under Federal law, unions must provide fair representation to all employees at the worksite, not just those who pay dues, but also those who benefit from their unions bargaining for better wages, hours, and working conditions, even though they aren't union members.

Opponents of public sector unions claim that official time is a waste of taxpayer dollars. This is false. The cost of official time amounts to just one-tenth of 1 percent of all the salaries and benefits paid to Federal employees in a given year.

This amendment is an attack on official time and on public sector unions, plain and simple. I urge my colleagues to oppose any and all efforts to take rights away from workers and to oppose this antilabor amendment.

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Chair, to wrap up, let's be clear: This is an attack on people's voices at the workplace. This is something that we collectively have looked at for over 40 years, and we continue to have a productive way of keeping our workers safe and understand that there is no way that they can use this time to do any union political activities, which has been suggested by the opposition.

Let's keep our workers safe. Let's continue to care about those who make our country the best in the world.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 134 OFFERED BY MR. JOGISIT

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 134 printed in part B of House Report 118–551.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.
The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of subtitle A of title VIII, insert the following new section:

SEC. 8. REVIEW PANEL ON FAIR AND REASONABLE PRICING AND CONTRACT OVERSIGHT.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary of Defense shall establish a review panel on fair and reasonable pricing and contract oversight of sole-source contracts for munitions and weapons systems contracts (including delivery and task orders, including related contracts for services and spare parts).

(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The review panel shall be composed of six members who—

(A) The Director Price, Cost, and Finance of the Office of Defense Pricing and Contracting of the Department of Defense,

(B) The Director of the Defense Contract Audit Agency,

(C) The Director of the Defense Contract Management Agency,

(D) An individual from the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Defense,

(E) Two individuals appointed by the Secretary of Defense with expertise in contract pricing, contract negotiations, and contract oversight.

(2) EXPERT APPOINTMENT CRITERIA.—When appointing individuals described in paragraph (1)(E) to the review panel, the Secretary of Defense shall appoint only individuals—

(A) that have extensive experience in both the public and private (including defense and commercial experience) sectors; and

(B) who, in the three-year period immediately preceding such appointment—

(i) have not been employed by a contractor of the Department of Defense; or

(ii) undertaken any actions on behalf of such a contractor for which the individual was compensated in any way.

(3) MEMBER EMPLOYMENT RESTRICTIONS.—In addition to any other restriction imposed by law, during the period beginning on the date an individual is appointed as a member of the review panel and ending on the date that is 3 years after the date of appointment, such individual may not be employed by a contractor of the Department of Defense or undertake any action on behalf of such a contractor for which the individual was compensated in any way.

(c) DUTIES.—The review panel shall do the following:

(1) Identify an extensive and representative sample of all fixed price contracts and subcontracts, including delivery and task orders, in excess of $10,000,000 awarded during a period determined by the review panel, except that—

(A) the period determined by the review panel shall be the 15-year period immediately preceding the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(B) the sample shall include contracts the performance of which is at least 75 percent complete.

(2) Provide to the Secretary of Defense and the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives an analysis of the sample identified under paragraph (1) that compares initial price submitted by the contractor in the proposal to actual cost outcomes in order to determine the accuracy of contractor estimating systems.

(3) Provide to the Secretary of Defense and the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives an analysis of the competition on spare parts contracts determined to be a commercial product (as defined in section 103 of title 41, United States Code).

(4) Conduct a review and provide an analysis to the Secretary of Defense and the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives that determines the degree to which contract prices for contracts and subcontracts for spare parts that are subject to the submission of certified cost and pricing data exceed fair and reasonable prices and, if so, whether excess pricing is widespread or unique to certain weapons systems, sectors, or companies.

(5) Provide to the Secretary of Defense and the Inspector General of the Department of Defense an analysis of the degree of competition on spare parts contracts determined to be a commercial product (as defined in section 103 of title 41, United States Code).

(6) Conduct a review and provide an analysis to the Secretary of Defense and the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives that determine the degree to which contract prices for contracts and subcontracts for spare parts that do not require the submission of certified cost and pricing data exceed fair and reasonable prices.

(7) Provide to the Secretary of Defense and the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives an analysis of the adequacy and degree of contractor oversight by the Department of Defense, including the sufficiency of post-contract award audits for compliance with chapter 271 of title 10, United States Code.

(d) ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall provide the review panel with timely access to appropriate financial data, resources, and analysis so that the review panel may conduct a thorough and independent assessment as required by this section.

(2) SUPREME POWERS.—To the degree that any company that has entered into a contract or subcontract subject to the chapter 271 of title 10, United States Code, and refuses to provide actual cost information to include all internal estimates to complete for unfinished work, the Inspector General shall use its powers to sub po na the delivery of the requested information.

(3) INAPPLICABILITY OF FACA.—Chapter 10 of title 5, United States Code, shall not apply to the review panel.

(e) REPORT.—

(1) REVIEW PANEL REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date on which the Secretary of Defense establishes the review panel, the panel shall transmit a final report to the Secretary.

(2) INTERIM REPORTS.—Not later than 8 months and 12 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit a report to, or brief, the congressional defense committees on the interim findings of the review panel with respect to the elements set forth in paragraph (2).

(f) DEFENSE ACQUISITION WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT FUND SUPPORT.—The Secretary of Defense may use amounts available in the Defense Workforce Development Account established under section 1705 of title 10, United States Code, to support activities of the review panel under this section.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1287, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 3 minutes.

This is a bipartisan amendment that I offer together with the gentleman from South Carolina [Mr. Norman], We may appear as the odd couple politically, but we share a common interest in trying to ensure that taxpayers get their money’s worth, and that is true on military contracts as with every other aspect of government. When it comes to those contracts, we are concerned that that is not happening on too many of them.

We don’t ask you to just take our word for it, but we have turned to a fellow named Shay Assad, sometimes referred to as the most disliked person in the Pentagon. He had four decades of experience in negotiating government contracts, served as the top director for procurement for both George W. Bush and Barack Obama.

And it was central to an illuminating “60 Minutes” report last year about price gouging, which he described as unconscionable and widespread. He has returned to the Pentagon now as the director of procurement at the Air Force.

I know that Chairman Rogers and Mr. Smith have been concerned about this problem. Their committee has given it some attention, but I think we can supplement their efforts. Military contractors deserve to get a fair profit, but American taxpayers deserve to be treated fairly also.

We have seen a consolidation in the defense industry where 50 firms have been reduced to about 5 primary contractors. This is a very modest amendment. It requires essentially a one-time type of audit by a review panel that will conduct oversight on the reasonableness of government secured munitions and weapons systems, a 1-year investigation to determine whether the Department has achieved fair
prices in surveyed contracts and make recommendations made to the Armed Services Committee and the Pentagon to be sure that taxpayers are getting the best bang for their buck.

Just as one example that was cited, we have had inflation. All of us are concerned about inflation, but the cost of a Stinger missile of the type we have been shipping to Ukraine rose from $25,000 in 1991 to $400,000 to replace it. That is a little more than the increase in inflation and the improvements that may have occurred to the missile.

The Patriot, the PAC-3 missile, is very important in defense. Hundreds of millions of dollars were saved after a review, and it was found that the contractor was earning a 40 percent profit.

Our amendment would not change the procurement process or add new requirements of contractors. It would simply look at what has occurred in the past and determine if there is a way to improve it. It has the support of bipartisan groups across the ideological spectrum, including the R Street Institute, the Project on Government Oversight, the Council for Citizens Against Government Waste, Public Citizen, and American Economic Liberties Project.

There have been hundreds of amendments offered to the bill that we are considering. This is the only bipartisan amendment made in order for addressing reasonable prices.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support this modest step forward. It is a very modest step, but I think it can be helpful to the committee and to all of us in ensuring that we get our money's worth.

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

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1287, the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. JAMES. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment to the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT).

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT). The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman for agreeing to work with us. We will work with him. Mr. Chair, I agree to accept the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT). The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. Chair, I wholeheartedly agree with the gentleman's desire to ensure the Department of Defense or foreign policy interests.

However, I believe I speak for both sides when I say we have some concerns that this amendment may be redundant to ongoing efforts as well as efforts we required the inspector general to undertake in last year's NDAA. We also have some questions about how the amendment would be executed. However, if the gentleman would agree to work with us to address these concerns as the bill moves forward, I would be prepared to accept this amendment at this time.

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman, and I know he shares my concern about this. I am eager to work with him on it. I appreciate his comments and will be delighted to work with him.

Sometimes this offer to work ends and begins at once. So long as this is not going to turn into mush in the conference committee or be totally dropped, I am ready to work with the gentleman and cooperate. I appreciate it.

We so often hear about waste, fraud, and abuse as being able to finance essential services. I know there are many contractors that are doing their job. They are vital to our security. I hope we can work together and find a way to get at the core of this problem and save taxpayers money at the same time we keep our military second to none.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman for agreeing to work with us. We will work with him.

Mr. Chair, I agree to accept the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT). The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support this modest step forward. It is a strong bipartisan support back in the Armed Services Committee and the Pentagon.

This legislation would simply require the Biden administration to make a determination on whether South Africa’s actions are undermining the United States’ national security and foreign policy interests and conduct a full review of the bilateral relationship between the United States and South Africa.

The only way that this would be threatening is if the ANC is actually threatening the South Africa people. It is important to show the American people that the United States is aware of its plight, and it is important to show the American people that we will no longer be played for fools.

Mr. Chair, on March 20, 2024, the ranking member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee reminded us that a year and a half ago, the Biden administration put out a U.S. strategy toward sub-Saharan Africa. How is that going? In the last year and a half, in Sudan, there have been 10 million displaced, 15,000 fatalities, and 5 million on the brink of starvation.

The world’s largest humanitarian crisis rages while external actors fuel the fight without repercussion.
In the last year and a half, across the Sahel, the epidemic of coups has resulted in severe democratic retreating with the forced withdrawal of U.S. military personnel from Niger being the latest example.

In the last year and a half, in Central Africa, the conflict in eastern DRC threatens to escalate and destabilize the entire region.

In the last year and a half, in Ethiopia, the situation on the Continent of Africa has gotten even more bleak. Are we so naïve to believe that the same U.S. strategy that got it so wrong throughout the rest of the sub-Saharan Africa somehow got it right in South Africa?

As the chairman of the Subcommittee on Africa, I am acutely aware of South Africa’s important role on the African Continent, and I am proud that the United States has held cordial diplomatic ties with South Africa for nearly my entire life—over $8 billion in the very important PEPFAR assistance program since 2003, and growth in trade from $13.9 billion to $21 billion in 2021.

In fact, South Africa has been the United States’ largest trading partner in Africa since 2014 and is home to over 600 American businesses. However, it is clear to me that the ANC of today is no longer the ANC of Mandela. The ANC continuously moves away from its traditional stance of nonalignment in international affairs and has displayed consistent and overt anti-Israel sentiment in the wake of the devastating October 7 attacks against our number one ally in the Middle East.

These include then-South Africa Foreign Minister Pandor accepting a call from former Palestinian President Arafat on October 7; and visiting Tehran to meet with former President Raisi on October 22, South Africa filing a politically motivated and unfounded case against Israel at the International Court of Justice, and then-Foreign Minister Pandor stating back in March of this year that South Africa will arrest Israeli South Africans who are fighting in the Israeli Defense Forces upon their return and could even strip them of their citizenship.

In addition to this overt anti-Israel sentiment, the ANC has increased its alignment with the People’s Republic of China and the Russian Federation, as well.

In February 2023, on the anniversary of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, the ANC hosted joint military exercises with Russia and China off the coast of South Africa. Excuse me? I am a military veteran. These drills and exercises are practicing killing American sailors and soldiers. Additionally, the ANC hosted the BRICS Conference in Johannesburg in August 2023.

I am also concerned about recent allegations of illicit financing flowing to the ANC from Russia and other malign actors.

In December, the ANC allegedly accepted $10 million from a Kremlin-backed holding company called the Chancellor House Trust. Prior to this donation, the ANC was all but bankrupt, and law enforcement had begun to seize assets at the ANC campaign headquarters in Johannesburg. Similar allegations already exist for Iran. I am concerned that Russia and Iran are seeking to buy official influence in South Africa.

It is the fundamental right of every sovereign nation to chart its own direction, hear me clearly, but actions have consequences and repercussions. American people have choices, too.

I believe in the potential of a U.S.-South Africa relationship, but it is only fair if South Africa desires to remain a close partner to the U.S. and meets us halfway.

The current uncertainty in South Africa following last month’s elections makes the determinations required by this amendment timely.

In order to strategically engage with South Africa, it is necessary to ensure the United States Government has a contemporary review of the bilateral relationship.

That is what this amendment does. It requires a certification and review that will ensure that the entirety of the U.S. Government is aligned to the realities of the current U.S.-South Africa bilateral relationship.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the James amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Chair, I opposed this bill when it was considered by the full committee, and I oppose this amendment today.

South Africa is a key partner of the United States and has been critical to driving innovation and investment on the Continent of Africa.

It is also true that South Africa has taken a number of policy stances I do not agree with and don’t believe are helpful to advancing further peace and prosperity, including an all-too-forgiving stance on Russia.

If our goal as the United States is to achieve an open and cooperative partnership with South Africa that advances both our countries’ interests, this amendment will not accomplish that.

Almost 2 years ago, the Biden administration put out a U.S. strategy toward sub-Saharan Africa, noting it is impossible to meet today’s defining challenges without African contributions in leadership. Underpinning that strategy is the concept that the United States can offer positive choices to Africans, for instance, as they determine their own future.

In other words, we have the opportunity and responsibility to present options to our African partners that they can judge to be worthwhile and in their best interest. We don’t get to impose our ideas, and we should be making a case to South Africa that for U.S. defense and economic interests we should partner with the United States and work together to achieve shared interests.

Any past disagreements with South Africa are reasons for us to double down on our diplomatic and productive pathways for U.S.-South Africa cooperation.

This amendment unnecessarily duplicates a review process already laid out in law under the African Growth and Opportunity Act, or AGOA. As an AGOA country, South Africa already receives a yearly review that takes into consideration any activities that undermine U.S. national security or foreign policy interests. This review is a requirement for any country to be deemed eligible to participate in AGOA.

The administration already has the power and responsibility to review South Africa’s record and is obligated to act in any such activities as part of the country’s AGOA eligibility review. It seems like a core purpose of this legislation is to undermine the AGOA eligibility of Africa’s largest economy. Instead of doing this, my Republican colleagues should be trying to reauthorize AGOA.

Moreover, this amendment was made in order despite the original bill having no such provision. This amendment was proposed by the ranking member submitted Africa amendments that could have attracted bipartisan support, yet those amendments were not made.

Finally, this amendment suffers from a bad case of timing. South Africans recently made their voices heard through a democratic election, and South Africa is in the process of forming a new government.

We need to give the parties in South Africa time to establish a government and pursue the course laid out for them by South African voters. To conduct a review at this point in the process would be premature and potentially damaging to our interest of being a partner of choice for South Africa.

This is a strange, counterproductive, and condescending amendment, and this is exactly what African countries accuse us of doing. They say: Why do you wag your finger at us and tell us what we can’t do, but then you don’t do that to any other country?

They are right. They are not colonized. They are countries, independent, and this tired approach is what they are asking us to stop doing.

We would not do this to any country in Europe or Asia, so why are we doing this to an African country, especially South Africa, a democratic country that just held free and fair elections and is one of the most strategic partners that we have on the continent?
We need to show up, and we need to show up in a different kind of way. This amendment is not how we should show up for Africa.

Mr. Chair, in closing I want to say what I already said. This is condescending, it is counterproductive, and it is not the way that we should be engaging with our democratic African partners on the continent.

The best way to counteract Russian and China is to show up with a different approach that is dignified, that is respectful, and that recognizes that these countries are independent so that they see that we are serious and that we are using all of the tools in our toolbox: diplomatic, defense, and development—not finger wagging.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting Chair. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. JAMES).

The question was taken; and the Act]

The vote was taken by electronic de-

NOT VOTING—21

Mses. HOULAHAN and CROCKETT, Messrs. JOHNSON of Georgia and GALLEG0 changed their vote from "aye" to "no." So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mrs. Miller of Illinois. Mr. Chair, had I been present, I would have voted AYE on Roll Call No. 276.

AMENDMENT NO. 28 OFFERED BY MR. JAMES

The Acting Chair (Mr. CARTER of Georgia). The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on amendment No. 28, printed in part B of House Report 118–551, offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY), on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amend-

The Clerk redesignated the amend-
The Speaker pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any further amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole? If not, the Chair will put them en gross.

The amendments were agreed to.

The Speaker pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

**MOTION TO RECOMMIT**

Ms. Sherrill of New Jersey moves to recommit the bill H.R. 8070 to the Committee on Armed Services.

The Speaker pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XIX, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

The question is on the motion to recommit.

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

**NOT VOTING—**

Messrs. MVRAN and THANEDA changed their vote from "no" to "aye," so the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. Newhouse). There being no further amendments, under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. Carter of Georgia) having assumed the chair, Mr. Newhouse, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 8070) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes, and, pursuant to House Resolution 1287, he reported the bill, amended by that resolution, back to the House with sundry further amendments adopted in the Committee of the Whole.

The Speaker pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any further amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole? If not, the Chair will put them en gross.

The amendments were agreed to.

The Speaker pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.
Mr. GROTHMAN changed his vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Mrs. TORRES of California changed her vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the motion to reconsider was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

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

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 217, noes 199, not voting 15, as follows:

AYES—217

NAYS—214

[Vote Roll No. 279]

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

Mrs. TORRES of California changed her vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the motion to reconsider was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

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

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 217, noes 199, not voting 15, as follows:

AYES—217

NAYS—214

[Vote Roll No. 279]
AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO MAKE CORRECTIONS IN EN- 
CROSSMENT OF H.R. 8070, SERV- 
ICEMEMBER QUALITY OF LIFE 
IMPROVEMENT AND NATIONAL 
DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT 
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025

Mr. STRONG. Mr. Speaker, I ask 
unanimous consent that the Clerk be 
authorized to make technical correc-
tions in the engrossment of H.R. 8070, 
to include corrections in spelling, 
punctuation, section and title num-
bering, cross-referencing, conforming amendments to the table of contents and short titles, and the insertion of 
appropriate headings.

HIGHLIGHTING UKRAINIAN WOMEN

Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given 
permission to address the House for 
1 minute and to revise and extend her 
remarks.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, Ukraine is 
fighting valiantly to regain its freed-
edom, but today I wish to highlight the 
sheroes of Ukraine, its women.

These Ukrainian women work hard 
in the fields and farmsteads to feed their 
families, neighbors, and nation during 
war and during peace. These women labor 
day after day in the hot sun. By 
hand—you should see their hands—they 
plant precious seeds they carefully 
saved from last year using worn, sim-
ple implements, and small handheld 
shovels.

They harvest with scythes and use 
simple pushcarts to pull their harvest 
by hand back to their small villages. 
Under-equipped, they toil year after 
year as best they can against the forces 
of nature of the season of the hard-
scrabble circumstances of their dear 
lives.

Along Ukraine’s eastern front where 
Russia brutally invaded and is sys-
tematically destroying villagers and 
villages, these courageous women are 
planting. They are planting between 
land mines. Who can even fathom their 
heroism?

They feed their children, their fami-
lies, their neighbors, their countrymen 
and women. Let us celebrate these in-
spirational women of Ukraine, women 
of hope. Their extraordinary sheroism 
is perseverance. Their grace under 
pressure is defined by what U.S. Presi-
dent John F. Kennedy called “pure raw 
courage.”

REMEMBERING REIS GRAMS AND 
JESSE HAUGEN

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise 
today to remember Reis Grams and 
Jesse Haugen, two outdoorsmen who 
passed away with canoeing in the 
Boundary Waters Canoe Area.

Reis was a beloved husband to his 
wife, Angie, and a devoted father to 
his sons, Augie and Teddy. He grew up in 
Blaine and was a man of many talents, 
from his love of the outdoors to becom-
ing a skilled carpenter and 
business owner. He was a lifelong learn-
er, a caring family man, and a man of 
deep faith.

Jesse grew up in Blaine and served 
our Nation honorably in the U.S. 
Army. After his military service, Jesse 
served as a youth leader at his church. 
A proud father and husband, he owned 
and operated a business with his wife, 
Bethany, and cherished every moment 
spent with their son, Isaac.

Last month, Reis and Jesse’s canoes 
got over the Curtain Falls, leading to 
their tragic passing.

We are praying for strength and com-
fort for their families, friends, and all 
who knew them during this difficult 
time.

RECOGNIZING CADEN McClURE AS 
OHIO’S 13TH DISTRICT CHAMPION 
OF THE WEEK

Mrs. SYKES asked and was given 
permission to address the House for 
1 minute and to revise and extend her 
remarks.

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise 
today to recognize Caden McClure as 
Ohio’s 13th Congressional District 
Champion of the Week.

Caden is a senior at Green High 
School, and he became the 2024 Divi-
sion 1 boys pole vaulting State cham-
pion at the State championship meet 
in Dayton this past weekend.

Several pole vaulters at the meet 
took attempts to jump 16 feet, but after 
few attempts Caden was the only one 
to successfully clear this incredible 
jump to secure the State title.

The win capped off a very successful 
season for senior Caden McClure as he 
is the fourth pole vaulter from Green 
High School to win the State title.

He also continued his family’s his-
tory of dominance in this event by win-
nin this year’s State title because he 
followed his brother, Connor, who set 
the all-time Illinois State pole vault 
record of 17 feet 3 inches back in 2001.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate, once 
again, Caden McClure for this very im-
pressive victory. He has made his
school, his family, and his community very proud, and I can’t wait to see what he does next. He is the reason why Ohio’s 13th Congressional District is the birthplace of champions.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE VALDOSTA STATE MEN’S TENNIS TEAM

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Valdosta State men’s tennis team on their recent national championship.

The Blazers tennis team had an impressive season. They finished the year with an overall record of 26-3. In conference play, the team finished 8-1 and were named the Gulf South Conference champions.

At the Division II National Championships Festival in Orlando, Florida, Valdosta State battled for the chance to earn their third national title in school history.

After beating Flagler College 4-3 in the final match, the Blazers earned the title of national champions as well as the number one team ranked in the Intercollegiate Tennis Association.

Takeshi Taco, and Luca Mack also earned Intercollegiate Tennis Association Division II All-American honors.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Head Coach John Hansen and the entire men’s tennis team on an outstanding season and a national championship.

COMMEMORATING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY

(Ms. MANNING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, last week, I traveled with my colleagues to Normandy to commemorate the 80th anniversary of D-Day, the battle that turned the tide of World War II and led to the defeat of the Nazis.

I met 100-year-old Air Force Tech Sergeant Chuck Richardson from my State of North Carolina, who flew 35 combat missions including on D-Day. He was a real hero.

We saw rows and rows of white crosses and Stars of David marking the graves of those who made the ultimate sacrifice in that terrible battle.

We were reminded of the fragility of democracy and the dangers of tyrants who disregard the rule of law.

Today, democracies around the world are under attack and authoritarian regimes are rising.

D-Day proved that brave Americans working together could save the free world.

We must put partisan divides aside and, once again, provide the leadership the world so desperately needs.

CELEBRATING THE SUCCESSFUL AND IMPACTFUL CAREER OF AUGUSTA UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT BROOKS KEEL

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

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the successful and impactful career of Augusta University President Brooks Keel, who is retiring after more than 14 memorable years in the university system of Georgia.

Dr. Keel arrived at Augusta University during a defining moment for the future of the institution in July 2015, and his tenure has been defined by his steadfast leadership and commitment to the success of the university and its students.

As President, Dr. Keel ushered in 8 straight years of enrollment growth and a 46 percent increase in the University’s economic impact on the State of Georgia.

I consider myself blessed to call Dr. Keel a dear friend, and while it saddens us to see this chapter end, I join the Augusta community in congratulating him on an extraordinary career and expressing our deepest gratitude for his unwavering dedication.

As Dr. Keel and Tammie embark on a well-deserved retirement, we will continue to follow his example and build on the foundation he established for a brighter future.

In the words of Dr. Keel, go Jags.

COMMEMORATING NATIONAL HOMEOWNERSHIP MONTH

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate National Homeownership Month, a time to reflect on the American Dream of owning a home and what it means for the communities of eastern North Carolina.

Homeownership for communities across the country is the cornerstone of stability and prosperity.

From putting down roots to building wealth, owning a home represents a significant milestone in the lives of Americans.

Through homeownership, we build strong communities and provide stability for families, yet we know there are many challenges.

Affordability remains a concern for many hardworking families. Congress has a duty to ensure that the American Dream of owning a home is alive and well no matter what your background or ZIP Code.

We must double down on our efforts to improve access to affordable housing, especially in rural America.

CELEBRATING PAUL WOJAHN ON HIS 103RD BIRTHDAY

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

Mr. FINSTAD. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to celebrate Paul Wojahn. Paul is a World War II veteran, beloved New Ulm community member, veteran advocate, neighbor, relative, and friend who will celebrate his 103rd birthday next week on June 19.

Paul grew up on a farm near Comfrey, Minnesota, and when he turned 21, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps, answering the call to serve his country like many in his family and like so many in the Greatest Generation.

After completing basic training in San Diego, Paul served aboard the USS Mount Vernon and was stationed in various locations throughout the Pacific theater, including Okinawa.

When he returned home from the war, Paul worked as a farmer and an excavator and went on to serve as a conservation officer for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for 25 years before retiring in 1983.

Today, Paul is actively involved in several veterans’ groups and community organizations. He volunteers with The American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, and VFW, as well as the Salvation Army and John’s Club.

Even at 103 years old, Paul continues to live each day to the fullest and finds time to enjoy the little things like a quiet morning catching crappies.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Paul for the many ways he has made southern Minnesota a better place for all of us to call home. We wish him the happiest of birthdays and many more to come.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF PAMELA RICHARDS

(Ms. PLASKETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to honor one of the Virgin Islands’ very own, the recently departed, Pam Richards.

A dedicated public servant, Pam’s unwavering service to the Virgin Islands and tireless efforts to enhance our culture and heritage leave behind a legacy and an indelible mark on all us.

Pamela Richards served as Commissioner of Tourism of the Virgin Islands Government, executive director of the 29th legislature of the Virgin Islands, district director of my office, and more recently, she was the interim chief of staff for President David Hall of the University of the Virgin Islands. She served on too many nonprofits and government boards to mention.

Although deeply saddened by her passing, I find comfort in the memories of her: her sarcastic humor, our shared stories of our Virgin Islands ancestors, history, and culture.

Mr. Speaker, I say to Pam, rest well, queen. We will remember her legacy.
CONGRATULATIONS TO NORTH HOLLYWOOD HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL TEAM

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

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the North Hollywood High School baseball team for winning their first CIF-Los Angeles City Division I championship by defeating the Banning High Pilots 3-1.

In a competitive and nail-biting championship game, the Huskies overcame a 1-1 tie in the top of the eighth when second baseman Nick Park hit his second triple of the game and produced the winning run.

The Huskies started the season losing six of their first seven games, yet they never gave up. They quickly turned things around and finished the season with a 20-3 record and earned the city title.

What is more admirable is they succeeded without having their own field to practice or play on all season.

I commend Head Coach Eder Tapia and assistant coaches Erik Morante and Daniel Campos for overcoming the on-and-off-the-field challenges as they developed remarkable student athletes and a winning team culture.

We will be rooting for these young, bright men and wishing them all the best next season and beyond.

SECURE OUR BORDER NOW

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

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, last week President Biden stated that the border should not be a political issue to be weaponized. I agree that Americans don’t have time for games in Washington, but I think the President should take his own advice.

Since day one of his Presidency, President Biden has been laser focused on rolling back President Trump’s policies that were effective in lowering illegal immigration. As a result, we have had nearly 12 million illegal encounters at our border since January of 2021, with this past April being the 38th straight month that encounters at the border have been greater than the highest month under President Trump.

For 3 years, House Republicans have passed good legislation that would actually secure the southern border and have urged President Biden to work with us on the border crisis, and we have been met with silence. President Biden needs to wake up.

Just this week, CBP and the FBI arrested eight men with ISIS ties in New York, L.A., and Philadelphia who all entered the country through Biden’s wide-open border. We can’t keep pretending this is normal. We need to secure our border now.

CONGRATULATING COLONEL RICHARD GOLDENBERG ON HIS RETIREMENT

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

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exceptional career of Schuylerville resident Colonel Richard Goldenberg as he retires from the U.S. Army National Guard after 36 years of distinguished service.

In his 13 years as the public information officer for the New York State Division of Military Affairs, he has been the steadfast voice of more than 20,000 men and women serving in the New York National Guard, the Naval Militia, and the New York Guard, where his leadership in community relations and strategic information support has been vital during overseas deployments and disaster response missions.

Colonel Goldenberg’s impact on our capital region has extended well beyond his service in the National Guard. As adjutant of Jewish War Veterans Post 105 and commander of the Jewish War Veterans Capital District Council, he has honored a legacy of service and brotherhood, presenting the annual Four Chaplains Brotherhood Award.

Colonel Goldenberg has also been a cherished partner in our efforts to honor veterans, joining me in seeing off hundreds of capital region veterans on Honor Flights to Washington, D.C.

Colonel Goldenberg’s legacy of service, leadership, and dedication will continue to inspire each and every one of us. I congratulate him on a well-deserved retirement and wish him God-speed.

CELEBRATING 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF NORTHWEST YOUTH CORPS

(Ms. HOYLE of Oregon asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, on June 16, the Northwest Youth Corps will celebrate its 40th anniversary. This program, which is headquartered in my district, is the largest Youth Conservation Corps program in the Northwest. For over four decades, it has given over 27,000 teenagers and young adults the opportunity to participate in conservation stewardship in Oregon, Idaho, and Washington State.

These teenagers and young adults work to improve our lands and waters, which helps to reduce the potential for catastrophic wildfires and maintain our outdoor recreational assets.

The Northwest Youth Corps, which is well known nationally for its innovation and quality, was recently awarded $12 million from the Inflation Reduction Act to improve urban tree canopies and make urban forests more resilient to climate change across the Northwest.

I am proud to celebrate the Northwest Youth Corps on their anniversary and look forward to their continued contributions in our local communities and our forests for years to come.

HONORING JUAN JOSE "JOHNNY" CANALES

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

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Juan Jose "Johnny" Canales, a legend of Tejano music, who died on Thursday at the age of 77.

Johnny was a champion for civil rights, an advocate for veterans, and a musician in his own right, but he was best known as the host of the "Johnny Canales Show," a bilingual variety show that ran for decades in the United States and Latin America.

It helped launch the careers of countless Tejano stars, including Selena Quintanilla, who made one of her live TV performances on the show in 1985. To his loyal fans, Johnny was best known for his catch phrase: "You got it, take it away," the words of encouragement he would share with all the performers who joined him.

Johnny, you will always be remembered, especially among your loyal fans in south Texas. Johnny, "rest in peace," "que descanse en paz."

SALEM HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1974 CELEBRATES 80TH HIGH SCHOOL REUNION

(Ms. SALINAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SALINAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Salem High School Class of 1974 who are celebrating their 80th high school reunion.

This program, which is headquartered in my district, is the largest Youth Conservation Corps program in the Northwest. For over four decades, it has given over 27,000 teenagers and young adults the opportunity to participate in conservation stewardship in Oregon, Idaho, and Washington State.

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Johnny, you will always be remembered, especially among your loyal fans in south Texas. Johnny, “rest in peace,” “que descanse en paz.”
School Class of 1944 and congratulate them on a successful 80th reunion.

This incredible group of Oregonians holds a Guinness World Record for the longest running high school reunion, which usually takes place at their favorite Denny's restaurant in southeast Salem, Oregon.

Their determination and school spirit are admirable. This is a class that grew up in the shadow of the Great Depression and held their commencement just 5 days before Allied troops stormed the shores of Normandy on D-Day.

This is a generation—America’s Greatest Generation—that has witnessed its highest and lowest points of our Nation’s history. They have lived through times of war and peace, raised families during economic booms and downturns, and watched the tides of change sweep over our country.

Through it all, they still found time to come together to remember their roots and celebrate their bonds. That is a special kind of fellowship you don’t often see today.

Again, congratulations to the Salem High School Class of 1944. Here is to many more years of great memories and even stronger friendships. They make our community proud.

PRESIDENT TRUMP RETURNS TO WASHINGTON

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, this week the person who occupied the White House for 4 years before President Biden returned to Washington for the first time since he left.

Since that time, he has been found guilty of sexual abuse with E. Jean Carroll, and he has been found in defamation of E. Jean Carroll on two different occasions for nearly $100 million. He has been found to be fraudulently projecting his income and liabilities in his businesses in New York and the State to the tune of about a $480 million civil judgment. He has also been found guilty of a felony in New York State 34 times.

What he also did before he left was he led an assault on this Capitol, on this government. I was up there in the balcony when they were beating on the doors and we were told to get out for our lives and put on gas masks. Gunfire was in this room. Four officers were killed or died because of that insurrection against our government.

Trump didn’t come here to apologize to the Capitol Police, who put their lives on the line, which he should have. It is unfortunate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind Members to refrain from engaging in personalities toward presumptive nominees for the Office of the President.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE SPEAKER

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

WASHINGTON, DC, June 14, 2024.

I hereby designate the period from Friday, June 14, 2024, through Monday, June 24, 2024, as a “district work period” under section 3(2) of House Resolution 5.

MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PROTESTS SHOULD BE NONVIOLENT AND HATE-FREE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise. And still I rise today to address a topic of concern to a good many Americans. In my opinion, it should be of concern to all Americans, and that is the right to peacefully protest, the right to protest.

I am a person who has engaged in peaceful protests, I look forward to engaging in peaceful protests in the future, but I would like to just talk about what this really means when we talk about peaceful protests.

We have reached a point where it is not enough just to say peaceful protest. You have to add some additional verbiage here that says about non-violent, peaceful protests; nonviolent, hate-free, peaceful protests.

I would not engage in peaceful protests where hate is a part of the verbiage that is being utilized. I believe in peaceful protests, but I don’t believe in bringing hate to the protest movement. I believe in nonviolent, peaceful, hate-free protests.

I am going to share one example of protest that I absolutely disagree with because it is not nonviolent, peaceful, hate-free protest. I am amazed at what I saw and what I have read as it relates to this. I first saw it on television, and I was stunned, shocked, thunderstruck.

I have since read a news story about it which I shall share excerpts with you that relate to this protest that was taking place.

Remember, I am the guy who believes in protests. I have been to jail for protesting, which means I broke the law. When you break the law and you are protesting, you should be prepared to suffer the consequences. I and John Lewis on multiple occasions protested, and we broke the law. We went to jail, and we suffered the consequences. If you are going to protest, be prepared to suffer the consequences.

Some protest movements have gone too far. I hope that this will help some of us to better understand what peaceful protest is all about. I have an article in my hands. This is from ABC News dated June 13, 2024. June 13, 2024, recent news. The style of it is: “Gaza War Protests Denounced by NYC”—that would be New York City—“leaders as ‘anti-Semitic’ after subway car threat, vandalism.”

I am not reading it in toto. In part, it reads: “The New York Police Department said Thursday that they are looking into identifying at least two leaders of a call-and-response chant by protesters on a crowded Manhattan subway car on Monday. The chant asked Zionists to identify themselves.

Video surfaced Wednesday of the incident on a Brooklyn-bound subway train that was halted with its doors open at the Union Square station in Manhattan. ‘‘Repeat after me: Raise your hand if you are a Zionist.’’

I would not want someone to say raise your hand if you are an African American, raise your hand if you are a female, raise your hand if you are a part of the LGBTQ+ community, raise your hand if you are a Muslim or if you are an Asian. I would not want a person to say that on a subway car and then continue with what I am about to read. ‘‘Repeat after me: Raise your hand if you are a Zionist.’’

I would not want someone to say, raise your hand if you are an African American, and then go on to say, this is your chance to get out, to get off the car.

It goes on to read, and this is a quote: ‘‘Okay, no Zionists, we are good,’’ the leader is then heard saying. This is anti-Semitic.

If he had said raise your hand if you are a Black person, it would be racist. If he had said Raise your hand if you are a Muslim, it would be Islamophobia. Raise your hand if you are Asian; that is anti-Asian if you go on to say these other things.

This is not the kind of nonviolent, peaceful, hate-free protests that I would engage in and that I would ever support. I denounce this. This is hate. We cannot have legitimate, nonviolent protest movements if we inject hate into the movement. We have to do it void of hate and void of violence.

I am absolutely opposed to what was done, and I want those persons to know that they are hurting the protest movement by doing what they are doing.

You can protest your disdain for what is happening in Palestine without injecting hate into it.

You have every right to protest what is happening in Palestine. I have protest in this test is happening there, but you don’t do it with hate, and you don’t do it with violence. You do it peacefully.
If you decide that you are going to do what John Lewis called “get in the way,” you get in the way, but you know that there are consequences if you get in the way, and you are arrested. We got in the way by getting in the street, and we were told that if you don’t move, you are going to be arrested. You are impeding traffic. We didn’t move. We were arrested. We went to a place of incarceration. We eventually posted our bond. We were released. We paid a fine. I was prepared to suffer the consequences. You cannot engage in violence in a protest movement and expect to receive positive coverage. The coverage is going to be negative if you engage in violence, and the coverage is going to be negative if you engage in hate speech.

You are hurting the movement. You are hurting those who are peacefully protesting in a nonviolent fashion without hate speech. Protest if you will, but do it in such a way as not to hurt the protest movement itself, which I support.

I support the protest movement. I don’t support hate within the movement.

I support saying to the world that you don’t think what is happening in terms of the killing of the babies in Gaza to be something that is acceptable. Now, that is my language, and there is other language that is acceptable. But you cannot do it, in my opinion, and expect a positive response if you do it in a violent or hate speech.

We in this country understand that the country was founded, to a certain extent, on protests. The pilgrims were protesting, and they came to this country and brought their movement with them.

When the farmers came to Washington, D.C., protesting with their tractors, it was a perfectly legitimate protest—perfectly acceptable.

Nonviolent, peaceful, hate-free protest is acceptable.

I would ask the news media, all of those various outlets that cover these protests, to cover some of the protests that are positive. Present them. Let the world know that not everybody is engaging in hate speech. Not everybody is anti-Semitic who is protesting. Not everybody is racist, anti-Semitic, sexist, utilizing Islamophobia, behaving in an Islamophobic way, anti-Islamic, anti-Asian, announce they are not with us. We don’t want them to be a part of this. If you have a sign that says it, take your sign someplace else. That is not for this movement.

That is your job if you are part of a protest movement and you are a leader.

Finally, be prepared. Be prepared to suffer the consequences. Be prepared.

I am asking the news media to please do this. Let other people in the world see that we protest in this country, and we do it without violence and without hate speech.

I think that I can give evidence of what I speak. We had in Houston, Texas, an event to have, if you will, a candlelight ceremony to memorialize the lives of persons who lost their lives in Gaza. We had a packed house. We had some debate. There was no hate speech, and nobody went to jail—there was no coverage. No coverage.

Now, I have seen multiple protests concerning what happened on October 7, and that merits being protested. I support protesting it. What happened was horrific. We ought to protest that. When that is protested, I have seen it covered with positive news coverage.

Well, there are two sides to this when you get to the things that have happened since October 7 and all that has happened in Gaza with the destruction of schools, the destruction of hospitals, of roads, of bridges, of homes. With all of this destruction, it is not unreasonable for some people to conclude that this ought to be something worthy of protestation.

So, when this occurs and there is no violence, no hate speech, I challenge the news media to cover it, too, just as you cover those who protest what happened on October 7.

I am among those who would do so. October 7 was a horrific day in infamy. Let us be fair in the coverage, and let those who are protesting understand that if there is a person among your movement who is out of line, who is being violent, who is being anti-Semitic—when we were protesting, we would meet before the protest would start, and we would agree on certain things. One, we wouldn’t be violent.

If someone said to something to indicate some degree of violence, we would turn to that person and point and say: “Not with us.” We would remove that person from the protest—“Not with us, not with us,” and let the police take them away, and we continued with our peaceful protest.

It is important to have free speech, freedom of assembly, and freedom to protest. That is what this country was founded on, to a great extent, and we want to maintain it.

To do it, I think the news media has a role, and that is to present fair coverage of these protest movements. I think that the people who are protesting have a role. Their role is to say to the world that we are there to have a peaceful, nonviolent, hate-free protest.

I think you should be able to simply peacefully protest, and it should incorporate those other things, but you can say it all and that those who act in a violent way are not with us. Say it before you start the protest: They are not with us.

Anybody who says something that is racist, anti-Semitic, sexist, utilizing Islamophobia, behaving in an Islamophobic way, anti-Islamic, anti-Asian, announce they are not with us. We don’t want them to be a part of this. If you have a sign that says it, take your sign someplace else. That is not for this movement.

That is your job if you are part of a protest movement and you are a leader.
I don’t expect them to speak up every time something happens. I appreciate what they have done this time, but I don’t expect them to speak up every time.

I do hope that as we move forward, we work together on these important issues.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS).

HONORING RONALD KNOCH

Mr. Speaker. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating all the brave women who have put their lives on the line for this incredible Nation we call America.

Mr. Speaker. I rise today in honor of Ronald Knoche, for being named a 2024 Top 10 Public Works Leader of the Year by the American Public Works Association.

As the most prestigious national award in the public works profession, this year’s honorees are recognized for their professionalism, expertise, and personal dedication to improving the quality of life in their communities through the advancement of public works services during their career.

Knoche has served Iowa City for 25 years. He joined the city as a civil engineer in 1999, was promoted to senior engineer in 2001, and the city engineer in 2003.

In 2015, Knoche was promoted to public works director. In this role, Knoche oversees the city’s engineering, equipment, resource management, streets, wastewater, and stormwater divisions.

Mr. Speaker. I congratulate Ron. I am very proud of him.

JOHNSON COUNTY ENGINEER

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Johnson County, Iowa, engineer, Greg Parker, on being named the 2024 Urban County Engineer of the Year by the National Association of County Engineers.

Mr. Parker’s career has spanned 40 years and earned him a reputation for being a national authority on pavement reconstruction.

Mr. Parker and the Johnson County Secondary Roads Department are responsible for 915 miles of county highways and the 26 bridges and infrastructure that connect them.

As the department director, Mr. Parker oversees construction and year-round maintenance with 50 employees.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Greg Parker for winning this award and wishing him all the best as he continues to pave the way for all Iowans.

PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Peace Corps volunteers from Iowa’s first district who are currently serving worldwide on behalf of our great Nation.

By freely providing their various skill sets, such as healthcare, education, and peacekeeping in the world’s developing nations, these volunteers are on the front lines of ensuring a better world for all of us.

Despite the hardships and tribulations the job may provide, these seven heroes have a true unending passion for helping people.

Furthermore, I would like to specifically congratulate two of our Peace Corps volunteers from Iowa’s First Congressional District, Katheryn Peck and Kent Rice, for completing their tenure in the Dominican Republic on May 17, 2024, and returning home to Iowa.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating these incredible Peace Corps volunteers and wish them the best on their continued journeys.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, Representative GROTHMAN, for yielding me time.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women Veterans Recognition Day, which is the anniversary of President Truman’s signing of the Women’s Armed Forces Integration Act, which allowed, for the first time, women to serve as regular members of the military.

While only about one in six Americans serving in the Armed Forces are women, they are responsible for some of the most important accomplishments in military history. Whether it is the Hello Girls from World War I who connected the U.S. military’s communications in imperative ways, the thousands of volunteer nurses who saved lives in the Vietnam war, or the hundreds of thousands of women currently in active service, women in the military are playing an active role in ensuring the safety of our Nation, and I was one of those as a 24-year Army veteran.

Mr. Speaker. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating all the brave women who have put their lives on the line for this incredible Nation we call home.
A year ago in May, we were at 196,000. Now, what you have to do is you have to take the official number, add up the got-aways, and then you should add up those paroled to see where we stand this year. When it comes out, it should be a banner headline, and something that should concern us about. Whether you are talking about illegals committing crimes, whether they are putting pressure on local budgets at the school board, whether they are changing the cultural landscape, or whatever. Israelis think that all around the world, most anywhere else in the Arab world, people who have come to Israel to perform work in this wonder- ful country. It is true, particularly with older people, we went from 1960 when about 95 percent of the newborn births had both a mother and father at home. We have had a dramatic decrease in the number of children born that are living without a mother or a father. This is a better nation, and they won- der what happened.

When I ask them why they think it was a better nation, they hesitate for a minute, but finally they say that they think we have had a breakdown in the family. It is true, particularly with older people, we went from 1960 when about 95 percent of the newborn births had both a mother and father at home. We have had a dramatic decrease in the number of children born that are living without a mother or a father. Now, any type of family can be successful, but finally they say that they think we have had a breakdown in the family. It is true, particularly with older people, we went from 1960 when about 95 percent of the newborn births had both a mother and father at home. We have had a dramatic decrease in the number of children born that are living without a mother or a father. Now, any type of family can be successful, but finally they say that they think we have had a breakdown in the family.

Nevertheless, we are going the pickup an- other story that I think—probably the border right now is the number one issue that states has to deal with. Under normal circumstances when I talk to people back home, they tell me that things in America are get- ting worse, particularly at my age when you get up to 65. They feel that when things were growing up, Ameri- ca was a better nation, and they won- der what happened. When I ask them why they think it was a better nation, they hesitate for a minute, but finally they say that they think we have had a breakdown in the family. It is true, particularly with older people, we went from 1960 when about 95 percent of the newborn births had both a mother and father at home. We have had a dramatic decrease in the number of children born that are living without a mother or a father. Now, any type of family can be successful, but finally they say that they think we have had a breakdown in the family.

Nevertheless, we are going the opposite direction. You may say, GLENN, why are you even wasting time on that. Everybody is for the old-fashioned fam- ily, why do you spend time on that? Actually, if you look, there have been people who, over a period of time, have felt that the road to paradise neces- sarily means getting rid of the nuclear family.

We know Karl Marx himself, who is still studied in our universities, was opposed to what he referred to as the bourgeois family. He felt it would van- ish as a matter of course when capital- ism disappears. He believed the only reason for the family is because we have private property, and that served to serve the needs of the traditional mar- riage, which it didn’t. In any event, Karl Marx did want to get rid of the nuclear family.

Did anybody else carry this odious thing? Or was he just a guy who died almost without family and not missed at the time he passed away?

I think we have to turn to the 1960s when we started the great welfare state, the Great Society, of Lyndon Johnson. At that time, there were some leaders who were very well- known to anybody who lived through that era who did want to get rid of the family. The first person I will mention is Kate Millett. Maybe some people aren’t familiar with Kate Millett. She was one of the primary feminists during the 1960s, and I will bet to this day most Americans are under the mistaken im- pression that people like Kate Millett were a force for good. Actually, Kate Millett, we should all be aware, was another person who wanted to “destroy the American family.”

In a back-and-forth with one of her other audiences, she demanded, how do we destroy a cultural revolution? She felt we needed a cultural revolution. Her follower said by destroying the American family. She said, how do we destroy the American family? It is by destroying the American patriarch—in other words, by getting the man out of the family.

In the 1960s, one of the most promi- nent feminists, Kate Millett, and her comments were echoed by others, felt that she had to destroy the American family.

At the same time we had a Black Power movement, which I don’t think was embraced by the vast majority of Black Americans, but it did exist. One of the primary leaders of that Black Power movement was Angela Davis.

Anybody who lived in the 1970s re- members that name. What was Angela Davis for? One of the things she was for was she wanted to get rid of the fam- ily-based structure of oppression. In other words, she, as a mother and father at home raising their chil- dren was a form of oppression. Women must be liberated from the drudgery of full-time childrearing.

She was given a great job at Cali- fornia State University at Santa Cruz, where the left made sure she had a nice job for the rest of her life even though she participated in or abetted murders that took place in California at the time.

We have to remember that one of the things that Angela Davis wanted, be- cause she is primarily remembered for being a member of the Black Power movement, was to get rid of the nuclear family.

Mr. Speaker, how could one get rid of the family? I think Lyndon Johnson, at the time when these radicals were fly- ing high, hit upon it by introducing a lot of subsidies in America as part of his Great Society.

In order to get these subsidies, not actually, but almost always, you could not have a mother and father together because if you had a mother and father together, then you would be earning
enough money that you wouldn’t be considered in poverty, but once you were in poverty, you were eligible for a variety of government subsidies.

Mr. Speaker, these were government subsidies that you wouldn’t get if you had a father at home. Let’s say that father was making, in today’s income, $50,000 or $60,000. Whether it is food stamps, whether it is low-income housing, whether it is daycare, whether it was, at the time, AFDC, or whether it's housing or the very low income subsidy, the earned income tax credit, which kicked in in the 1990s, all of these benefits were conditioned upon not having a man in the household earning a decent income. There were probably some exceptions, and my detractors will point out somewhere a mother and father and kids at home who are getting these subsidies. By and large, they were subsidies not available to a family with a man and woman who both worked or with one of the two working and making a decent wage.

Now, in this budget that President Biden has put forth, we have a variety of new programs, almost all of which are aimed to reduce marriage penalty that the Great Society ushered in.

By the way, Mr. Speaker, when you look at that marriage penalty, it varies from person to person, depending on how many jobs they took up. It varies depending upon their income whether you are not working at all or whether you are making $14,000 or $15,000 a year. There is usually a huge medical benefit, as well.

What do we do in light of all of these programs? Robert Rector, who is an expert in this field, believes there are 78 programs that all are working toward a marriage penalty that the Great Society ushered in.

By the time you got done, it could be $15,000, $20,000, $25,000, $30,000 that you would lose if you were a married couple as opposed to having a single person raising a child at home.

Now, Mr. Speaker, you would think that, ultimately, people would wake up and look at, not in every case but in general, all the possible problems that we had with the government encouraging not having two people living at home.

By the way, another one I should point out is something called Pell grants. Pell grants are grants that go to college. They can say the custodial parent is in poverty. They might have a father making $100,000 a year, who knows, but Pell grants is another program kind of pushing in that direction.

I will repeat an anecdote I have heard probably a million times. I talked to a young woman afterward who was in the audience. I had been talking to a Tea Party group. Anybody familiar with the Tea Party at the time knows it was largely a bunch of people over 60 years old. We had a young gal at a Tea Party gathering in the room where I gave the talk. I am guessing she was 25 years old.

I asked her what she thought about this marriage penalty and all these programs. She told me: Well, me and my partner married before we had a child. None of my friends are getting married. They get free college.

That was kind of my introduction to Pell grants in which the government, for whatever reason, has decided to say that if you are not married to someone with an income, then you are eligible to go to college as well as your children may be eligible as well to get Pell grants while the middle-class kid, the kid who is raised by a couple who may have a very high income, they may not be able to afford college for the kid, and that kid has to take out student loan debt.

Again, Pell grant is another program that is kind of designed to push America away from the paradise that some of these people want, or the so-called paradise in which we do not have a mother and father at home.

In any event, in President Biden’s budget, he wants to expand government daycare, expand the earned income tax credit, which can easily give you $5,000 or $10,000 if you have a couple of kids, provided you don’t have two parents working or anybody making more than $16,000.

I should point out that all of these programs not only discourage marriage, but they discourage work because usually to get the most out of these programs, you want to work and make $14,000, $15,000, or $16,000. You sure don’t want to make $40,000 or $50,000 because they will take away your benefits.

He wants more housing subsidies as opposed to staying with mom. He wants to expand these Pell grants I just talked about.

So, I encourage my Republican colleagues to stand up against President Biden’s goal of further subsidizing and further trying to break down the old-fashioned family.

By the way, I mentioned all the people whose goal it was to get rid of the nuclear family. I should have included Black Lives Matter. The group that wanted to get rid of the so-called Western-prescribed nuclear family, which is really not Western. It happens all around the world. That is a more recent group. Black Lives Matter had as one of its goals to get rid of the nuclear family.

I encourage my colleagues to stand up to President Biden’s goal of further taxing the middle class or taxing certain groups to further promote or subsidize the idea of raising families without both parents in the home.

In any event, these are stories I wish the press would cover. This marriage penalty has been going on for 60 years. Whenever I talk about it, nobody has heard of it.

Where is the press corps? They ought to be talking about the huge penalty.

Again and again when I get back to my district, I find young people saying: We are not getting married because we lose the benefits.

Let’s have the press corps pick up on that. Let’s have the press corps pick up on why Ecuador wants to send 25,000 people halfway around the globe to work in Israel, and they can ponder if things are that tough.

These people protesting out here on Independence Avenue should also consider whether or not it is so tough living in Israel when actually it is a paradise. People are coming from all around the globe.

The next thing that I want the press to pick up on is you should be waiting every day when we get the new figures on the number of people who came across our southern border in May and report if we are getting another all-time record for May or not.

I know I am probably going to have to pick it up from some obscure government website because, again, our press corps is asleep at the switch on the issue of the decade.

Finally, if we want a little upbeat thing the press corps is not paying enough attention to, remember: June is Dairy Month. Go home and have some cheese.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN HONOR OF THE VICTIMS OF EBRAHIM RAISI

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN) for 30 minutes.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, last month, the United Nations Security Council had a moment of silence in memory of the death of the late Iranian President, Ebrahim Raisi, known as the Butcher of Tehran.

Even on the Senate floor, the Senate Chaplain said something sorrowful about Raisi’s death.

Mr. Speaker, the death of any human being is a tragedy perhaps, but no one had a moment of silence when Osama bin Laden died, and Ebrahim Raisi killed far more people than Osama bin Laden.

At some point, we should take a moment of silence to remember the victims of Raisi’s vicious cruelty, such as the 30,000 Iranian political prisoners who were tortured and murdered to death by the death commissions that Raisi headed back in 1988; the 1,500 Iranian freedom protesters murdered in 2019, Bloody November; or the murders of intellectuals and protesters who were incensed by the death of a young woman, Mahsa Amini, in September 2022.
The war stopped, or seemed to have stopped, and so I ask, Mr. Speaker, unanimous consent for the moment of silence not for the Butcher of Tehran, Ebrahim Raisi, but for his victims even being remembered. Ebrahim Raisi mourned without his number in 8 years. That doesn't count those killed secretly. I have referred only to the evil that this regime does to its own people. Iran, as we know, sponsors terrorist organizations around the world, including the Houthi, Hamas, and Hezbollah, and those are just the organizations that begin with the letter h. The evil done by Hamas, I think, is well-known, but one should reflect on all those killed in Yemen by the Houthi, and now their action blockading the Red Sea raises prices of grain for poor people living near the Indian Ocean, from Bangladesh to Ethiopia, raising prices and leading, if not to starvation, to the compromised immune system that then leads to thousands and thousands of deaths.

I am proud to represent California's 32nd Congressional District, home, I believe, to more Iranian Americans than any other district in this country. I know firsthand from talking to them about their opposition to the murderous Islamic Republic regime and their troubled reaction when they saw Ebrahim Raisi mourned without his victims even being remembered. The brave Iranian people deserve a moment of silence not for the Butcher of Tehran, but for those he butchered, and so I ask, Mr. Speaker, unanimous consent that this House observe a moment of silence for those killed at the hands and under the Presidency of Ebrahim Raisi.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, for the past 4 years, I have been working on the Peace on the Korean Peninsula, Act, to move us in the direction of a negotiated settlement with North Korea. The war stopped, or seemed to have stopped, in 1953, but that was just an armistice. It is now time to negotiate a formal peace treaty.

The case. The armistice of 1953 was done by both sides and was equal. If an armistice is not an unwarranted concession, neither is a formal peace treaty. There is majority support in the South Korean Parliament for ending this war formally. I believe it would be a first step to negotiating a solution to North Korea's very dangerous nuclear and missile program. We currently have 41 and growing number of cosponsors in the United States here in the Representatives. There is support for this effort in Canada, Britain, and, as I mentioned, in Seoul. I am proud to represent a large and vibrant Korean-American community, and I look forward to being able to take a step toward a rapprochement with North Korea, knowing full well that dealing with its nuclear program and its deprivation of human rights will be daunting tasks.

HOUSING FOR VETERANS

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, due to redistricting just last year, I now represent what I believe is the largest veterans' facility in the West, the West Los Angeles VA.

I have seen exemplified in my own district in large quantity that should strike at the hearts of all of us, and that is homeless veterans. To see any American out on the street is a shame, but when that American has put their life on the line for this country, it is a shame that we need to correct. This Congress has provided significant money to build housing for veterans. We need to do more. I will focus on one particular problem with the HUD-VASH program that we fund. It sets a limit on the income that a veteran can have, and it is understood we are building this housing for low-income veterans. Included in that income calculation are disability benefits. We have a situation right in my district where disabled American veterans are living on the streets and can't get into veteran housing on veteran land because they are receiving veteran disability benefits for the disabilities they suffered in the service of the American people. I have proposed legislation, which passed unanimously, 49-0, through the Financial Services Committee, to say that disability benefits not be included in that income calculation.

Two things to be aware of: First, the income of a disabled veteran can be calculated, but what must be kept in mind is that they face higher expenses. They have to live a different life, and that additional income or payments that they receive does not mean that they are middle class or wealthy. Second, our Internal Revenue Code already recognizes that disability payments received by veterans are not counted as income.

Two things to be aware of: First, the income of a disabled veteran can be calculated, but what must be kept in mind is that they face higher expenses. They have to live a different life, and that additional income or payments that they receive does not mean that they are middle class or wealthy. Second, our Internal Revenue Code already recognizes that disability payments received by veterans are not counted as income. Finally, the people who I think would most benefit from housing on the VA campus, where we have the largest VA hospital in the southern California area are the disabled veterans who need the medical care.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that my colleagues will join in cosponsoring and supporting this legislation.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF VALLEY INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE ASSOCIATION

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Valley Industry and Commerce Association, known as VICA, for 75 years of working tirelessly to make the San Fernando Valley the place to do business in California. VICA serves 1.8 million residents, nearly a quarter million businesses, and VICA has been a leading voice for the business community since 1949. Under the leadership of President Stuart Waldman and Chair Lupita Sanchez Cornejo, VICA has helped the valley become an economic engine that has powered the recovery from the COVID downturn for the entire area of Los Angeles, where they are advocating for a better business climate, improved regional infrastructure, a 21st-century workforce. VICA has left its mark.

I congratulate VICA on this 75th anniversary. I look forward to working with VICA day after day, month after month, as I have in my 26 years in Congress.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF MORRIE MARKOFF

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the life of Morrie Markoff, and what a life it was. He was a well-known resident of Los Angeles and the father of my good and longtime friend, Steve Markoff, and Steve's sister, Judith Markoff Hansen.

Morrie lived to be the oldest man in the United States, reaching the age of 110, before passing away in his southern California home on June 3 of this year.

Morrie grew up in New York City, attended trade school, married the love of his life, Betty Goldmintz, and settled in Los Angeles.

Morrie was a skilled machinist, businessman, artist, and author. He was not just someone who lived to an incredibly advanced age. He was famous for his cognitive abilities late in life. He held his first art exhibit as a centenarian. At age 103, Morrie was selling his book, "Keep Breathing," a good idea, from his own booth at the LA Times Festival of Books. He was known as the world's oldest blogger.

Morrie witnessed tremendous social and technological changes in 110 years. He inspired so many of us to live life to the fullest. Los Angeles reflects with pride on the life of Morrie Markoff.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, Jewish Americans are facing a tide of hate in this country that we thought could only be in a different continent, on a different continent. U.S. anti-Semitic incidences have skyrocketed 360 percent since October 2017 alone.

Between October 7 and January 7 alone, the Anti-Defamation League has recorded 3,283 anti-Semitic incidents,
including harassment, vandalism, and physical assaults. Just outside of my district, Paul Kessler was bludgeoned in the head and bludgeoned to death by an anti-Israel protester. Recent polling from the American Jewish Committee found that 93 percent of Jews in this country think that anti-Semitism is a problem, and 87 percent think that it has gotten worse since October 7. Yet, some refuse to listen.

That especially is happening in campuses across this country. Too often, university administrators have failed to protect their Jewish students. At Columbia University, leaked text messages showed how administrators were mocking a panel on anti-Semitism while it was happening.

At Yale, a Jewish student was assaulted by encampment protestors. At Reed College, Jewish students had their mezuzah torn down or struck with a rock through their dorm room. Just this week, a man was arrested for throwing a rock in the face of a Jewish Columbia student. The list goes on and on.

Now, anti-Semitism can’t be fought, particularly on campuses, if it can’t be defined. So many are engaging in anti-Semitism and claiming that it is not anti-Semitism. If there is dedication to fighting it, it has to be defined.

America should use the same standard for evaluating its own campuses that the State Department has been using for a decade and a half in looking at global anti-Semitism. The same standard that we use in criticizing or evaluating the University of Bucharest should be used for Columbia University.

That is the IHRA definition, and the most controversial part of that definition says that, when there is a call for the destruction of the life of every Jew living between the river and the sea, that is anti-Semitic. That shouldn’t even be a question. If, God forbid, a Member were to come to this floor, grab this microphone, and shout: “Death to Al-Banian,” there would be no doubt that that Member was anti-Albanian?

When one calls for the destruction and ethnic cleansing of the only Jewish majority country in the world, is there any doubt that that is anti-Semitic?

I have battled for 20 years three or four different administrations’ Department of Education, and we now have it clear—as we had it clear and then they revoked it and then they made it clear again—that title VI applies to Jewish students. It may say race and national origin in the context of consumer Judaism and the Jewish people are a people or a religion or a civilization. That issue has been handled.

What campuses have to do is follow title VI if they are going to receive any Federal aid. They need to define anti-Semitism.

Let us hope that this Department of Education will take its responsibility seriously, that this Department of Education will go that last step from saying that they are using the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism to say that they actually publish it as their definition of anti-Semitism. That is a slight step.

Let us hope that university administrators will protect Jewish students just as the National Guard was used to protect African-American students many decades ago when they entered campus.

Mr. Speaker, may inquire as to how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California has 10 minutes remaining.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, there is substantial conversation of cryptocurrencies. It was one of the things that I agreed with Donald Trump when he tweeted in 2019, back when he was on Twitter: “I am not a fan of Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies, which are not money and whose value is highly volatile and based on thin air. Unregulated crypto assets can facilitate unlawful behavior, including drug trade and other illegal activity.”

“We have only one real currency in the USA, and it is stronger than ever, both dependable and reliable. It is by far the most dominant currency anywhere in the world, and it will always stay that way. It is called the United States dollar.”

Donald Trump got it right in 2019 because he hadn’t figured out that there was a way to get money by getting it wrong. Since then, he has flip-flopped. He has decided that he likes cryptocurrency.

Why is that? First, he may have discovered that those who are doing crypto mining are creating enormous amounts of greenhouse gases, entire mothballed electric plants have been taken out of mothballs. These are coal-burning plants, and the entire output is used to do highly complex calculations in order to mine cryptocurrency. That is to say, whoever does these calculations, the system gives them crypto.

Maybe it is the enormous amount of greenhouse gases that I don’t think that is it. What Trump has discovered is that there is an enormous amount of money for him by embracing crypto.

What is crypto? Why does it have a value? At first blush, it looks like an electronic pet rock. Why does it have value? It is right in the name. It aspires to be a currency, and if it actually became a currency—if you went to the local McDonald’s and told how many crypto coins you have based on its crypto value, how many hamster coins for an order of fries, then it would be a currency.

Those who are investing in cryptocurrency are just this week they buy it now and will sell it in a month, and it will go up in value. They have no idea what they are buying, why it would have any value, why anybody else would buy it except they heard they can make money on it. There is a constituency for that. A lot of people will make investments without thinking of the consequences.

Those in the crypto movement have told us why they have created it. They want to compete with the U.S. dollar in order to make enormous amounts of money themselves and to take from the U.S. dollar its tremendous role as a reserve currency and as an international settlements currency. The effect of that would be to make a mockery out of the sanctions that we impose on Iran, North Korea, and others.

What is the market for cryptocurrency? Why does anybody need a new currency? What is the matter with the euro? Hell, what is the matter with the dollar? Is an outstanding currency. It is a medium of exchange, a store of value, but there is a huge market for another one. That is because dollar transactions can be discovered by American law enforcement. Yes, we do have the one hundred dollar bill, but big-time drug dealers, big-time tax evaders, and big-time human traffickers find it difficult to carry around that many suitcases filled with one hundred dollar bills, let alone to try to spend those suitcases.

They need an electronic currency that gives them all the anonymity of a sack full of one hundred dollar bills and all the convenience of a 21st century currency.

If it catches on, what are the markets? The biggest market, the only market that justifies the current prices that some crypto is getting, is the tax evasion market.

Trump’s own Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service, his appointee, testified that there is roughly a trillion dollars of uncollected taxes. The vast bulk of that is from very wealthy people who are hiding their income.

In order not to pay $1 trillion in taxes, you have to hide $1 trillion in income. If you hide $3 trillion of income year after year, after a decade, you have $30 trillion of assets to hide. That is a lot of assets. You cannot put it all in a sack full of one hundred dollar bills.

So, they create a currency that meets the needs of the tax evaders. What about the sanction evaders? It does it even better. What about the
drug dealers? We have all seen the movies where the toughest problem the big-time drug dealer has is how to deal with all this cash. It solves that problem.

You can tell by the name. They are trying to create a currency. Who do they call it? Cryptocurrency. What does that literally mean? Hidden money.

Donald Trump is finding that he can get hundreds of thousands of dollars in contributions. God knows what else he might be taking, from people who see this as an opportunity to create a currency where they are the first owners of it. They create it. They mine it. They already have it.

They have over $1 trillion of this “currency,” and they have to find somebody who will take it off their hands. That market won’t arise unless they can change the laws of the United States, the security laws and a host of others, in order to compete with the U.S. dollar.

First, if they are able to do this, bankruptcy laws will be unenforceable. Husbands or wives trying to hide assets from their former spouses will not be detected. The income tax will become a tax only on wages. The IRS has your little W-2 form. They know how much you pay, but the big-time folks, for them, the income tax will be as much as they feel like paying.

We have to deal with crypto. We also have to deal with the rank hypocrisy of the Republican nominee for President.

Finally, as of today, Mr. Trump is 78 years old. Both parties have nominated Presidential candidates that are older than those that have been nominated anytime in history.

There are those who say one or the other is too old. I will simply say this: It is true, Biden is 3 years older as of today, but Trump is 83 pounds heavier. If you were a life insurance agent, per-
REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

Mr. STEIL: Committee on House Administration. H.R. 8761. A bill to amend the Natural Resources Act of 1965 to require proof of United States citizenship to register an individual to vote in Federal office, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118–559). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. AMODEI: Committee on Appropriations. H.R. 8782. A bill making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes (Rept. 118–553). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART: Committee on Appropriations. H.R. 8771. A bill making appropriations for Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes (Rept. 118–552). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania:
H.R. 8749. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to promote preparedness and Medicare beneficiary access to safer, more accurate sterile intravenous drug preparations through automated hospital infrastructure; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. STEUBE:
H.R. 8750. A bill to designate the exclusive economic zone of the United States as the “Donald John Trump Exclusive Economic Zone of the United States”; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. BOEHNTL (for herself, Mr. KENNY of Texas, Ms. JENSEN of Wisconsin, Mr. STEIL, and Mr. LALOTA):
H.R. 8753. A bill to direct the United States Postal Service to designate single-use, post-1978, ZIP codes for certain communities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. BOWDEN (for himself, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. NRELS, Mr. STEIL, and Mr. LALOTA):
H.R. 8754. A bill to designate the United States Postal Service to service to designate single-use, post-1978, ZIP codes for certain communities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. BOWDEN (for himself, Mr. CARBAJAL):
H.R. 8754. A bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to encourage practices that benefit wildlife and habitat; to remove statutory penalties for failure to report a violation; to update the list of States and territories contributing to the value of agricultural land; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. CARSON (for himself, Mr. GOTHHEIMER, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. O’HALLORAN, and Mr. TRUMKA):
H.R. 8755. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to establish Eid Days as Federal holidays, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. CONNOLLY (for himself and Mr. GARRARINO):
H.R. 8756. A bill to establish the Chief Artificial Intelligence Officers Council, Chief Artificial Intelligence Officers, and Artificial Intelligence Coordination Boards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. DELUZIO (for himself and Mr. FITZPATRICK):
H.R. 8758. A bill to amend the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 to expand coverage under such Act to public employees; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. FOSTER (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. GARCIA of Illinois, Mr. NADLER, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. CLARKE of New York, and Mr. TIERNEY): H.R. 8759. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to allow certain payments made by public universities to qualify for public service repayment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. DIAMONDI (for himself, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. NORTON, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. BUSTOS, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. GIROALVA, Mr. CLYBURN, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. COHEN, Mr. MONTGOMERY, Mr. KAMLAH-DIB, Ms. SHEWELL, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. MEKES, and Mr. SMITH of Washington):
H.R. 8760. A bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Reverend James Morris Lawson, Jr., in recognition of his contributions to the United States through the promotion of nonviolence during the Civil Rights movement and beyond; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. CARSON (for himself and Mr. BEAN of Florida):
H.R. 8761. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide that non-Federal revenue from certain distance education programs may be counted purposes of the non-Federal revenue requirements applicable to proprietary institutions of higher education (commonly known as the “90/10 rule”); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. PELTOLA (for herself, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLON, and Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia):
H.R. 8762. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to modify the membership of the Commandant of the Coast Guard on the Joint Chiefs of Staff; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PRESSLEY:
H.R. 8763. A bill to provide grants to States to encourage the implementation and maintenance of firearms licensing requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RASKIN (for himself, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. CASTEN, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. FROST, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. GOSE, Mr. JACKSON LEE, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. ROYSON, Mrs. MULVEY, Mrs. RAMIREZ, and Mr. THORNE):
H.R. 8764. A bill to require the Attorney General to make publicly available a list of federally licensed firearms dealers with a high number of short time-to-crime firearm traces, and to prohibit Federal departments and agencies from contracting with such dealers; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. SALINAS (for herself and Ms. LOPES):
H.R. 8765. A bill to amend the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to respect the States to ensure access for farm workers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. STEIL (for himself, Mr. BOST, Mr. BIGGOMAN, Mr. TAYLOR, and Mr. VAN ORDEN):
H.R. 8766. A bill to amend title 4, United States Code, to allow for cemetery flags to be displayed in an upright position directly adjacent to the graves of any veteran, member of the Armed Forces, or veteran; for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. THANEDAR:
H.R. 8767. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to remove the exclusion from medical assistance under the Medicaid program of items and services for patients in an institution for mental diseases; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. CARSON, Mrs. RAINTER, and Mr. TRONE:
H.R. 8768. A bill to authorize the Attorney General to make grants to support State, Tribal, and local firearm destruction activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TONKO:
H.R. 8769. A bill to provide financial assistance to States and Indian Tribes for the development, implementation, improvement, or expansion of a flex-tech energy program to enhance manufacturing competitiveness, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. VEARBY (for himself and Mr. PFUGLER):
H.R. 8770. A bill to establish a grant program to carry out the purposes of the Department of Homeland Security to fund university-based cybersecurity clinics at junior or community colleges, historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs), Hispanic-serving institutions (HSIs), and other minority-serving institutions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committees on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MOWLTON:
H. Res. 1301. A resolution expressing support for the inaugural Heart Recovery Awareness Day on February 20, 2023; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE

H4109

By Ms. TTUS:
H. Res. 1392. A resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 396) to regulate bump stocks in the same manner as machine guns under the Committee on Rules.

By Mr. WEBER of Texas (for himself, 
Mr. RUSKIN, Mrs. RICE, Mr. CLOUD, 
Mr. FULCHER, Mr. ISA, Mr. HUDSON, 
Mr. SELF, Mr. CANTREK of Texas, Mr. 
ROGOS, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. 
ALLEN, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. 
GUTHRIE, Mrs. LESKO, Mrs. MIT- 
liz of Illinois, Mr. ARMSTRONG, Mr. 
BISHOP of North Carolina, Mr. DUNN 
of Florida, Mr. FRY, Mr. KELLY of 
Pennsylvania, Mr. HOIZENGA, Mr. 
BORDallo, Mr. ESTES, Mr. McCaul, Mr. 
BILLIKINS, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. JACKSON 
of Texas, Mr. BUSCHON, Mr. BAIRD, 
Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. RAIN, Mr. 
ABINGTON, Mr. PALMER, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. 
BEAN of Florida, Mr. TURN- 
NER, Mr. LETTREMEYER, Mr. LAWLER, 
and Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida):
H. Res. 903. A resolution condemning the 
Biden administration’s politically 
motivated ban on liquefied natural gas exports to 
non-free trade agreement countries; to the 
Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in 
addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, 
for a period to be subsequently determined 
by the Speaker, in each case for consider- 
ation pursuant to the following:

**CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY AND SINGLE SUBJECT STATEMENTS**

Pursuant to clause 7(c)(1) of rule XII 
and Section 3(c) of H. Res. 5 the fol- 
lowing statements are submitted re- 
garding (1) the specific powers granted to 
Congress in the Constitution to 
accomplish the enacting bill or joint 
resolution and (2) the single subject of 
the bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania:
H. Res. 8749.
Congress has the power to enact this legis- 
lation pursuant to the following:

**Article I, Section 8**
The single subject of this legislation is: 
Designates the exclusive economic zone 
of the United States as the “Donald John 
Trump Exclusive Economic Zone of the United 
States”.

By Mr. STEIL:
H. Res. 8750.
Congress has the power to enact this legis- 
lation pursuant to the following:

**Article I, Section 8**
The single subject of this legislation is: 
To enact a bill providing for the construction of 
the Trans-Pacific Partnership and to provide 
for the enforcement thereof.

By Mr. BUSCHON:
H. Res. 8751.
Congress has the power to enact this legis- 
lation pursuant to the following:

**Article I, Section 8, Clause 3**
Commerce

The single subject of this legislation is: 
Commerce

By Mr. AMODEI:
H. Res. 8752.
Congress has the power to enact this legis- 
lation pursuant to the following:

The principal constitutional authority for this 
legislation is clause 7 of section 9 of ar- 
ticle I of the Constitution of the United 
States (the appropriation power), which states: 
"The Congress shall have Power to raise and 
defend the Army and Navy, and to provide and 
appropriate Money for the same; to pay the 
Debt and provide for the common Defence 
and general Welfare of the United States; . . . ."

By Mr. KHANNA:
H. Res. 8760.
Congress has the power to enact this legis- 
lation pursuant to the following:

**Article I, Section 8**
The single subject of this legislation is: 
Agriculture

By Mr. CARSON:
H. Res. 8755.
Congress has the power to enact this legis- 
lation pursuant to the following:

**Article I, Section 8, Clause 18**
The single subject of this legislation is: 
Agriculture

By Mr. DELUZIO:
H. Res. 8758.
Congress has the power to enact this legis- 
lation pursuant to the following:

**Article I, Section 8, Clause 18**
The single subject of this legislation is: 
Workforce Development

By Mr. FOSTER:
H. Res. 8768.
Congress has the power to enact this legis- 
lation pursuant to the following:

**Article I, Section 8, Clause 18**
The single subject of this legislation is: 
Education

By Mr. KHANNA:
H. Res. 8760.
Congress has the power to enact this legis- 
lation pursuant to the following:

**Article I, Section 8**
The single subject of this legislation is: 
Worker Protections

By Ms. BROWNLEY:
H. Res. 8763.
Congress has the power to enact this legis- 
lation pursuant to the following:

**Article I, Section 8, Clause 18**
The single subject of this legislation is: 
Worker Protections

By Mr. RASKIN:
H. Res. 8764.
Congress has the power to enact this legis- 
lation pursuant to the following:

**Article I, Section 8, Clause 18**
The single subject of this legislation is: 
Worker Protections

By Ms. SALINAS:
H. Res. 8765.
Congress has the power to enact this legis- 
lation pursuant to the following:

**Article I, Section 8, Clause 18**
The single subject of this legislation is: 
Worker Protections

By Mr. OWENS:
H. Res. 8766.
Congress has the power to enact this legis- 
lation pursuant to the following:

**Article I, Section 8, Clause 18**
The single subject of this legislation is: 
Worker Protections

By Mr. STEIL:
H. Res. 8767.
Congress has the power to enact this legis- 
lation pursuant to the following:

**Article I, Section 8, Clause 18**
The single subject of this legislation is: 
Worker Protections

By Ms. TOLSTO:
H. Res. 8762.
Congress has the power to enact this legis- 
lation pursuant to the following:

**Article I, Section 8, Clause 18**
The single subject of this legislation is: 
Worker Protections

By Mr. THANEKAR:
H. Res. 8767.
Congress has the power to enact this legis- 
lation pursuant to the following:

**Article I, Section 8, Clause 18**
The single subject of this legislation is: 
Worker Protections

By Ms. TOKUDA:
H. Res. 8768.
Congress has the power to enact this legis- 
lation pursuant to the following:

**Article I, Section 8, Clause 18**
The single subject of this legislation is: 
Worker Protections

By Mr. THANEKAR:
H. Res. 8767.
Congress has the power to enact this legis- 
lation pursuant to the following:

**Article I, Section 8, Clause 18**
The single subject of this legislation is: 
Worker Protections

By Mr. THANEKAR:
H. Res. 8767.
Congress has the power to enact this legis- 
lation pursuant to the following:

**Article I, Section 8, Clause 18**
The single subject of this legislation is: 
Worker Protections

By Ms. TOKUDA:
H. Res. 8768.
Congress has the power to enact this legis- 
lation pursuant to the following:
ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

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

H.R. 18: Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, and Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina.
H.R. 24: Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida.
H.R. 233: Mr. LANGWORTHY.
H.R. 396: Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. MANNING, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. BEZA, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. PRESSLEY, and Mr. NADLER.
H.R. 1015: Mr. ALFORD, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, and Ms. LEE of California.
H.R. 1077: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. MANNING, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. MENG, Mr. MRVAN, Mr. NEAL, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. RYAN, Ms. SCHULTZ, Ms. SLOTKIN, Ms. VEJAZQUEZ, and Mr. COREA.
H.R. 1478: Mr. DELEUZO and Ms. PORTER.
H.R. 1592: Ms. SANCHEZ.
H.R. 1721: Mrs. HAYES.
H.R. 1787: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 2451: Mr. WENSTUP.
H.R. 2463: Mr. MAGAZINER.
H.R. 2630: Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK.
H.R. 2711: Ms. SLOTKIN.
H.R. 2802: Mr. ADERHOLT, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Ms. HOULAHAN.
H.R. 2830: Ms. WILD.
H.R. 3036: Mr. FLASKEET.
H.R. 3265: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 3449: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
H.R. 3491: Mrs. MCBATH and Ms. OMAR.
H.R. 3790: Mr. ROSS.
H.R. 3962: Mr. SUOZZI.
H.R. 4029: Mr. MOULTON.
H.R. 4137: Mr. FINSTAD.
H.R. 4184: Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. AMO, and Mrs. DINGELL.
H.R. 4185: Mr. NIGH.
H.R. 4606: Mr. CISCOMANI.
H.R. 4756: Ms. TLAIB.
H.R. 4737: Ms. ESCOBAR.
H.R. 4758: Ms. EVANS and Ms. ADAMS.
H.R. 4974: Ms. KELLY of Illinois.
H.R. 5003: Mr. PASCARELL, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. WASSEMAN SCHULTE, Mr. CARDEÑAS, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. CARSON, Ms. KAMLAOGH-DOVE, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, and Ms. OMAR.
H.R. 5048: Ms. SHERRILL.
H.R. 5049: Mr. KILDER.
H.R. 5163: Mr. HARDER of California.
H.R. 5175: Ms. SALINAS.
H.R. 5229: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.
H.R. 5455: Mr. ROZIER.
H.R. 5488: Mr. MORAN.
H.R. 5492: Mrs. HAYES.
H.R. 5547: Mr. SMUCKER.
H.R. 5611: Mrs. KIEGANS of Virginia.
H.R. 5683: Mr. VASQUEZ and Ms. CLARKE of New York.
H.R. 5840: Mr. CALVERT.
H.R. 6030: Ms. LOPGREN.
H.R. 6050: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS.
H.R. 6139: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H.R. 6233: Ms. MCCLELLAN.
H.R. 6242: Ms. LEE of Florida.
H.R. 6348: Mr. CASTEN.
H.R. 6394: Mr. VALENCIA.
H.R. 6470: Ms. CHU, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. CORREA, and Ms. STANSBURY.
H.R. 6616: Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia.
H.R. 6628: Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. RUIZ, and Mr. McGovern.
H.R. 6650: Ms. SALINAS.
H.R. 6651: Ms. KIEGANS of Virginia and Ms. HAGEMAN.
H.R. 7046: Ms. SLOTKIN.
H.R. 7265: Mr. MOULTON.
H.R. 7279: Mr. KILEY.
H.R. 7378: Mr. SHERRMAN.
H.R. 7438: Mrs. KIM of California, Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas, Mr. TURNER, Ms. WILD, Mr. PERESZTA, and Mr. GOODEN of Texas.
H.R. 7465: Mr. MAGAZINER.
H.R. 7468: Ms. BOEBERT.
H.R. 7597: Mr. LALOTTA.
H.R. 7666: Ms. MALLOY.
H.R. 7770: Ms. ADAMS and Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.
H.R. 7771: Mr. BUDNICK.
H.R. 7838: Mr. BARDERSON.
H.R. 7829: Mr. PHILLIPS.
H.R. 7936: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
H.R. 7999: Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mrs. HAYES, and Mr. MENENDEZ.
H.R. 8044: Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida.
H.R. 8061: Mr. CURTIS, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Ms. SEWELL.
H.R. 8068: Mr. GREEN of Tennessee.
H.R. 8114: Mr. HUDSON.
H.R. 8300: Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK.
H.R. 8370: Mrs. HAYES.
H.R. 8416: Mr. LUZKEMRYN.
H.R. 8426: Ms. WEXTON and Mr. VASQUEZ.
H.R. 8427: Mr. WILLIAMS of Georgia.
H.R. 8503: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
H.R. 8560: Ms. BUZIEN.
H.R. 8571: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
H.R. 8593: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
H.R. 8623: Ms. SEWELL.
H.R. 8632: Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana.
H.R. 8696: Ms. JACKSON Lee.
H.R. 8692: Mr. GRAVES of Missouri.
H.R. 8702: Mr. WITTMAN, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. FINSTAD, and Ms. FINGER.
H.R. 8704: Mrs. PILZOLA, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, and Mr. WEBSTER of Florida.
H.R. 8732: Ms. WATERS and Ms. CROCKETT.
H.J. Res. 72: Mr. LYNCH, Mr. CARSON, Ms. OMAR, and Ms. JAYAPAL.
H.J. Res. 82: Ms. SHERRILL, Mrs. TRAHAN, Ms. SANCHEZ, and Ms. STANSBURY.
H.J. Res. 123: Mr. VAN ORDEN and Mr. DONALDES.
H.J. Res. 138: Mr. LUTTRELL.
H.J. Res. 164: Mr. JACKSON of Texas and Mr. GOODEN of Texas.
H.J. Res. 165: Mr. SMUCKER, Mr. ROZIER, Mrs. HOUCHIN, and Mr. BENTZ.
H.J. Res. 167: Mr. ROY.
H. Res. 620: Mr. BACON.
H. Res. 882: Ms. LOPGREN.
H. Res. 1021: Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana and Mr. DUNCAN.
H. Res. 1032: Mr. HARDER of California.
H. Res. 1053: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
H. Res. 1121: Mr. LANDSMAN.
H. Res. 1148: Ms. MCCLELLAN and Mr. CARL.
H. Res. 1230: Mr. VASQUEZ and Ms. SCHULTEN.
H. Res. 1279: Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida.
H. Res. 1285: Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas and Mr. FINSTAD.
H. Res. 1290: Mrs. RADENWAGEN.

DISCHARGE PETITIONS—ADDITIONS AND WITHDRAWALS

The following Members added their names to the following discharge petitions:

Petition 8 by MS. DEGETTE on House Resolution 916: Mr. TOTTES of New York, Ms. Wilson of Florida, and Mr. Veasey.
Petition 12 by MS. MANNING on House Resolution 1240: Mr. PASCARELL, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, Ms. TILAID, Ms. PEREZ, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Ms. PORTER, Mr. MRVAN, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Ms. Wilson of Florida.

Congressional Record — House
June 14, 2024
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — Extensions of Remarks

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

COMMEMORATING THE 100-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED STATES BORDER PATROL

HON. NICHOLAS A. LANGWORTHY
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, June 14, 2024

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the United States Border Patrol and to honor Border Patrol agents both past and present. Established in 1924, U.S. Border Patrol has worked diligently over the last century to protect our Nation from harms such as terrorism, illegal weapons, and drug trafficking, while facilitating lawful international travel and trade.

I specifically want to acknowledge the hard work and sacrifice of the dedicated Border Patrol agents serving at the United States Customs and Border Protection Buffalo Sector. Border security is paramount to national security, and while the Southern Border garners national headlines every day, at the Northern border, illegal crossings are also up, over one hundred and fourteen percent compared to last year. Every day, these servicemembers keep us and our Canadian neighbors safe, while fighting against the illegal trafficking of people and drugs, including fentanyl.

On Tuesday, May 28, 2024, the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Buffalo Sector hosted a celebration of this historic anniversary, in memory of all those who have protected our Nation, and in appreciation of those who do so now. Western New York and the Southern Tier are home to many active and retired Border Patrol officers. I am incredibly proud of this culture of service that has been longstanding in our community. I am deeply grateful to the Buffalo Sector for their invaluable commitment to securing our Northern Border against threats from abroad.

The contributions of the United States Border Patrol to our Nation’s security are highly commendable, and it is my honor to recognize their bravery. On behalf of the United States Congress and the constituents of New York’s 23rd Congressional District, I ask this legislative body to join me in commending these Border Patrol agents—past and present—for their service.

CONGRATULATING TIM WEBB ON BEING NAMED NEW BALTIMORE’S CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

HON. LISA C. MCCLAIN
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, June 14, 2024

Mrs. MCCCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions and unwavering dedication of Mr. Tim Webb, who has been selected as Citizen of the Year in the City of New Baltimore, a community I am proud to represent. It is an honor to highlight the remarkable commitment and service of this true community leader.

For over twenty-five years, Tim Webb has called New Baltimore his home. In those years, he has grown to embody community service to so many. His active involvement in various local organizations, including the New Baltimore Civic Club, Goodfellows, and Bay-Rama, all serve to reflect his steadfast commitment to the betterment of his community. Additionally, his dedicated service to the city’s Parks & Recreation Commission, his volunteer work for the Salvation Army, and his invaluable contributions to the annual Anchor Bay Country Fest exemplify his selflessness and dedication to fostering a vibrant community.

As 2nd Vice President of the New Baltimore Lions Club, Tim Webb has demonstrated exceptional leadership to the organization’s mission. His tireless efforts were recognized with the prestigious Lions Club Melvin Jones Award in 2022, a testament to his steady commitment to serving others and improving the quality of life in New Baltimore.

Tim Webb has earned the admiration and respect of his fellow citizens through his genuine compassion, hard work, and determined dedication to New Baltimore. In the words of his daughter, Melissa Webb, “My dad’s constant volunteerism has undoubtedly made a positive impact on the city. His dedication continues to contribute to the quality of life in New Baltimore.”

Tim Webb’s commitment to enhancing the community’s vitality and advocating for its small businesses, restaurants, and organizations have—without a doubt—made him a beloved and respected figure in New Baltimore. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Tim Webb on being named New Baltimore’s Citizen of the Year. His exceptional record of service, leadership, and devotion to his community should serve as an inspiration to all of us. I am proud to join his family, friends, and the New Baltimore community in congratulating him on this tremendous honor.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF CHIEF MARCUS JONES

HON. DAVID J. TRONE
OF MARYLAND
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, June 14, 2024

Mr. TRONE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise before you to honor the remarkable tenure of Montgomery County Department of Police Chief, Marcus Jones and celebrate his well-earned retirement. For nearly four decades, Chief Jones has dedicated his career to enhancing public safety and fostering positive relationships within our community.

Appointed as Chief in November of 2019, Chief Jones has demonstrated unwavering commitment and leadership. He began his career with the Department in September of 1985, working his way up the ranks, including serving as the Assistant Chief of the Investigative Services Bureau, Commander of the 3rd District, Director of Major Crimes, and Drug Enforcement Commander.

Chief Jones has been instrumental in implementing innovative policing strategies and ensuring the safety and security of Montgomery County residents. His efforts have been recognized by his induction into the Montgomery County Human Rights Hall of Fame in 2020. As a member of the Major Cities Chiefs Association, the Maryland Chiefs Association, the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF), and the International Association Chiefs of Police (IACP), Chief Jones’ decades-long effort to improve the lives of his officers and the Marylanders they have sworn to protect is appreciated by countless members of his community.

It is a privilege to acknowledge Chief Marcus Jones’ service and dedication as he embarks on his next chapter. His legacy will inspire future leaders and continue to benefit the Montgomery County community for years to come.

RECOGNIZING BOYZ II MEN

HON. ANDRE’ CARSON
OF INDIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, June 14, 2024

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of 90s R&B Vocal icons Boyz II Men, who will be performing at the Historic Madam Walker Legacy Theater in Indianapolis and inducted into the Madam Walker Legacy Center’s Walk of Fame.

Boyz II Men was founded in 1988 as a quintet but rose to fame as a quartet and then an iconic trio. The group grew into the spotlight in the 90s with hits like “Motownphilly,” “A Song for Mama,” and the fan favorite, “I’ll Make Love to You.”

Boyz II Men has been captivating audiences worldwide for over three decades, with the voices of Nathan Morris, Wanya Morris, and Shawn Stockman, the group is one of the most successful groups in music history, with over 60 million albums sold. Their career and impact on our culture has been nothing short of extraordinary.

Indianapolis is thrilled to have Boyz II Men join us at the Legacy Fest, an event benefiting the Madam Walker Legacy Center. This signature fundraiser provides support for the organization’s year-round STEAM, entrepreneurship, women’s equity, social justice, and arts programming.

Today, we celebrate Boyz II Men for their long-lasting career and enduring talent. Thirty years later, their impact is just as strong, with fans across generations and continents. I am honored to help recognize Boyz II Men and cement their legacy into the Madam Walker Legacy Center Walk of Fame.
HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MS. MARY HIGHFILL

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, June 14, 2024

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Ms. Mary Highfill, a “Rosie” whose critical contributions to the World War II Home Front helped empower American women and advance gender equity in the workforce. Ms. Highfill, who passed away at the age of 100, leaves behind an indelible legacy of service to our country and Contra Costa County.

Born in San Francisco and raised in Point Richmond, California, Ms. Highfill’s commitment to her community inspired her to enter the workforce at a young age. During World War II, she joined her fellow Rosies in answering the call to serve and help meet the unprecedented demand for war materials and support services. During the war, she worked at Standard Oil Company as a stillman, where she helped prepare crude oil to be shipped for use at home and abroad. When our country needed courageous women to fill the roles historically held by men, Ms. Highfill’s selflessness and bravery led her to step up and sacrifice her personal comfort for the sake of our country.

Ms. Highfill’s passion for service expanded beyond her essential contributions to the World War II Home Front. She also served as President of the Richmond Gailea Club Women’s Auxiliary. In addition, Ms. Highfill served as Secretary of the Historical Association and participated in countless Rosie the Riveter events to honor and celebrate the legacy of the millions of women who selflessly supported the wartime effort during World War II.

Rosies like Ms. Highfill are a testament to women’s empowerment and an inspiration to future generations of women and girls. Ms. Highfill will be remembered not only for her service to our country in its time of need, but also for her vital role in building a stronger, more equitable America. I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to Ms. Highfill’s loved ones. I know they and the people of Contra Costa County join me in celebrating her life and legacy.

HONORING MS. CURLENE JENNINGS BENNETT

HON. NICOLE MALLIOTAKIS
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, June 14, 2024

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to include the following Proclamation honoring Ms. Curlene Jennings Bennett:

Whereas Staten Island Sea View Hospital opened in 1913 specifically to treat patients with Tuberculosis and, at its peak, Sea View Hospital saw nearly 2,000 patients and was one of only four municipal hospitals in New York City that did not discriminate against Black nurses;

Whereas Curlene Jennings Bennett arrived to work at Staten Island Sea View Hospital in 1957 as a registered nurse and worked in the adult pavilions of the hospital;

Whereas Curlene Jennings Bennett received her training at Bellevue School of Nursing;

Whereas the Black Angels were courageous, dedicated, and bold in answering the call to come to Sea View and risk their lives caring for the grievously sick and “indigent consumptives” of New York City, who had been banished to this woefully understaffed sanitarium;

Whereas The Black Angels’ years of expertise played a significant role in the first ever human trials of isoniazid, the first drug to cure tuberculosis. Since its discovery in 1952, tens of millions of lives have been saved;

Whereas the Black Angels were activists and active members of the NAACP, neighborhood churches, and community groups, and became founding members of the Lincoln Hospital Alumni Association, the Urban League Guild, and the Women’s Civic and Political Union. They were fierce advocates for the integration of nursing courses into the U.S. military and American Nurses Association, and in New York City they worked toward desegregating the hospital system;

Whereas following her tenure at Sea View Hospital, Curlene Jennings Bennett went to San Francisco where she lived for four years and helped to establish well-baby clinics and teach nutrition. Upon her return to the United States, she continued to serve her community as a public health and school nurse; and

Whereas the people of Staten Island are grateful for the years of service by Curlene Jennings Bennett and all the Black Angels who selflessly served on the front lines at Sea View Hospital to treat tuberculosis patients.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF AUSTIN MURPHY

HON. GUY RECHENTHALER
OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, June 14, 2024

Mr. RECHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life and legacy of former U.S. Representative, Austin “AJ” Murphy, Jr., who passed away at the age of 96 on April 13, 2024,

Congressman Murphy was a native of Monongahela, Pennsylvania, and graduated from Charleroi High School in 1945. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Duquesne University in 1949 and received a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law in 1952.

Throughout his life, the congressman demonstrated a strong commitment to the people of southwestern Pennsylvania. He served our nation as a corporal in the United States Marine Corps during World War II and later continued serving in the United States Marine Corps Reserve from 1949 to 1951. After returning from World War II, Congressman Murphy still felt called to give back to his community. He served as a member of the Speers Borough Council and an assistant district attorney for Washington County, Pennsylvania. In 1958, he won a seat in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, where he served for 12 years. He was later elected to the Pennsylvania State Senate and assumed that office in 1971.

Following his tenure in Harrisburg, Congressman Murphy ascended to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1976 and tirelessly fought for our community until his retirement in 1995. He spent his time in the House working on social security, education, and labor issues. He chaired a subcommittee on Labor Standards and sponsored the Fair Labor Standards Amendments of 1989, which was signed into law by President George H.W. Bush on November 17, 1989.

In addition to his political career, the congressman also volunteered as a Boy Scout Troop Leader and participated in many civic organizations. He was a lifelong member of the American Legion with 78 years of continuous service and was commander of Post 51 in Uniontown, Pennsylvania.

Congressman Murphy cherished his loved ones, and his memory will live on through his seven children, 16 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren, and his sister. His life will undoubtedly serve as an example of love, devotion to one’s family, and selfless service.

Congressman Murphy dedicated his life to the people of southwestern Pennsylvania. His legacy is the epitome of a life well-lived. On behalf of the people of Pennsylvania’s 14th Congressional District, I wish his family healing during this difficult time.

HONORING REVOLUTIONARY WAR VETERAN SARGENT DAVID DEPUE

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, June 14, 2024

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Revolutionary War Veteran Sargent David Depue on the occasion of the laying of a plaque in his honor at Highland Cemetery located in Ypsilanti, Michigan. Freedom is not free, and today we pause to remember a man who served his country with honor during the Revolutionary War. His service to our Nation at the time of its birth is worthy of commendation.

Born in Sussex, New Jersey in October of 1750, Sargent Depue first enlisted in the Continental Army as a Private in 1776. He was soon promoted to the rank of Sargent in 1777, the position in which he served for the remainder of the war, including the battles of Germantown and Beaver Creek. Following his military service, Sargent Depue moved to Ypsilanti, Michigan not long after its founding in the early 1800s. He died in Ypsilanti, Michigan on July 4, 1843, at the age of 92.

Sargent Depue is remembered for his honorable military service and dedication to our Nation. He is just one of the few native and adopted Michiganders who fought for our country during the revolution. It is important for us to honor the veterans of our community with a plaque in their memory. We are proud of the sacrifices they made for us to enjoy the freedom of the United States, a value we continue to hold dear today. We are thankful for the path these soldiers laid out for past, present, and future Americans over two centuries ago.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating the honorable Sargent David Depue as he is memorialized in Ypsilanti, Michigan. We join with Americans everywhere in extending our thanks to the Huron
HONORING THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE AND LEGACY OF DR. THEODORE CHESTER DIXIE, SR.

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and legacy of a beloved educator, veteran, and community leader, Dr. Theodore Chester Dixie, Sr., who passed away on June 3, 2024, at the age of 82.

Dr. Dixie was born on August 31, 1941, to the late Mary B. and Howard Edward Dixie, Sr. in Unioneown, Alabama. He attended Robert C. Hatch High School, where he made a name for himself as a member of the state championship-winning basketball team. Upon graduation, he attended Tuskegee University and went on to serve in the United States Army as a Second Lieutenant.

During this period, Dr. Dixie met and married his life partner, the former Bettye Jeams Williams. As a student at Tuskegee University, Dr. Dixie courted Bettye with meals from the cafeteria where he worked. Their union produced two sons, Theodore Chester Dixie Jr., and Timothy Carl Dixie (deceased).

While serving in the military, Dr. Dixie earned his master’s degree from Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University. Following his discharge from the Army, he continued his educational journey at Pennsylvania State University, earning his Doctor of Philosophy. Dr. Dixie began his career in higher education at his alma mater, Alabama A&M University, as a professor and the Assistant Director of the Teacher Corps where he spearheaded the University’s distant and remote learning initiatives.

A passionate educator and trailblazer, Dr. Dixie poured into the students of Alabama A&M. He empowered his students to take hold of their futures through education and personal development. As an educator and retiring Department Chairman, Dr. Dixie was known for his consideration of his students and their proud mentorship of countless individuals. Even after his departure from Alabama A&M and his subsequent transition to the Tennessee Valley Authority and U.S. Army Civilian Personnel Office, Dr. Dixie maintained a lifelong commitment to mentorship and improving his community.

Having accepted Christ into his life at a young age, Dr. Dixie was a faithful member of Rock Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Unioneown. A dedicated servant of God, he always led by example and encouraged the members of his community and congregation to live up to their full potential in Christ. In this pursuit, he served as a Trustee at Rock Chapel A.M.E. Church for its rebuild in 1968, chaired the construction committee for the Fellowship Presbyterian Church in Huntsville, Alabama, where he was a devoted lifelong member serving as a Sunday School teacher, and was a member of the Usher Board and the Presbyterian Men. Under Dr. Dixie’s leadership, the Fellowship Presbyterian Church received an “Earthcare Ministry” certification, making it the only congregation to hold the title in the North Alabama Presbyterian.

Dr. Dixie is preceded in death by his parents, Mary B. and Howard Edward Dixie, Sr.; and his son, Timothy Carl Dixie. He is survived by his beloved wife of 60 years, Bettye Williams Dixie; his son, Theodore Chester, Jr. (Sabrina); his daughter, Natalie Theodora; his grandchildren, Kayla Nord and Keegan Dixie; his great-grandchild, Jonkel; his siblings, Luvern McDonald (Melvyn) and Jean (Nathaniel); and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

On a personal note, Dr. Dixie was a pillar of the Huntsville community, a beloved educator, and veteran who loved his family and was committed to his faith. His life was a testament to the power of education, service to community and love of country. I will forever be grateful for his love and support and for the kindness that he always showed me and my family. May we find comfort in knowing that he lived a full and blessed life, and that his legacy will live on in the lives he touched.

On behalf of Alabama’s 7th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the exceptional life and legacy of Dr. Theodore Chester Dixie, Sr., and his lasting contributions to the City of Huntsville, the State of Alabama, and our Nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ZACHARY NUNN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 14, 2024

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call No. 269, I mistakenly voted YES when I intended to vote NO.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NEAL P. DUNN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 14, 2024

Mr. DUNN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call No. 275, I mistakenly voted NO when I intended to vote AYE.

PROMOTING A RESOLUTION TO THE TIBET-CHINA DISPUTE ACT

SPREECH OF

HON. NANCY PELOSI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 2024

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in favor of the Promoting a Resolution to the Tibet-China Dispute Act.

Sixty-five years ago, in the Tibetan Uprising of 1959, thousands of courageous Tibetans risked their lives for their freedoms as they took a stand against Chinese occupation. When the People’s Liberation Army security forces tightened their hold on Lhasa in response to the uprising, a young Dalai Lama thereof ran to honor the brave patriots we lost in the fight for our independence. We are grateful for their military service and their willingness to fight for the freedom and liberty that we enjoy today.

When the People’s Liberation Army security forces tightened their hold on Lhasa in response to the uprising, a young Dalai Lama thereof ran
to parents Dr. Don J. Hernandez and Mrs. Elnora Polidore Hernandez, on October 24, 1966. He peacefully departed this world on May 29, 2024, at the tender age of 57 in New Orleans, Louisiana. A proud graduate Saint Augustine High School and Xavier University of Louisiana where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry and English, two key Catholic Institutions located in my Congressional District. D’Juan ultimately pursued a career in law attending Thurgood Marshall School of Law and continuing at Loyola University New Orleans College of Law, where he received his Juris Doctorate. He became a member of the State Bar of Louisiana and went on to establish the Hernandez Law Group and Business Advisors.

D’Juan was a remarkable man, an influential leader, father, son, and my dear friend. He will forever be remembered from his career practicing law and mentoring small business owners, to the joy he spread throughout Algiers, Louisiana, the community I grew up in.

D’Juan was my first campaign manager during my election as the first African American to the Louisiana House of Representatives from the 102nd District of Algiers. Growing up as a kid in Franklin Louisiana, as a kindergartner, he was introduced to the violin and the cello, his musical appetite broadened. While at Franklin Junior High School under Ronald Bernard, he developed an interest in the trombone. It became his major instrument at St. Augustine High School. In 1966, D’Juan was a proud Purple Knight and member of the St. Augustine Marching 100 under the late Mr. Edward Harrell Hampton, founding band director, serving over five decades. His musical es-

capade led to a foray into the jazz idiom, and he became a member of the St. Augustine Jazz Orchestra under the direction of Mr. Carl Blouin, Sr., founder of the jazz orchestra in the 1960s. In his senior year at St. Augustine, he earned a seat in the Louisiana All State Jazz Band and recorded with the group. It was D’Juan’s entrepreneurial spirit that surfaced as his true passion. Well into his career, he enrolled and became an MBA graduate of Tulane University, A.B. Freeman School of Business, where he embarked on a number of ventures, including LA Waters, a bottled delivery company; and the non-profit “Raphael Village” of New Orleans. He was an ardent supporter of the Algiers Community Development Association and the New Orleans Regional Leadership Institute (NORLI). D’Juan believed in the power of ideas, and the need for creating opportunities, especially as Faculty Lead and Business Advisor for Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses. He was also engaged in several business startups in Southwest Louisiana, all a testament to his entrepreneurial spirit and commitment. Through all his work, D’Juan leaves an enduring legacy of innovation and community empowerment.

Amidst his professional endeavors, D’Juan’s greatest joy was his family. He cherished moments spent traveling with loved ones and relished as “Poppie D” to his granddaughter, Madelyn Gianna Hernandez.

D’Juan was preceded in death by his maternal grandparents Coleman and Alice Polidore and paternal grandparents James and Hazel Hernandez, his uncles, Jon R. Hernandez and Coleman Polidore, Jr., his aunts, Hazel Widow, Emily Alexander, Queenie Polidore, and Alice Marie Broussard.

He is lovingly remembered by his parents, his uncle Renaldo Hernandez, his children Katelyn Hernandez, Jessica Hernandez, and Christopher Hernandez, his sisters Jualea Hernandez and Jalicia Parker, former wife Tara Carter Hernandez, his nephews Bradford and Silas Parker, his special brother David McClean, his business partners, and a host of other friends and family.

As we bid farewell to D’Juan, let us take comfort in knowing that his legacy lives on in the hearts of those who were fortunate enough to know him. D’Juan made an impact on our community that will never be forgotten, he will be greatly missed. I am proud to have spent immeasurable time, developed strategies and grew up with him, treasuring his fa-

ther as a mentor, and always fascinated by D’Juan’s accomplishments. I am honored to document the incredible life of D’Juan Miguel Hernandez, a life too short, though incredibly well-lived. May he rest in eternal peace, surrounded by the love of God and the angels.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TONY GONZALES
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, June 14, 2024

Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas. Mr. Speaker, during a series of votes on June 13, 2024, on amendments to the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025 (H.R. 8070), I intended to vote "yes" on the Rosendale Amendment No. 52, (Roll Call No. 262), but inadvertently voted "no."

This amendment would prohibit TRICARE from covering, and the Department of Defense and gender hormone treatments for individuals who wish to change their gender. It should play no role in these activities.

I strongly believe that our U.S. military should play no role in these activities.

RECOGNIZING JOHN MOORE’S RETIREMENT

HON. JOSEPH D. MORELLE
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, June 14, 2024

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the distinguished career of John Moore, Associate Vice President of Facilities Management at the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT), who will retire at the end of June after twelve years of dedicated service to the university and community.

Mr. Moore oversees the management and maintenance of every building, and open space, on the RIT campus and he works tirelessly to ensure they meet the highest standards of safety, efficiency, and sustainability.

Over his tenure, Mr. Moore managed many notable projects that aided in the steady growth and rapid expansion of RIT’s campus. These projects included the construction of the 4,000 seat Gene Polisseni Center and 2,000 seat RIT Media, Arts, Games, Interaction and Creativity (MAGIC) Center, MAGIC Spell Studios, and, most recently, the completion of the one-of-a-kind Student Hall for Exploration and Development. Mr. Moore has truly embodied the spirit of dedication to RIT’s students, teachers, and community.

It is my pleasure to congratulate John Moore on his retirement and join the entire RIT community in wishing him the best of luck in all future endeavors.

COMMENORATING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF CONTINENTAL LINEN SERVICE

HON. BILL HUIZENGA
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, June 14, 2024

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Continental Linen Service (CLS) on its 125th Anniversary.

Founded in 1899, CLS originally operated as Kalamazoo Laundry Company before Ted Vander Meer purchased the company in 1966 and changed the name to what we know today. This fourth-generation family-owned business now employs over 200 team members covering six locations across Michigan.

Today, CLS serves over 7,000 customers spanning food service, hospitality, medical, and industrial accounts across the state. In 2023 alone, they processed over 24 million pounds of uniforms, linen, and other materials. Recently, they completed a $7 million, 11,000 square foot expansion to their processing facility to improve their capacity for growth.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking the team at Continental Linen Service for their commitment to the community and years of dedicated service to Michigan. I wish them all the best as they continue to grow in Kalamazoo County and beyond.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE, SERVICE, AND SACRIFICE OF OUR MILITARY SERVICE MEMBERS: CLARENCE MEMORIAL DAY DEDICATION

HON. NICHOLAS A. LANGWORTHY
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, June 14, 2024

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life, service, and sacrifice of the brave men and women who served our great Nation. Memorial Day is a holiday of reverence: a date set for us to come together as a Nation and ensure that we remember our debt of gratitude to those brave soldiers who gave their lives defending our country from evil.

On May 27, 2024—this Memorial Day—thirteen names were added to the Clarence Veterans Memorial Honor Walls. I am honored to

It is now our duty to remember their sacrifice, courage, and valor as we go forward and continue to grow and build the greatest nation the world has ever seen. On behalf of the United States Congress and New York's 23rd Congressional District, I ask that this body join me in honoring these brave service members.

CONGRATULATING ALEXANDER'S DELI DINER ON BEING NAMED NEW BALTIMORE'S BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

HON. LISA C. MCCAIN
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, June 14, 2024

Mrs. McCaIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Alexander's Deli Diner, a family-owned restaurant that has been selected as Business of the Year in the City of New Baltimore. I am proud to honor Robin and Milt Arvanitidis, the proud owners of Alexander's Deli Diner, whose unwavering commitment to excellence has made a lasting impact on their countless patrons and the wider community.

Since the diner opened in 2022, the Arvanitidis have tirelessly dedicated to providing exceptional food and service. Their team is beyond deserving of the title of “Business of the Year.”

From supporting first responders and military personnel to collecting food, clothing, and toys for local charities during the holiday season, the Arvanitidis family exemplifies the true spirit of compassion and generosity in their contributions to the Anchor Bay community.

Alexander's Deli Diner's selection as 2024 Business of the Year is a testament to the Arvanitidis family's selfless efforts, dedication to excellence, and firm commitment to community service. As they continue to strive for excellence, I am hopeful that their success will continue to inspire others to pursue their dreams all while giving back to our community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Robin and Milt Arvanitidis and the entire Alexander's Deli Diner team on this well-deserved achievement.

CONGRATULATING DORCHESTER COUNTY CONSOLIDATED DISPATCH CENTER

HON. NANCY MACE
OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, June 14, 2024

Ms. MACE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend special recognition to Thomas McNeil, Director of Dorchester County Emergency Management, Tristan Proctor, Deputy Director of Dorchester County Emergency Management, and Mario Formisano, Deputy Administrator for Public Safety for Dorchester County.

Their leadership and vision have been instrumental in addressing the challenges faced with the old facility, which was not built to withstand significant tropical storm force winds or seismic activities and lacked adequate space.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADRIAN SMITH
OF NEBRASKA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, June 14, 2024

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year I was unable to be present for votes due to a family funeral. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 153; YEA on Roll Call No. 154; YEA on Roll Call No. 155; YEA on Roll Call No. 156; YEA on Roll Call No. 157; YEA on Roll Call No. 158; YEA on Roll Call No. 159; YEA on Roll Call No. 160; YEA on Roll Call No. 161; YEA on Roll Call No. 162; YEA on Roll Call No. 163; NAY on Roll Call No. 164; YEA on Roll Call No. 165; NAY on Roll Call No. 166; YEA on Roll Call No. 167; NAY on Roll Call No. 168; YEA on Roll Call No. 169; NAY on Roll Call No. 170; and YEA on Roll Call No. 171.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. WILEY NICKEL
OF NORTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, June 14, 2024

Mr. NICKEL. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on Thursday, June 13. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 261; NAY on Roll Call No. 262; NAY on Roll Call No. 263; NAY on Roll Call No. 264; NAY on Roll Call No. 265; NAY on Roll Call No. 266; NAY on Roll Call No. 267; NAY on Roll Call No. 268; NAY on Roll Call No. 269; NAY on Roll Call No. 270; NAY on Roll Call No. 271; NAY on Roll Call No. 272; NAY on Roll Call No. 273; NAY on Roll Call No. 274; and NAY on Roll Call No. 275.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. FRANK J. MRVAN
OF INDIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, June 14, 2024

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, on June 5, 2024, I missed Roll Call votes 243, 244, 245, 246, and 247. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 243; YEA on Roll Call No. 244; YEA on Roll Call No. 245; YEA on Roll Call No. 246; and NAY on Roll Call No. 247.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF PEORIA RADIO PERSONALITY SCOTT WHEELER

HON. DARIN LAHOOD
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, June 14, 2024

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor and congratulate Scott Wheeler on his retirement from Midwest Communications' Peoria stations after 46 years in the industry. Scott Wheeler was a radio personality and promotions director by the Top-40 radio station KZ93-FM in 1987. During his career, he worked as a director of production, promotions, programming, and operations. Wheeler also held the positions of Morning Show Host, Brand Manager, and Air Personality. In 1997, he launched Big Oldies 93.3 which received the top ratings throughout its 10-year duration.

During his time as a radio personality, Scott Wheeler has been recognized with numerous accolades for his exemplary professional performance. He was recognized as one of Radio Ink Magazine's “Top Ten Best Small Market Program Directors in America” from 1999 until 2003. Wheeler was known for his tremendous contributions to the radio community, as well as his success at CHF KZ93 and Big Oldies 93.3.

Scott Wheeler has always been committed to his work and his community. It is my privilege to congratulate him on his accomplished career as a radio personality. We have all been blessed to have Scott Wheeler on our radio. The City of Peoria is a better place because of his airtime presence.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, June 14, 2024

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I had to return to California unexpectedly this week for a family emergency and missed votes. Had I been present, I would have voted NO on Roll Call No. 279 on final passage of H.R. 8070, and NO on Roll Call No. 260 on agreeing to H. Res. 1292.

RECOGNIZING AND COMMEMORATING THE SERVICE OF BALRAM "B" BHEODARI

HON. NIKEMA WILLIAMS
OF GEORGIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, June 14, 2024

Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commemorate Balram Bheodari, a constituent of Georgia's Fighting Fifth Congressional District who was instrumental to the success and growth of Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport. Known to everyone in Atlanta as “B,” he brought the sense of duty forged during his time as an Army aviator to his 22 years of service to the airport. As General Manager for
Hartsfield-Jackson, he was pivotal in the airport’s growth and its recognition as the world’s busiest and most efficient airport.

Under B’s leadership the airport completed numerous major capital projects, making use of transformative investments totaling billions of dollars and positioning Hartsfield-Jackson as the model for success for all large airport hubs across the nation. B oversaw pivotal projects such as the creation of the airport’s fifth runway, the Consolidated Rental Car Center, the Maynard H. Jackson International Terminal—the most extensive hold baggage screening system in the country, and countless other terminal renovation projects.

B’s expertise in the airport and aviation space has been invaluable as he and I worked closely to deliver future projects through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to continue to grow Atlanta’s airport.

But it’s not just the billions of dollars he helped deliver to the airport that made B a great General Manager, it was B’s leadership and the ability to reinforce his mission and vision to over 63,000 employees at Hartsfield-Jackson and the 400,000 jobs supported by the airport. His mission was to bring all those directly or indirectly employed to see themselves as one team, delivering excellence while connecting our community to the world.

During unprecedented times like the COVID-19 pandemic, B’s leadership and management were critical. He weathered the operational and commercial challenges that came with the pandemic through close coordination with airline partners and his team. B understood what made Hartsfield-Jackson the busiest and most efficient airport in the world was a commitment to an excellent customer experience. He delivered on that even through the challenges of a global pandemic.

His philosophy centered around three P’s: “People, Purpose, and Performance.” B’s philosophy helped make Hartsfield-Jackson the busiest and efficient airport in the world was a commitment to an excellent customer experience. He delivered on that even through the challenges of a global pandemic.

Today, I honor and celebrate B’s service, commitment and contribution to the Fighting Fifth, and while I will miss our conversations and his physical presence in the airport, I want to be known in the halls of Congress that our success in the district was made possible because of B. His mission was to bring all those directly or indirectly employed to see themselves as one team, delivering excellence while connecting our community to the world.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF PAUL MOLLOY AND THE LIVES HE TOUCHED THROUGH OXFORD HOUSE

HON. JAMIE RASKIN
OF MARYLAND
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, June 14, 2024

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of an extraordinary Marylander, John “Paul” Molloy, who we lost two years ago this week. Paul was a public servant and a former Capitol Hill staffer with a storied career in both the House and Senate, having helped craft and pass such landmark laws as the National Rail Passenger Act of 1970 establishing AMTRAK, the Resource Recovery and Conservation Act of 1976, the nation’s bedrock law governing the safe disposal of solid and hazardous waste. He was always committed to bipartisanship on celebrating the passage of every bipartisan law with the teams—Democrats and Republicans alike—who made them happen. Even in the midst of all these professional achievements, all was not as it seemed. In 1975, Paul found himself living on the streets, divorced and alone because of his stubborn battle with alcoholism.

Fortunately, Paul was able to seek help and begin the long road to recovery. He checked himself into a Montgomery County-run halfway house in Silver Spring. This started a new chapter in his life that would in turn come to touch the lives of so many others in similar situations.

When the County-run halfway house closed, Paul joined with his fellow residents to take over the house’s management. They all agreed: they would split the rent and utilities equally; they would all contribute to the cooking and cleaning together; and they would accompany one another to treatment. If anyone relapsed, they would have to leave to protect the health of their fellow residents. They called this new sober-supportive living environment “Oxford House,” and began a new addiction recovery model that would spread across the country and the world. Today, there are over 3,300 Oxford Houses helping people maintain their sobriety in a supportive environment.

The reason the first Oxford House wasn’t the only Oxford House is simple—one of its cofounders was a congressional staffer. Paul had the knowledge, experience and contacts that proved instrumental in passing provisions in the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988 that created a revolving loan fund for supportive sobriety models like Oxford House. This fund was instrumental in establishing the network of recovery residences that has spread across the country.

From the 1980s until the end of his life, Paul founded and ran Oxford Houses, overseeing its resident-driven expansion into new neighborhoods and new states. Even as Paul carefully stewarded the expansion of new Oxford Houses, he was
careful to maintain the organizational commitment to democratic self-governance within each house, which has empowered generations of Oxford House residents to navigate the inevitable obstacles of life with persistence and patience.

After his recovery, Paul and his wife, Jane, decided to remain, and enjoyed another 34 years together. When he passed away two years ago, Paul left behind not only his beloved Jane but his five children and eight grandchildren. He is sorely missed, but his legacy of good humor and incomparable compassion lives on among his family and Oxford House family. I join the people of Maryland’s beautiful Eighth District and people across the United States in expressing the warmest gratitude for Paul’s work as we celebrate his life.

COMMEMORATING THE 83RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN AND THEIR HEROISM

HON. NICHOLAS A. LANGWORTHY
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, June 14, 2024

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate and honor the Tuskegee Airmen as we celebrate their 83rd anniversary. As the United States fought to defend freedom with our allies in World War II, exceptional pilots in the fight for air superiority made the difference between victory and defeat.

The Tuskegee Airmen stand out in history, as they not only had to carry the immeasurable weight of battle, but also had to fight racial discrimination.

Prior to the Tuskegee Airmen’s incorporation in 1941, the military was segregated, and the Army Air Forces did not accept African American pilots. In the face of this discrimination, these brave men stood up when their country and the world needed them most. They flew with skill and courage on critical missions, demonstrating that excellence knows no color, and that discrimination had no place in our military. The Tuskegee Airmen were among the most talented and decorated squadrons of World War II, earning 3 Presidential Unit Citations, 150 Distinguished Flying Crosses, 1 Legion of Merit, 1 Silver Star, 2 Soldier Medals, 8 Purple Hearts, 14 bronze stars, 744 air medals, and 1 Red Star of Yugoslavia. Their heroism, bravery, and remarkable achievements contributed directly to the desegregation of the United States Military.

On Saturday, May 25, 2024, veterans, officials, airmen, and their decedents gathered at Wings of Eagles Discovery Center to remember these amazing heroes and commemorate their significance nationally and their deep local ties to our community here in the Finger Lakes, Southern Tier, and Western New York. Their story will forever serve as a symbol of courage in the face of adversity.

On Memorial Day and every day, we thank the men and women in uniform who have sacrificed so much so that we may live free. We owe them a debt of gratitude that cannot be repaid, both for defending our Nation’s freedoms and advancing them for generations to come.

COMMEMORATING THE ST. CLAIR ROTARY CLUB’S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, June 14, 2024

Mrs. McClain. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor St. Clair Rotary Club and the occasion of their 100th anniversary. Since its founding on April 22, 1924, the St. Clair Rotary Club has served as an emblematic example of the Rotary’s motto, “Service Above Self.”

Throughout the last century, the St. Clair Rotary Club has focused on a lot of community projects benefitting the St. Clair community. Notably, during the 1930s, the club began a student assistance program, helping high school graduates work towards higher education. In 1946, the club started the “Preparation for Employment” program with St. Clair High School and soon after in 1965, the “Seminars for Tomorrow Leaders” which continues to this day.

The club has managed to preserve their accomplishments and history at the St. Clair Historical Museum, dating back to its founding in 1924. Their team has a remarkable devotion not only to the improvement of the St. Clair Community, but the preservation of the club’s rich history. More recently, the club has also notably raised over $150,000 for the St. Clair Little League Park, donated 32 Chromebooks to the St. Clair High School, and led efforts for community spaces throughout St. Clair. As the club celebrates its centennial, it continues to make a difference through projects like the Storybook Walk in Klecha Park and the renovation of Rotary’s Wildlife Landing.

Mr. Speaker, I have no doubt that the St. Clair Rotary Club will continue to be a significant benefactor to the wider St. Clair Community for many years to come. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the club and its members for reaching this incredible milestone.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF DR. ANDREA E. CHAPDELAINE

HON. DAVID J. TRONE
OF MARYLAND
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, June 14, 2024

Mr. TRONE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor and celebrate the remarkable tenure of College President Andrea E. Chapdelaine. For nine years, Dr. Chapdelaine has devoted her career to the advancement of higher education, enriching the lives of students and bolstering local communities throughout her career.

Under her leadership, Hood College experienced growth in both undergraduate and graduate enrollment and improvement in student retention. Dr. Chapdelaine spearheaded the completion of the strategic plan, “Moving Together BeyondBoundaries,” which introduced new academic programs, expanded strategic partnerships, “reinforced employee compensation.” She oversaw nearly $100 million in campus investments, including major renovations and new construction, led the successful “Forging the Future” campaign, and raised nearly $75 million for scholarships, experiential learning, and the Hood Fund. Her tenure also saw the receipt of a historic $54 million gift from The Hodson Trust, marking the largest donation in Hood College’s history.

Recognizing Eid as a Federal Holiday will allow them to not only freely practice their faith, but also help them feel more at home and connect better with America’s spirit as a religious minority. This bill is particularly timely and connect better with America’s spirit as a religious minority. This bill is particularly timely because of recent developments in the Middle-East. As Members of Congress, we need to uphold the same values that all Americans hold dear. This year, Eid al-Adha will be celebrated on June 16th. We must continually strive to create a more inclusive nation and honor the diverse tapestry that makes up this country. Muslim Americans have meaningfully contributed to the American society since the nation’s early history. They cherish American values, take pride in the country’s pluralism, multiculturalism, and its embodiment as the land of liberty and opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing and uplifting this important cultural and historical celebration by making Eid a federal holiday.
HONORING THE CRITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF COLONEL CARLOS BERDECIA

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 14, 2024

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Colonel Carlos ‘Slinger’ Berdecia of the United States Air Force upon his retirement from the U.S. Military after more than 23 years of service.

Colonel Berdecia was born and raised in Bayamon, Puerto Rico, and graduated from the University of North Carolina with a Bachelor of Science in marketing. He also holds a Master of Business Administration from the City University of Seattle. Colonel Berdecia began his flying career in 2003 at Joint Base Lewis McChord in Washington State, flying the C-17A Globemaster III with the 8th and 10th Airlift Squadrons. He quickly upgraded in the ‘Mighty Moose’ from Co-Pilot to Instructor Pilot in just four years, flying combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. After his assignment at McChord, Colonel Berdecia taught the newest C-17A pilots in the 58th Airlift Squadron at Altus Air Force Base, Oklahoma. There, he was accepted to the United States Air Force Weapons School, where he graduated in 2009 and earned the callsign ‘Slinger.’

After his time at Altus, Colonel Berdecia moved to Charleston, South Carolina, and became a member of the Special Operations Low Level community in the 16th Airlift Squadron, where he executed missions in support of the Combined Joint Chiefs of Staff. In 2014, he was selected to work as the AFRICOM J3’s Executive Officer in Stuttgart, Germany, and in 2017, was chosen to return to Altus and Command his previous Squadron, the 58th Airlift Squadron ‘Rat Pack.’ Due the trust and confidence his leadership had in his ability to lead, Colonel Berdecia was selected as a Secretary of Defense Executive Fellow with Team Rubicon in Los Angeles, California. After his time in Los Angeles, Slinger was assigned to the Pentagon, and after a tour on staff with the Joint Staff, he was brought back to the C-17A. His final assignment in the Air Force was that of the 437th Operations Group Commander at Joint Base Charleston, South Carolina, leading the men and women of Air Mobility Command’s Premier Operations Group.

Colonel Berdecia’s exemplary service to the United States Air Force spans more than 23 years and 5,000 hours in airlift aircraft. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my Congressional colleagues and a grateful country, I extend our deepest appreciation to Colonel Carlos ‘Slinger’ Berdecia and his wife Eva for their dedicated service to the United States Air Force and our country.

HONORING THE ‘BLACK ANGELS’ OF STATEN ISLAND

HON. NICOLE MALLIOTAKIS
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 14, 2024

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to include in the RECORD the following Proclamation honoring the Black Angels of Staten Island:

Whereas Staten Island Sea View Hospital opened in 1913 specifically to treat patients with Tuberculosis and, at its peak, Sea View Hospital saw nearly 2,000 patients and was one of only four municipal hospitals in New York City that did not discriminate against Black nurses;

Whereas the Black Angels, as they are known, were courageous, dedicated, and bold in answering the call to come to Sea View and risk their lives caring for the grievously sick and “indigent consumptives” of New York City, who had been banished to this woefully understaffed sanatorium;

Whereas the Black Angels’ caring demeanor, and years of expertise played a significant role in the first ever human trials of Isoniazid, the first drug to cure tuberculosis. Since its discovery in 1952, tens of millions of lives have been saved;

Whereas the Black Angels were activists and active members of the NAACP, neighborhood churches, and community groups, and became founding members of the Lincoln Hospital Alumni Association, the Urban League Guild, and the Women’s Civic and Political Union. They were fierce advocates for the integration of Black nurses into the U.S. military and American Nurses Association, and in New York City they worked toward desegregating the hospital system; and

Whereas the people of Staten Island are grateful for the years of service by all the Black Angels who selflessly served on the front lines at Sea View Hospital to treat tuberculosis patients.
Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

The Senate was not in session and stands adjourned until 3 p.m. on Monday, June 17, 2024.

Committee Meetings

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 21 public bills, H.R. 8749–8771; and 3 resolutions, H. Res. 1301–1303 were introduced.

Pages H4108–09

Additional Cosponsors: Page H4110

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 8281, to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to require proof of United States citizenship to register an individual to vote in elections for Federal office, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–552);

H.R. 8752, making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 118–553); and

H.R. 8771, making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 118–554).

Pages H4108

Guest Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the Guest Chaplain, Bhai Mohan Singh, Gurdwara Singh Sabha of Yakima, Yakima, Washington. Page H4065

Servicemember Quality of Life Improvement and National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025: The House passed H.R. 8070, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, by a recorded vote of 217 ayes to 199 noes, Roll No. 279. Consideration began Wednesday, June 12th. Pages H4067–97

Rejected the Sherrill motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Armed Services by a yea-and-nay vote of 202 yeas to 214 nays, Roll No. 278.

Pages H4059–96

Agreed to:

Rogers (AL) en bloc amendment No. 4 consisting of the following amendments printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–551: Smith (NJ) (No. 235) that requires the Secretary of Defense to prevent any individual separated due to misconduct from performing the same duties, or similar duties, as a contractor for any Department of Defense entity; Amodei (No. 236) that provides a briefing from the Army on the modernization and sustainment plans for organizational clothing and equipment used in cold and extreme cold weather environments; James (No. 237) that requires DoD, in consultation with State, to submit a classified report, with an unclassified summary, to Congress identifying all ways to increase security cooperation with Kenya as a result of its major non-NATO ally designation; Smith (NJ) (No. 238) that requires the Secretary of Defense to produce a report on the feasibility of developing and deploying asymmetric naval assets in defense of Taiwan; Buchanan (No. 239) that requires the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study to assess ways unmanned vehicles can reduce overall operating expenses and costs at the Department of Defense; Garbarino (No. 240) that provides $9 million in additional authorizations for Surface and Shallow Water Mine Countermeasures for assembly, engineering, and design; Caraveo (No. 241) that requires the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the
Secretary of Health and Human Services, to conduct a report on the transition process for service members with healthcare backgrounds and the number of transitioning service members that join the Medical Reserve Corps; Amodei (No. 242) that provides a technical correction to a map referenced in the Military Land Withdrawals Act of 2013 relating to the Churchill County Proposed Fallon Range Training Complex Modernization and Lands Bill; Carbajal (No. 243) that requires any cut flowers or cut green officially on display in public areas of the Executive Office of the President, Department of Defense, or Department of State be grown in the United States, District of Columbia, or territory; Spartz (No. 244) that requires the Secretary of Defense to submit a report assessing the Department of Defense’s implementation of advanced data analysis for national defense purposes; Al Green (TX) (No. 245) that commissions posthumously the grade of Captain to Army Sergeant Major Milton Holland; Garcia (TX) (No. 246) that inserts requirement for the Department of Defense to establish an annual training for students who are enrolled in the Junior Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (JROTC) regarding the prevention of sexual abuse; Stansbury (No. 247) that emphasizes the availability of mental health resources and services offered by the Transition Assistance Program (TAP) and Solid Start Program to better assist veterans that are transitioning from active duty to civilian life; Buchanan (No. 250) that requires cooperation between the United States and Israel on emerging technology capabilities; Wilson (No. 251) that requires a report regarding the assessment of Israel integration into the National Technology Industrial Base; Buchanan (No. 252) that requires the Secretary of Defense to report on the threat of rifle-toting robot dogs used by China to threats to US interests posed by Iran, China, Russia, and other adversarial States through the antagonistic use of extraterrestrial satellites for combat, incapacitation of other satellites, cybersecurity intrusions, debilitation of critical infrastructure, and other aggressive purposes; Crenshaw (No. 253) that codifies and updates the position of Department of Defense Senior Intelligence Oversight Official (SIOO) per Department of Defense Directive 5148.13, which prescribes the intelligence oversight responsibilities and functions, relationships, and authorities of the DoD SIOO, to ensure that the SIOO has responsibility to conduct independent oversight of all Department of Defense intelligence, intelligence-related, and sensitive activities; Slotkin (No. 254) that expands pilot program location options to all 50 U.S. states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories instead of just the continental United States to develop or upgrade play spaces that are both accessible and inclusive to military families at military installations identified as having the highest concentration of Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) families; Kildee (No. 255) that expresses the sense of Congress that Canada and the United States should not develop facilities to permanently store nuclear waste in the Great Lakes Basin; Plaskett (No. 256) that requires a report assessing the impact of China and Russia’s malign influence in Africa, South America, Central America, and the Caribbean on national security and economic interests of the United States; Wexton (No. 257) that requires an assessment of the impact of continued investment in Department of Defense sponsored Manufacturing Innovation Institutes on the defense industrial base in the United States; Raskin (No. 258) that requires DOD to report on its activities to inform servicemembers that seeking mental health care will not jeopardize their security clearance status or eligibility; Radewagen (No. 259) that requires a report on major military construction in the FAS over the next 5 fiscal years; and assessing the local workforce of the FAS to support military construction; Nunn (No. 260) that highlights and emphasizes the availability of mental health resources and economic interests of the United States; Wexton (No. 261) that requires the Department of Defense to develop a strategy and education campaign to align obesity programs within the department; Ivey (No. 262) that directs the GAO to study, and issue a report on, the potential threats to US interests posed by Iran, China, Russia, and other adversarial States through the antagonistic use of extraterrestrial satellites for combat, incapacitation of other satellites, cybersecurity intrusions, debilitation of critical infrastructure, and other aggressive purposes; Crenshaw (No. 263) that requires SECDDEF reporting on the feasibility and advisability of enhancing cooperation between the National Guard and India, to include the establishment of a state partnership; Kaptur (No. 264) that Establishes the Last Servicemember Standing medal for certain members of the Armed Forces who as a result of a combat instance was the last surviving member of a unit; Graves (LA) (No. 265) that ensures that veterans of Operation End Sweep are eligible for the Vietnam Service Medal; Nunn (No. 266) that prohibits the Department of Defense from acquiring,
procuring, or utilizing blockchain network infrastructure or capabilities originating from foreign adversaries; Amo (No. 267) that expresses the sense of Congress that domestic production of defense articles for AUKUS boosts local economies and improves national security by enhancing domestic defense article production capabilities, and that the DOD should promote and prioritize domestic manufacturing, supply chain, and research for AUKUS defense articles; Lynch (No. 268) that requires establishment of a centralized program to monitor and provide assistance to members of the Armed Forces at risk of suicide who have been recently discharged; Takano (No. 269) that modifies the Marine Corps’ authorities related to the Excess Leave Program for those service members attending law school to ensure that these Marines receive Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH); Buchanan (No. 270) that requires the Secretary of Defense to study the feasibility of establishing a mentoring program for members of the Armed Forces who are interested in becoming entrepreneurs or founding start-up businesses after their active duty service; Moskowitz (No. 271) that prohibits funds made available to the Department of Defense from being used to conduct biomedical research or testing using canines or felines; Donalds (No. 272) that expresses sense of Congress that Congress urges the Department of Defense to accept and embrace nuclear energy to achieve a reliable, secure, and resilient energy apparatus within the DOD; Nunn (No. 273) that directs the Secretary of Defense to establish a strategic partnership between the Defense Innovation Unit (DIU) and the Israeli Ministry of Defense; Pettersen (No. 274) that expresses a Sense of Congress that the Space Force continue its commitment to accelerating the development of very low earth orbit (VLEO) space capabilities; Banks (No. 275) that requires the Secretary of Defense to provide a plan for the growth of the Hacking for Defense program; Nunn (No. 276) that directs the Secretary of Defense to assess the feasibility and advisability of establishing a strategic partnership between the Defense Innovation Unit (DIU) and the Taiwan Ministry of National Defense; Banks (No. 277) that requires a report on Iran’s installation of advanced centrifuges since 2021 and on Iran’s plans to install centrifuges at new facilities; Donalds (No. 278) that adds a Sense of Congress that Congress encourages the U.S. Armed Forces to utilize innovative technologies, such as artificial intelligence, quantum, advanced air mobility, and counter-ucas, to ultimately defend the national security of the United States; Walberg (No. 279) that requires the Secretary of Defense to conduct a study on the national security risks of highly automated vehicles associated with foreign adversary countries operating or testing in the United States; Donalds (No. 280) that directs the U.S. Space Force to submit a report pertaining to its current and future potential use of nuclear thermal propulsion space vehicles and nuclear electric propulsion space vehicles, and how these nuclear-powered space vehicles can bolster America’s national security; Donalds (No. 281) that expresses the sense of Congress that Congress supports Project Pele, a DOD SCO program that seeks to develop, demonstrate, and deploy a portable nuclear microreactor to bolster American national security and reduce fuel-related logistical challenges; Kelly (No. 282) that expands the period of eligibility for the Military OneSource program from 12-months to 18-months upon retirement, discharge, or release; James (No. 283) that provides that when the President submits the annual budget request, it includes an annex with recommendations put together by DoD, in coordination with GAO and OMB, for priority items that could be considered under multi-year procurement; Moylan (No. 284) that supports the habitability of military housing by requiring DOD research and minimum habitability standards for mold in military barracks; Thompson (PA) (No. 285) that requires the DoD to send Congress a report on their progress of reaching their 1% goal for the AbilityOne program by 2027; Krishnamoorthi (No. 286) that prohibits funds authorized to be appropriated by the Act from being used to acquire any goods from Temu or Shein; Molenaar (No. 287) that builds on a recommendation from a GAO report on the similar European Deterrence Initiative by modifying PDI to require a more detailed description of the initiative’s progress in achieving INDOMACOM’s performance goals; Walberg (No. 288) that requires the Director of Defense Education Activity (DODEA) to publish policy guidance prohibiting the use of TikTok for instructional purposes at schools operated by the DODEA; and Buchanan (No. 289) that requires the Secretary of the Army to submit a report to the House Armed Services Committee on the effectiveness of the Optimizing the Human Weapon System (OHWS) Program and include recommendations on actions to improve or expand; Rogers (AL) en bloc amendment No. 5 consisting of the following amendments printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–551: Levin (CA) (No. 290) that adds to DoD Transition Assistance Program (TAP) counseling pathway factors; Wenstrup (No. 291) that requires the Secretary of Defense to put podiatrists in the Medical Corps of each military depart; that (Tenney No. 292) that adds stainless steel flatware to the Berry Amendment; Tenney (No. 293) that requires a report by the Secretary of Defense on the feasibility of replicating the Army’s Future Soldier
Preparatory Course through the other service branches; McCaul (No. 294) that requires the DoD to do a study and report on the sterilization of medical instruments in DHA facilities following multiple instances of improper sterilization at Brooks Army Medical Center and Audie Murphy Hospital in San Antonio; Moulton (No. 295) that authorizes the Secretaries of military departments to provide grants, conclude cooperative agreements, and supplement other Federal funds to regulatory agencies located in Guam for the purpose of expediting military construction projects in Guam; Austin Scott (GA) (No. 296) that amends section 14314 of title 10, United States Code, by removing the 30-day impediment so that certain Army and Air Force reserve component general officers and the organizations in which they serve may use the full authority of the foregoing provisions for up to 60 days, after which the officers would be removed from an active status; Gluesenkamp Perez (No. 297) that expresses the sense of Congress that it is important for readiness that the military be able to fix its own equipment and directs the Secretary of Defense to submit the report required under EO 14036 related to DOD repairing its own equipment; Mills (No. 298) that directs Secretary of Defense to submit a report regarding the Defense Advisory Committee on Diversity and Inclusion to include an overview of the appointment process, how the Department ensures views are "fairly balanced," and other items; Mills (No. 299) that directs the Defense Contract Management Agency to submit a report detailing the dollar amount of covered materials manufactured in China and Russia and acquired by the Department of Defense through contracts valued at or below the simplified acquisition threshold during the period beginning on January 1, 2020, and ending on the date of the submission of such report to the congressional defense committees; Norman (No. 300) that requires the Comptroller General to conduct a study of the programs and efforts of the Department of Defense related to the readiness of the ports as affected by dredging capacity to complete harbor and channel dredging; Schrier (No. 301) that requires the Department of Defense to list the DoD systems that interact with Veteran Affairs electronic health records, including downtime incidents and the steps to resolve these issues so that care is not disrupted; Wexton (No. 302) that requires the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment to conduct a study to identify sources of secure parts for unmanned aircraft systems; Donalds (No. 303) that requires a joint report from State/DOD that evaluates current Chinese & Russian efforts relating to the utilization of transportable nuclear power for both direct military purposes and as a soft power tool globally; Arrington (No. 304) that requires DOD to brief Congress about all instances of attempted breaches of US military bases across the world since January 2021; Moulton (No. 305) that amends Section 2241(a) of title 10, United States Code to authorize the Department of Defense to use amount appropriated for operation and maintenance of the active forces for the purpose of acquisition, development, modification, and sustainment of software; Moylan (No. 306) that authorizes the President to award the Medal of Honor to Joseph M. Perez for acts of valor while serving as a member of the Army during the Vietnam War; Porter (No. 307) that commissions a report on a military construction strategy for a sufficient number of child development centers as necessary to eliminate wait lists for members of the Armed Forces seeking childcare at child development centers; Garamendi (No. 308) that sets standards for private individuals purchasing federally auctioned vessels such as holding liability insurance for the vessel and proof of sufficient financial resources to maintain the vessel; Rose (No. 309) that requires the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to the House and Senate Committees on Armed Services on the fraud scheme perpetrated by Janet Yamanaka Mello, a civilian employee of the Department of the Army who was indicted and pleaded guilty to stealing over $100 million in Army funds; Issa (No. 310) that requires the Secretary of State, in consultation with SecDef, Secretary of the Treasury, and DNI, to develop a recurring, classified report on how the United States and key partners would respond to a variety of CCP military attacks on Taiwan; Dunn (No. 311) that directs the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Energy, Installations, and Environment to submit a report to determine if it should set up a Sentinel Landscapes-like project in the Freely Associated States (FAS); Dunn (No. 312) that directs the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, to assess and report on the feasibility and benefits of expanding the National Guard State Partnership Program in the Pacific Islands; Larsen (WA) (No. 313) that requires all military branches to participate in the CDAO’s Digital On-Demand education program; LaLota (No. 314) that requires Secretary of Defense to establish a Multilateral Artificial Intelligence Working Group tasked with developing and coordinating an artificial intelligence initiative among the allies and partners of the United States; LaLota (No. 315) that requires Secretary of Defense to produce a report on the impact of bundled contracts to small businesses and the impact of reducing the number of bundled contracts; Edwards (No. 316) that revokes the security clearances to retired or active members...
of the Armed Forces or Department of Defense personnel that express support for a terrorist organization or engaged in a demonstration supporting a terrorist organization; Ocasio-Cortez (No. 317) that directs the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State and the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, to conduct a declassification review of documents related to the U.S.’s involvement in Chile’s coup of 1973; Connolly (No. 318) that requires the Department of Defense to report on implementation of Section 1537 of the FY2024 NDAA related to user activity monitoring for personnel with access to classified information and networks; Radewagen (No. 319) that requires a report by the DOD on the use of Chaplains in the Indo-Pacific; Rose (No. 320) that requires the Secretary of Defense to offer a briefing to Congress on the adequacy of institutional capacity building in countries within the United States Africa Command’s area of responsibility by March 1, 2025; Mills (No. 321) that increases the amount authorized to be appropriated for research, development, test, and evaluation, Defensorwide, as specified in the corresponding funding table in section 4201, for operational system development, Aviation Systems; Luna (No. 322) that requires that dive school be put back in the Air Force Combat Controller (CCT) training pipeline; Luna (No. 323) that would allow service members awarded certain decorations (Purple Heart, Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross, Air Force Cross, Coast Guard Cross, and Bronze Star) to wear uniform to special events (weddings, galas, funerals, etc.) similar to those that have retired from service; Neguse (No. 324) that ensures that service members receive an electronic copy of their medical records from the Department of Defense no later than 30 days before separation or retirement from the military and an electronic copy of separation documents no later than 12 days after; Huizenga (No. 325) that requires a report to Congress on military activities of the Russian Federation and the People’s Republic of China in the Arctic Region; Molinaro (No. 326) that requires a GAO study on the effectiveness of the Department of Defense Education Activity Disability Emphasis Program and how it currently supports individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities; Molinaro (No. 331) that directs the Department of Defense to provide periodic reports to Congress on the implementation and effectiveness of naloxone distribution to servicemembers in the case of opioid overdoses; Pfluger (No. 332) that requires the Secretary of the Navy to submit a report to the House Committee on Armed Services on how augmented, virtual and extended reality capabilities have been, or potentially could be, integrated into training across the Navy; Magaziner (No. 333) that requires the Department of Defense to survey suppliers in the submarine industrial base to assess whether they are experiencing workforce shortages and to develop a strategy to expand SkillBridge participation to those suppliers to improve recruitment, particularly for smaller suppliers; Schweikert (No. 334) that directs the Department of Defense to utilize artificial intelligence in the audit of its financial statements with the goal of achieving a clean audit opinion for the first time; Sherrill (No. 335) that instructs the Department of Defense to conduct a study regarding how high-impact tutoring programs can be expanded in Department of Defense Education Activity elementary and secondary schools; Moylan (No. 336) that authorizes the President to Award the Medal of Honor to Retired SGM Blaz for heroic actions during the Vietnam War; Burlison (No. 337) that prohibits the Secretary of Defense from entering into a contract for online tutoring services which could result in personal data of citizens of the United States being transferred to the control of the People’s Republic of China; Wenstrup (No. 338) that increases the Defense Health Program’s Education and Training authorization of funding by $25 million and offsets spending with a $25 million reduction for Base Operations and Communication to enhance existing civilian-military partnerships for surge capacity and interoperability necessary to provide a system of care within the continental United States for casualties because of large-scale combat operations; Posey (No. 339) that requires a minimum number of firefighter personnel to safeguard life and property at all space-launch capable United States Space Force installations; Bergman (No. 340) that funds Virtual Engineering for Army Readiness and Sustainment...
that requires the Secretary of Defense to review and repair the personnel records of military chaplains who suffered forced separation, downgraded performance reports, denials of promotion, schooling, training, or assignment, or any other adverse personnel actions as retaliation for seeking a Religious Accommodation Request (RAR) to the COVID–19 vaccination mandate; Austin Scott (GA) (No. 342) that requires the Secretary of Defense to establish a common coalition key within the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania for purposes of sharing ammunition for the High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS); Bergman (No. 343) that authorizes $4.2 million for Humanitarian Airborne Mobile Infrastructure Capability (HAMIC) in FY25; Bergman (No. 344) that authorizes $10 million for Fuel Cell Multi-Modular Use (FC–MMU) utilizing hydrogen in FY25; Wilson (SC) (No. 345) that prohibits DOD from purchasing solar panels from a foreign entity of concern; Johnson (SD) (No. 346) that requires a study and report on the production and acquisition of shipping containers from foreign adversaries; Schweikert (No. 347) that requires the Undersecretary of Defense (Comptroller) to conduct a study and a report to Congress on the potential cost-saving measures of incorporating artificial intelligence (AI) and multi-domain, attributable autonomous, semi-autonomous, unmanned systems, capabilities and processes into each branch of the military and its civilian workforce within 90 days of enactment; Stauber (No. 348) that requires that the Secretary of Defense to consult with the head of any cooperating or participating agency responsible for the environmental review of a project that would increase availability of strategic or critical materials for the National Defense Stockpile; and Moylan (No. 350) that is a Medal of Honor amendment for Staff Sergeant Martin A. Manglona, U.S. Army; Doggett amendment (No. 134 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–551) that establishes a panel of experts to review contracts for major weapons systems, spare parts, and services to determine whether the Department paid excessive prices and make recommendations to ensure the Department pays fair and reasonable prices in future contracts; and

James amendment (No. 228 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–551) that amends section 1725 to bolster the current report language on South Africa (by a recorded vote of 272 ayes to 144 noes, Roll No. 277).

Rejected:
Perry amendment (No. 56 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–551) that sought to require a report from the Secretary of Defense on the use of taxpayer-funded official time (by a recorded vote of 188 ayes to 228 noes, Roll No. 276).
Next Meeting of the SENATE
3 p.m., Monday, June 17

 Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Katherine E. Oler, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture thereon at 5:30 p.m.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
11 a.m., Tuesday, June 18

 House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: House will meet in Pro Forma session at 11 a.m.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

Carson, Andre´, Ind., E633, E639
Carter, Troy A., La., E635
Dingell, Debbie, Mich., E634
Dunn, Neal P., Fla., E635
Garamendi, John, Calif., E634, E637, E640
Gonzales, Tony, Tex., E636
Huzenga, Bill, Mich., E636

LaHood, Darin, Ill., E637
Langworthy, Nicholas A., N.Y, E633, E636, E639
Mace, Nancy, S.C., E637
Mallicoakis, Nicole, N.Y., E634, E640
McClain, Lisa C., Mich., E633, E637, E639
Morelle, Joseph D., N.Y., E636
Mrvan, Frank J., Ind., E637
Nickel, Wiley, N.C., E637
Nunn, Zachary, Iowa, E635
Pelosi, Nancy, Calif., E635
Raskin, Jamie, Md., E638
Reschenthaler, Guy, Pa., E634, E640
Schakowsky, Janice D., Ill., E638
Sewell, Terri A., Ala., E635
Smith, Adrian, Nebr., E637
Trone, David J., Md., E633, E639
Williams, Nikema, Ga., E637