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## House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 3, 2024, at 12 noon.

## Senate

MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2024

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

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal God, we give You our lives, for You alone are our mighty fortress. You have been our help in ages past. You continue to be our hope for the years to come. Remind us that those who trust You are on the road to peace. You show us the path of integrity and point out the way that we should follow.

Lord, continue to lead our lawmakers by Your truth, for You are the God who sustains them. May they find delight in the knowledge of Your holiness so that their lives will glorify You. Guide them as they seek to find common ground.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

The assistant bill clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, December 2, 2024.

To the Senate:

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

PATTY MURRAY,  
President pro tempore.

Ms. DUCKWORTH thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The assistant bill clerk read the nomination of Anne Hwang, of California, to be United States District

Judge for the Central District of California.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

### ADVICE AND CONSENT AUTHORITY

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, when the 119th Congress commences next year, one of the first great tasks of this body will be fulfilling our constitutional duty to provide advice and consent regarding the President-elect's nominees.

The advice and consent authority is a cornerstone of the Senate's constitutional mandate, a power central to preserving America's system of checks and balances. The Founding Fathers knew firsthand the great danger of allowing unchecked Executives to appoint individuals to positions of power without any guardrails. In fact, this was one of their greatest grievances against the British Crown.

Very soon, the Senate will be called upon to exercise its advice and consent authority once again as a new administration enters office next year.

The Senate's advice and consent power will be especially important next year given that the President-elect has at times made statements about potentially working around the Senate to appoint his nominees. Hopefully, this doesn't become an issue.

But, nevertheless, it will be the responsibility of the incoming Republican majority to protect the Senate against any attempt to erode its authority.

So, today, I sent a letter to incoming Republican Leader THUNE, urging him

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



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to uphold the Senate's constitutional duty to provide advice and consent on the President's nominations. I said Democrats will be ready to work with Republicans in a bipartisan way on the nominations process and give each nominee the same fair and thorough consideration that previous nominees of both parties have received.

We should hold hearings with the nominees and markups in committees. And Senators should be given the chance to vote on nominees here on the Senate floor.

The American people deserve public servants who put the needs of the country ahead of the political needs of any individual, Republican or Democrat. The American people deserve public servants whose judgment, character, and experience inspires confidence and reflects our Nation's highest ideals.

Most of all, the American people deserve public servants who will uphold their oaths to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.

The best mechanism for ensuring the President appoints qualified, capable, and ethical officials is precisely the advice and consent power of the Senate. And it will be the responsibility of the incoming majority and the incoming majority leader to ensure that the authority of the Senate is carried out and preserved.

I urge incoming Leader THUNE and Senate Republicans to work with Democrats to protect the Senate's authorities under the Constitution.

#### BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Madam President, now, on Senate business, we are at the beginning of what will be a very busy December. There is a lot the Senate has to do, both on the nominations and the legislative side and not a lot of time to do them.

Let me begin with the nominations. We are picking up where we left off before Thanksgiving, confirming more of the President's nominees to the bench and to Federal Agencies of great importance to the American people.

Later this afternoon, the Senate will vote to confirm the nomination of Anne Hwang to be District Judge for the Central District of California. As the week progresses, Members should be advised we aim to hold additional confirmation votes on the nominees that we invoked cloture on before the Thanksgiving break. We hope to move to them as soon as possible.

On the legislative side, the Senate also has a handful of priorities we must deal with before the year is out: the annual Defense authorization bill—the NDAA—and the legislation to prevent a shutdown right before Christmas.

On government funding, both sides are making progress negotiating on a bill that can pass the House and Senate with bipartisan support. We need to keep divisive and unnecessary provisions out of any government funding extension or else it will get harder to pass a CR in time.

For now, I am pleased negotiations are on the right track, and I thank the

appropriators in both Chambers for their good work.

Now on the NDAA, I am hopeful that we are close to beginning the process of moving the bipartisan bill through both Chambers. The NDAA has been passed without fail for decades with the cooperation from both sides, and I hope this year is no exception. Few priorities matter more than providing for our national defense and taking care of our troops in uniform and their families.

Finally, Senate Democrats will keep pushing to finish work on a disaster aid package, to replenish the many relief programs that are dangerously low on resources. The President sent us his request last month and spelled out in very clear detail the disastrous consequences should Congress fail to act. I remain hopeful we can get a disaster package done soon. National disasters affect red States and blue States and purple States and everything in between.

We have a long tradition in this Chamber of coming together when it comes to disaster aid, with very few exceptions. We should come together again at the end of the year to get disaster aid done or we may not be ready to respond the next time Mother Nature wreaks havoc on our communities.

#### UPSTATE NEW YORK

Madam President, finally, on snowfall in Western New York and upstate, first, let me say my team is monitoring the heavy lake effect snowfall that has pummeled Western New York just as New Yorkers were driving home from Thanksgiving. There are numerous reports of people left stranded in their cars, facing terrifying conditions and utter chaos on the road. In at least one instance, first responders saved the lives of one couple trapped on the road in the middle of the snowstorm.

The Governor has issued a state of emergency for a number of local counties, and I urge everyone impacted by the snowfall to follow local guidelines and stay off the road as much as they can. There is more heavy snowfall on the way.

But amidst all the snow, there was one happy element. Last night, all of America got to witness the beauty of Buffalo on national television, seeing the Buffalo Bills clinch the AFC East championship amidst a deluge of snow. What happened in Orchard Park was out of a storybook—a snow globe game for the ages.

Despite frigid temperatures, mounds of snow, and a tough opponent, the Buffalo Bills came out with a huge 35-to-10 victory over the 49ers. It was an amazing game to watch. I watched the whole thing. Josh Allen did it all. He set the franchise record for the most total touchdowns and became the first quarterback ever to throw a touchdown, run for a touchdown, and catch a touchdown in the same game—an unthinkable hat trick. How impressive is that?

Of course, as always, the Bills Mafia was out in full force supporting the

team, shoveling snow to get to their seats, and cheering in the harshest conditions. They continue to show why the Bills Mafia is the most passionate and most loyal fan base in the league.

Now, with their fifth straight division title, it is clear the Buffalo Bills are truly the Beast of the East. So I only have two words to say: "Go Bills!"

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Republican leader is recognized.

#### BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, well, the Senate has 3 weeks to complete some of the most important business of the year, and at this late hour, we will have to act on legislation that comes to us over from the House. But let's be absolutely clear: December drama is not the way to demonstrate we are serious about our most basic governing responsibilities.

With the exception of urgent supplemental assistance to States and communities hit hard by natural disasters in recent months, essential and predictable annual assignments like the NDAA and government funding are now well overdue.

Our colleagues on the Armed Services Committee completed their work on the NDAA back in June. They conducted extensive hearings, considered a wide array of amendments, and, thanks to the work of Ranking Member WICKER, secured an increase to top-line authorization, and they did it with bipartisan support. They handed the legislation off to the Democratic leader with months to spare.

Similarly, over in the Appropriations Committee, they worked diligently to present full-year funding bills ahead of the start of the fiscal year. I am particularly proud of the work of committee Republicans, under Vice Chair COLLINS' leadership, to secure higher top-line funding for national defense.

The most important power in the Senate is the power to set our agenda. Only the majority leader holds that power.

Last year, the majority leader said publicly that "the United States is ready to compete vigorously with the PRC." The overwhelming consensus of U.S. national security experts contradicts that view.

But even if we were once ready to compete and deter aggression from the adversaries who are working together to threaten us, letting critical national security legislation collect dust for months while the Senate rubberstamps radical nominees is one heck of a way to sustain that elusive readiness or project American resolve.

The full Senate was denied a chance to work its will on the NDAA. As a result, the ranking member of the Armed Services Committee was forced to negotiate against the House's much lower top line for defense spending from a much weaker position.

The same is true for Defense appropriations and Vice Chair COLLINS' efforts.

As Ranking Member WICKER has pointed out repeatedly, we have got a lot of work to do to repair America's military and rebuild our defense industrial base, and finishing urgent business in December certainly is no cause for celebration. It will be just the end of an utterly avoidable delay.

#### JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Madam President, now, on another matter, just before Thanksgiving, the Senate reached a deal on judicial nominees. Republicans would forego our available procedural roadblocks on nominations for district courts, which had the votes to be confirmed. In exchange, the Democratic leader wouldn't bring any of the remaining nominations to circuit courts to the floor because they don't have the votes to be confirmed.

As a result, President Biden is getting around a dozen more district judges, and the next President will get four more circuits to fill. At least, I expect he will.

We have already seen two partisan Democrat district judges "unretire" after the American people voted to fire Democrats last month. This is noteworthy. Looking to our history, only two judges have ever—ever—unretired after a Presidential election, one Democrat in 2004 and one Republican in 2009.

But now, in just a matter of weeks, Democrats have already met that all-time record. It is hard to conclude that this is anything other than open partisanship. They rolled the dice that a Democrat could replace them, and now he won't. They are changing their plans to keep a Republican from doing it.

It is a brazen admission, and the incoming administration would be wise to explore all available recusal options with these judges because it is clear now that they have a political finger on the scale. This sort of partisan behavior undermines the integrity of the judiciary. It exposes bold Democratic blue where there should only be black robes.

But it would be especially alarming if either of the two circuit judges whose announced retirements created these vacancies currently pending before the Senate—in Tennessee and in North Carolina—were actually to follow suit. Never—never before—has a circuit judge unretired after a Presidential election. It is literally unprecedented, and to create such precedent would fly in the face of a rare bipartisan compromise on the disposition of these vacancies.

It was no surprise to hear the New York Times bemoan the deal, but its

editorial didn't doubt that these vacancies now properly belong to the next President.

To borrow from President Obama, "elections have consequences." But these consequences are for the political branches of government. For sitting judges to change their announced retirement plans because of the Presidential election results or the Senate Executive Calendar puts them three ZIP Codes away from their proper judicial role.

If these circuit judges unretire because they don't like who won the election, I can only assume they will face significant, significant ethics complaints based on canons 2 and 5 of the Code of Conduct for U.S. Judges, followed by serial recusal demands from the Department of Justice. And they will have earned it. As I have repeatedly warned the judiciary in other matters, if you play political games, expect political prizes.

So let's hope these judges do the right thing and enjoy their well-earned retirements and leave the politics to the political branches.

We have just demonstrated that, even on an issue as contentious as judicial nominations, both sides can still come together for a good deal.

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

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, as chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, the filling of judicial vacancies has been the focal point of my political attention now for 4 years. There are roughly 800 to 900 Federal judges at the district court level—the lower court level—and the circuit court level and then, of course, 9 on the Supreme Court.

Filling those vacancies is part of our responsibility. People decide to retire, they pass away, for various reasons they leave the bench, and we need to make sure the courts still have people to do their professional job.

I listened carefully to my colleague from Kentucky explain his concerns about the filling of four circuit court vacancies and the possibility—and I don't know with any certainty, but the possibility—that two of those four judges have decided not to retire but to stay on the bench, and he raises a question about whether that is fair.

Well, I would like to call the Senate's attention to the fact that there was a moment in time when we were shocked to learn that Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia had died while on a hunting trip. I believe it was in the month of January or February. I don't have notes on it here, but I believe it was January or February of that year, and it was the last year of President Obama's Presidency, in his second term. And so the President—President Obama—said he was going to set out to fill the vacancy created by the death of Antonin Scalia. And he was proposing his nominee, Merrick Garland, a judge at the time who is now our Attorney General.

And the decision was made, almost instantly, by the Senator from Kentucky—the same Senator who just talked about delaying in filling vacancies—the decision was made by him not to fill the Supreme Court vacancy. This was in February of the last year of Obama's Presidency. And, in fact, it wasn't filled until the new President—in this case, Donald Trump—came in, in his first term.

Senator MCCONNELL instructed his Republican Senators not to meet with Merrick Garland, President Obama's nominee, to wait almost an entire calendar year to fill that vacancy; and he succeeded in that effort, so that Donald Trump was able to fill that vacancy and not the situation where President Obama would have that option.

So when I hear the Senator from Kentucky come to the floor and talk about whether there is any gamesmanship going on, I don't know, but I will tell you we saw it at the highest possible level in filling the vacancy in the Supreme Court when Antonin Scalia passed away.

I think what the American people are looking for is fair play. That is not unreasonable. And they are looking for qualified nominees. I am happy to report that well over 50 percent of the nominees that have gone through under the Biden administration for the Federal courts have been bipartisan—it is 86 percent, a dramatic majority that have been bipartisan.

And every single Federal nominee from President Biden has been judged "well qualified" or better by the American Bar Association. That was not the case under the previous administration of President Trump, and it makes a difference whether a person has a quality background and the integrity to serve on the court.

So I am proud of what we have achieved, and I hope we can close the year with the understanding that even more will be filling the vacancies on the bench.

#### FOR-PROFIT COLLEGES

Madam President, my major reason for coming to the floor, in addition to that important topic, is to discuss an issue which I have been bringing to the attention of the Senate for some time: predatory higher education schools that are deceiving and swindling students and burying them in mountains of debt.

Many of the students in high school, looking for a college, don't realize that there are several different categories of schools that are available. Some of their families have never had a college experience. For the young people, it is the first one in the family to try it. And they are deluged with all sorts of brochures and advertising for schools.

The ones who send the most advertising and even show up on television and other places are the for-profit schools. These are schools that are not public and private universities, not-for-profit operations. They are for profit.

They are called for-profit, and they enroll 8 percent of all American college students.

Remember that number: 8 percent of American college students go to for-profit schools.

They account for—those 8 percent account for—30 percent of all Federal student loan defaults, almost four times the number of defaults as the average college student. Why would those students going to for-profit colleges and universities default on their student loans at such a dramatically higher rate than the average college student? They do because they are getting worthless diplomas from too many worthless schools.

Let me tell you the story of one constituent of mine and what happened to her. Jaclyn is from Carlyle, IL, a small town down in Southern Illinois, and she was lured into attending a now-defunct for-profit college known as Brooks Institute. It really has changed her life, what happened to her next.

She dreamed of being a photographer; that was her goal. She thought someday she could work for the Smithsonian Institution, which is just outside our doorway. So she applied to college, and she carefully laid out the pros and cons of attending each and every school.

On her list was Brooks Institute in Santa Barbara, CA, and it sounded like a perfect fit. Brooks sent her dozens of beautiful, glossy brochures with lists of its partner employers. It boasted about its 10 percent acceptance rate at its school and its career services department that placed 89 percent of graduates.

There was one thing that held Jaclyn back, the pricetag: \$50,000 for Brooks Institute in Santa Barbara, CA, to teach her how to be a professional photographer.

She called and discussed it with the counselors at the school. The admissions office reassured her that Brooks graduates earned a starting salary of \$50,000, that salaries actually went up from there, and that Jaclyn easily would be able to pay off her loans within just a few years.

Well, she was convinced. She signed up. She soon learned that Brooks Institute of California was spewing lie after lie. Brooks inflated their graduation rates, exaggerated their job placement rates and starting salaries, and had no connections to the employers listed in the brochures. It was a classic case of bait and switch. The cost of Brooks also was significantly higher than \$50,000.

After taking out Federal and private student loans and watching those loans pile up, Jaclyn threw in the towel. She was no longer able to afford attending Brooks Institute. She dropped out with no degree and thousands of dollars in debt.

She tried to make the best of a bad situation. So she took her 90 credit hours from Brooks to other places. She ran into the same reaction wherever

she went. Too many students who have gone to for-profit colleges don't realize that the credit hours that they supposedly earned are virtually worthless. Reputable public and private nonprofit colleges just wouldn't even recognize that she had gone to school there. To complete her degree, despite her debt and all the time she invested, she had to start over.

Jaclyn's story is not uncommon. Her husband Matthew also was conned by this school. Too many for-profit colleges prey on students, spinning a false story to get them to enroll, and then leaving them with debt, useless credits, and wasted time.

The bottom line: Don't blame Jaclyn. She went to Brooks Institute believing it was a good school. They told her lie after lie to convince her of that.

And, meanwhile, she is looking around realizing that a Federal Pell grant might be in her future too.

Well, wait a minute. If the Federal Government recognizes Brooks Institute, maybe everything they are saying is true. And too many young people with no experience with colleges just make the wrong decision. She was one of them.

Now, Jaclyn and her husband Matthew cannot qualify for ordinary loans that people turn to as they mature: a mortgage on a home, a car loan. Matthew's wages were garnished to pay back these loans to Brooks Institute, and they were forced to close their photography business and sell all their equipment, removing a second stream of income.

The last chance of hope was to apply for something known as borrower defense through the U.S. Department of Education. The Biden administration has worked to discharge student loans through borrower defense for people like Jaclyn and Matthew who were defrauded by predatory for-profit colleges.

Under the Biden administration, the Department has discharged thousands of students' loans—more than \$18.7 billion in loans—for borrowers who attended some of the worst for-profit colleges, such as Corinthian Colleges, ITT Technical Institute, and Westwood College.

Madam President, I am sure you can say this as well: We know the names of these schools. We have run into students who have been defrauded by them.

Many of these borrowers have not seen their loans discharged. It is critical that the Biden administration, in the closing 7 weeks, discharge these loans as quickly as possible, as well as issue and process group borrower defense discharges for students who attended schools with documented fraud, like Brooks Institute. And in the remaining days, the Department must continue to process individual borrower defense applications. This would bring real relief for borrowers like Jaclyn and Matthew.

Why is issuing and processing borrower defense discharges so urgent?

Let me tell you. When President Trump was going through his first term, his Education Secretary, whose name was Betsy DeVos, all but stopped borrower defense applications for years. She called it a "free money" giveaway, and claims that were processed sometimes saw no relief actually granted.

Once the courts finally forced DeVos and the Trump administration in its first term to process borrowed defense applications, the Secretary created a factory system for denials.

Department employees who quickly processed applications that were hundreds of pages long were eligible for bonuses, while employees who took their time to read the application were at risk of being fired.

In Betsy DeVos's final year, the Department of Education rejected 130,000 claims—a far cry from the only 9,000 claims rejected over the previous 5 years.

In contrast, the Biden administration prioritized the most vulnerable student borrowers by processing applications and issuing group discharges for borrowers ripped off by the worst schools.

History shows us that a second Trump administration is likely to do everything in its power to prevent these students from receiving relief again. But our Nation's students—who are simply trying to better their lives—deserve better.

Before the next President is sworn into office, let's make sure the borrowers who have been waiting for justice relief and students who have been waiting for justice receive it.

I met so many of these students. They were trying to do the right thing. Their whole lives they were told: Go to college and prove yourself. Get a better education. You are going to make more money in life and be happier in the outcome.

They sign up for these for-profit schools, and they don't understand they are rip-offs, start to finish. They look around, and they see all these Federal programs investing in the school and think that this must be a real college; I am going to act like it is.

It turns out, years later, deeply in debt, either with a worthless diploma or dropping out, they have so much debt that their lives are virtually ruined. Young people in their thirties are living in mom and dad's basement because there is nowhere to go with all the debt they are trying to pay off. This is outrageous. These schools should have been policed a lot more over the years. I will say that.

In the meantime, we are in a situation where these students, deeply in debt for these terrible schools, have no place to turn but this borrower defense. I am urging the Biden administration, in the closing hours of their administration, the last 7 weeks, to come to the rescue of these students as quickly as possible.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### FARM BILL

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam President, our farmers are hurting. Increased input costs, high interest rates, and depressed commodity prices have created dark conditions in rural America. Farmers, lenders, and community leaders in all regions of the country are saying the same thing: Farmers desperately need help.

When you look at the numbers, it is clear, the pain our farm families are living through. As of the end of November, row crop farmers nationwide are projected to lose more than \$29 billion, corn growers will lose more than \$11 billion, soybean producers will lose \$5.7 billion, and wheat farmers will lose more than \$5 billion. The numbers aren't better for other commodities. Cotton, sorghum, rice, and peanut producers are ending 2024 with projected average losses of over \$200 per acre.

The reality behind these losses is even more worrisome. For some producers, this is the second or third consecutive year of negative cashflow. This means many farm families are ending 2024 in the red: unable to pay off this year's operating loan, unable to get the loan to farm in 2025, and facing the reality of being the generation to have lost the family farm due to extreme market conditions beyond their control. One Arkansas farmer recently shared that he had the best crop yield of his career, but he is still underwater because commodity prices are well below the cost of production. Even for producers who haven't seen severe losses in 2024, the concern for 2025 continues to escalate as margins are forecasted to remain poor.

In the last few months, there has been a significant shift in the spirit of our farmers. After years of unprecedented challenges, they are discouraged and pleading for stronger tools to help survive these conditions.

Farm groups are sounding the alarm. The American Farm Bureau says there are clear economic warning signs of need in rural America. Agricultural Council of Arkansas President Nathan Reed described the conditions that Natural State farmers are facing as "virtually impossible to net anything but a significant loss regardless of crop, yield or safety net coverage."

The severity of these losses has left many producers questioning if they have a future in farming. Established farmers are hesitant to risk what little equity remains, while young and beginning farmers don't have the capital necessary to survive these conditions.

The Southwest Council of Agribusiness expressed concerns about the

full-time farm and ranch families unable to continue and the consequences that would result with these farms being "lost or forced into consolidation."

The USDA has acknowledged the hardships some producers are experiencing as a result of natural disasters, but it is not enough. Federal assistance must support agriculture producers facing market losses, and it needs to happen quickly. Producers need an efficient mechanism to provide 2024 economic assistance and certainty for 2025 through an improved farm safety net.

It is an understanding that is gaining support on both sides of the Capitol. In an Appropriations Committee hearing last month, Senator HYDE-SMITH called for the robust and swift delivery of emergency assistance to agriculture producers because of adverse market conditions. I appreciate the leadership of House Agriculture Committee Chairman GT THOMPSON and Congressman TRENT KELLY for recognizing the urgent need and proposing a solution.

Congress should provide significant economic assistance to producers before the end of the year. We need to provide producers with the certainty and the predictability to be able to go to the bank and have confidence that help is on the way so that they can continue farming.

In recent meetings with members of the Texas Farm Bureau, the Midwest Council on Agriculture, USA Rice, and the Arkansas Farm Bureau, who have been growing food and fiber for generations, they are worried about what the banker will say when they go to get credit for the 2025 crop year and what that means to their future in the industry. If Congress does not act appropriately, I worry many of these producers may not be around next year.

Agriculture is an important part of our country's heritage and our economy. Our producers grow an abundant and affordable supply of food and fiber. They must have the tools they need to manage this extremely difficult market. We must help our farmers recover from the sizable losses they realized in 2024 and give them certainty for 2025. This assistance is crucial to the viability of agriculture in the United States.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Texas.

#### BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, the Senate is obviously back from the Thanksgiving recess, and I know we all enjoyed a little bit of time at home with our friends and families, but here we are, back with 18 days until the funding for the Federal Government runs out, and we certainly have our work cut out for us.

Of course, I expect this sort of drama to end next year when we have new management, both in a new President as well as in the Senate and House majorities, because, frankly, the way that the majority leader here in the Senate has managed to cram all of this unfin-

ished business into the last 18 days is by design, and it does not serve the best interests either of the Senate or of the American people. This cannot be and will not be the new normal.

Before we recess for Christmas, we must extend the farm bill, and you have just heard from the ranking member and soon-to-be chairman of the Agriculture Committee on that issue; we need to pass a National Defense Authorization Act bill—something we have done 63 years in a row; and, as I mentioned a moment ago, we need to keep the lights on, as the U.S. Government runs out of money in 18 days. All of these are entirely preventable, and we find ourselves in this uncomfortable and embarrassing situation purely by design.

Starting with the farm bill, unfortunately, the partisan proposal released last month by the chair of the Agriculture Committee last month is not what we need in a new farm bill. I guess, rather than actually do the hard work of sitting down and trying to negotiate a bipartisan farm bill, the soon-to-be-departing chairman of the Agriculture Committee, the Senator from Michigan, just decided to lay down a partisan farm bill and blame Republicans for not capitulating, even when she refused to negotiate a bipartisan outcome.

I am grateful to the ranking member and, again, soon-to-be chairman, Senator BOOZMAN from Arkansas, for continuing to press for a fair, effective farm bill that is actually focused on the American people and farmers and not enshrining a liberal wish list on their way out the door, as our Democratic colleagues seem determined to try to do.

As Senator BOOZMAN likes to say, "We need to put the farm back in the farm bill," which are true words. Only about 20 percent of the farm bill actually benefits farmers. The rest of it is nutrition programs and other mandatory spending that is part of this alliance between urban and rural interests, and that has produced, frankly, an unworkable process where farmers and our agriculture producers are harmed by the fact that so little of the attention and so little of the policies are actually directed at them and their ability to put food on our tables.

Texas is home to more than 230,000 farms and ranches—more than any other State in the country. One out of every 7 Texans is in an ag-related job—that is, 1 out of every 7 of 30 million people is in an ag-related job in Texas.

Of course, the farm bill is important for all of the reasons you just heard but primarily because it provides safety net programs and funding for things like crop insurance. Farming is hard work. You are also dependent on Mother Nature, and sometimes Mother Nature can be pretty cruel through droughts, hurricanes, and all sorts of weather conditions that make it impossible to produce a crop. Of course, these are essential lifelines to countless producers. Our ag producers have

to borrow the money, by and large, to plant their seed, to plant their crops, to harvest it, and then to sell it in order to pay the bank back for the money they just borrowed. So if they don't have a crop because they have bad weather or a hurricane or a drought, they don't have the capability to keep going. And fewer and fewer of our younger farmers in particular are able to sustain this very, very difficult and challenging life given the exigencies that exist.

This farm bill is critical to managing the considerable risks associated with this critical industry. A strong and on-time farm bill is essential to the health and well-being of the agriculture industry and to the American people and to our economy, and, as I indicated earlier, it is absolutely imperative for Texas.

Now, how did we find ourselves without passing a farm bill on a timely basis with basically 3 weeks left to go? We know the farm bill comes up every 5 years, so there is no surprise. It is our duty to get it done on a timely basis, as soon as possible, but the 2018 farm bill has already been extended once, and it hasn't been updated to current conditions—frankly, because it hasn't been a priority for the majority leader. Partisan proposals and a complete lack of interest from the majority leader have made this process to pass a new farm bill an insult to the hard-working farmers and ranchers in my State and around the country.

But, of course, the farm bill isn't the only last-minute task we have hanging over our heads. We need to pass the National Defense Authorization Act. Again, this is not a surprise. We need to do this every year. And now, of all times, is not the time to delay this critical legislation, because we are experiencing the most dangerous world since World War II. We are living in one of the most dangerous eras in the last 70 years. China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea are working in concert to undermine the West and the United States in particular. This National Defense Authorization bill, which we need to take up and pass each year, is designed to ensure that our military has what it needs in order to achieve its missions of today and rise to the challenges of tomorrow. Now is not the time to play hooky on our national defense obligations.

Furthermore, this legislation is typically the vehicle we use to ensure that our servicemembers and their families and our All-Volunteer military are adequately provided for. In Texas alone, there are roughly 225,000 servicemembers stationed in places like Fort Cavazos, Fort Bliss, and Joint Base San Antonio, just to name a few.

The National Defense Authorization Act was completed by the Armed Services Committee in July—more than 4 months ago—so what are we doing here, 3 weeks before Christmas, having to jam this through somehow, some way, without full debate and amend-

ment and deliberation? Well, it is purely by design because it obviously was not a top priority for the majority leader or he would have put this on the floor months ago rather than leave it as one of the last things we need to do.

Nevertheless, Chairman REED of the Armed Services Committee, Ranking Member WICKER, and all of our colleagues on the committee have done yeoman's work to put this bill in a shape to consider on the floor, but the majority leader has, by design, made sure that we are unable to do that in a way that will allow all 100 Senators to participate in the process.

Again, this is the most important thing we have to do to protect the safety and security of the American people, and this bill would go a long way to modernize America's defense and establish deterrence, which is just another way of saying to keep the peace.

We have passed the NDAA for 63 years in a row, and it is among the most important jobs we have to do. If we don't get it done by the end of the year, Senator SCHUMER's legacy as majority leader will be that he broke the 63-year tradition of supporting our military and maintaining peace through strength.

Finally, as I started out by saying, the last thing on our list before we head out for Christmas is government funding. The annual appropriations process is designed to move through the Appropriations Committees, which it has on a bipartisan basis, and then to reconcile the differences between the House version and the Senate version and get them on the President's desk by the end of September—that was last September. But when that doesn't happen, then we end up passing continuing resolutions, which means we tread water until we can get around to doing something we should have done many months ago.

Senator COLLINS, Senator MURRAY, and everyone on the Appropriations Committee did their job by passing all 12 appropriations bills months ago. Senator SCHUMER could have—but didn't—scheduled these for floor votes months ago. Instead, he chose to leave it for the last 3 weeks, along with everything else we need to do.

National security seems to not be a priority. We should have finished all of this work a long time ago and certainly with plenty of time before Christmas. But what did we do instead? Well, when we were actually here voting, we had show votes. What I mean by a "show vote" is a vote that has no real merit, that he knows is not going to pass, which is purely designed to try to embarrass other Members of the Senate and maybe create a narrative that could be used in the election.

Senator SCHUMER held a series of partisan messaging votes leading up to the election, which he knew would never pass. They were designed to solely force Republican Senators to take votes on bogus bills to gain some sort of perceived political messaging advan-

tage. It mattered little to the majority leader that the premise of these votes was false to begin with.

We had votes on issues like in vitro fertilization access, which wasn't at risk in the first place. Then, Senator SCHUMER held votes on a tax package that had not gone through the appropriate committee of jurisdiction—the Finance Committee that I sit on—as well as a border bill that did not go through the Judiciary Committee. It hadn't even been considered, neither one, by the Senate committees of jurisdiction, which means, in other words, that they were not ready for prime time. Not one of these votes had input from the broader Senate, nor were they intended to be any sort of good-faith effort to actually solve a problem.

The week before Thanksgiving, after the entire monthlong recess in October, Senator SCHUMER kept us here late at night, burning the midnight oil, but none of these votes tackled any of the mountain of work that I have just described.

We were not here voting late—as I know we would be happy to do—to advance the farm bill or the Defense Authorization Act, if absolutely necessary, or funding to keep the government open. But instead we were here to confirm partisan nominees to the judicial branch during a lameduck session of the Congress.

If you look at the details of some of these judges' backgrounds, it is an embarrassment that they were ever able to receive a majority of votes in the U.S. Senate.

One of them, a Judge Kasubhai, has a habit of praising Ibram X. Kendi as an "amazing historian and author." Ibram X. Kendi, of course, has equated capitalism with racism.

Then there is Judge Sooknanan, who served as a board member for a group that vehemently opposed sending police officers to schools in order to prevent school shootings and to maintain safety.

Is this really what the U.S. Senate should be spending its time on when Texas farmers and our servicemembers have their livelihoods in jeopardy because of an unpassed defense authorization act and a farm bill?

Of course, thanks to several of our colleagues, we were able to finally secure an agreement to prevent some of the most egregious of these judges from lifetime appointments to the Federal bench. Those will be filled by President Trump starting next year.

But if this abuse of Senate floor time to confirm unqualified nominees to the Federal bench was not enough, now we awoke to the news that President Biden has shamelessly decided, in the final weeks of his Presidency, to do something he said he would not do, which is to pardon his son, Hunter, for corrupt business practices and criminal activities.

After months—months—of the President, his Press Secretary, and others in the administration telling the public

that, of course, he wouldn't do this, he simply went back on his word. This is blatant corruption and an abuse of the office and a blatant example of President Biden continuing to mislead and lie to the American people.

Justice means nothing if it is not applied evenhandedly. The notion that someone could be above the law simply because his father happens to be President is an affront to law-abiding citizens. It is a terrible example because without any accountability for people breaking the law—getting a pass, in other words—there is no deterrent effect or no accountability that teaches our young people and others that, yes, you need to follow the law and, yes, there are consequences if you don't.

It is, frankly, absurd and contrary to all available facts for President Biden to claim that his son was "selectively and unfairly prosecuted," especially after a sweetheart deal that was almost struck in his favor. But for the timely and pointed questions of the judge who was asked to pass on a plea deal that ultimately blew up, they would have gotten away with it. And there wouldn't have been any pardon because there wouldn't have been any conviction.

No, Hunter Biden was rightfully prosecuted for committing crimes and breaking the law. It is unfair and selective for this President to single out his son for a pardon, and it sets a horrible example for future administrations. So any future administration could simply point back to this and say: Well, apparently, it is OK for the President to do whatever the President wants to do without regard to the law or the message it sends to the Nation or nations around the world.

We need to restore respect for the rule of law within the Department of Justice and the FBI and confirm more qualified judges to our courts. But I must say that I am disappointed and dismayed that Senator SCHUMER continues to lecture Republicans about the importance of bipartisanship, which he does on a regular basis, while he, himself, is engaged in a partisan show of procrastination.

The people of Texas and of America, for that matter, deserve better.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

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

The motion was agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

##### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 842.

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

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Anthony J. Brindisi, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of New York.

##### CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The senior assistant bill clerk read as follows:

##### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 842, Anthony J. Brindisi, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of New York.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Tammy Duckworth, Ben Ray Lujan, Patty Murray, Alex Padilla, Peter Welch, Jeff Merkley, Richard Blumenthal, Amy Klobuchar, Christopher A. Coons, Debbie Stabenow, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Elizabeth Warren, Margaret Wood Hassan, Jack Reed, Tim Kaine.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

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

The motion was agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

##### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 843.

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

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Elizabeth C. Coombe, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of New York.

##### CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The senior assistant bill clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 843, Elizabeth C. Coombe, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of New York.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Tammy Duckworth, Ben Ray Lujan, Patty Murray, Alex Padilla, Peter Welch, Richard Blumenthal, Amy Klobuchar, Christopher A. Coons, Debbie Stabenow, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Elizabeth Warren, Margaret Wood Hassan, Jack Reed, Tim Kaine.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

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

The motion was agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

##### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 844.

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

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Sarah Morgan Davenport, of New Mexico, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Mexico.

##### CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The senior assistant bill clerk read as follows:

##### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 844, Sarah Morgan Davenport, of New Mexico, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Mexico.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Tammy Duckworth, Ben Ray Lujan, Patty Murray, Alex Padilla, Peter Welch, Jeff Merkley, Richard Blumenthal, Amy Klobuchar, Christopher A. Coons, Debbie Stabenow, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Elizabeth Warren, Margaret Wood Hassan, Jack Reed, Tim Kaine.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

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

The motion was agreed to.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 845.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Tiffany Rene Johnson, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia.

## CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The senior assistant bill clerk read as follows:

## CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 845, Tiffany Rene Johnson, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Tammy Duckworth, Ben Ray Lujan, Patty Murray, Alex Padilla, Peter Welch, Jeff Merkley, Richard Blumenthal, Amy Klobuchar, Christopher A. Coons, Debbie Stabenow, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Elizabeth Warren, Margaret Wood Hassan, Jack Reed, Tim Kaine.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

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

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 846.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Keli Marie Neary, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania.

## CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The senior assistant bill clerk read as follows:

## CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the

Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 846, Keli Marie Neary, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Tammy Duckworth, Ben Ray Lujan, Patty Murray, Alex Padilla, Peter Welch, Jeff Merkley, Richard Blumenthal, Amy Klobuchar, Christopher A. Coons, Debbie Stabenow, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Elizabeth Warren, Margaret Wood Hassan, Jack Reed, Tim Kaine.

Mr. SCHUMER. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

## SOCIAL SECURITY FAIRNESS ACT

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam President, before the Thanksgiving holiday, my colleagues—we—voted late into the night. And I have no problem with that if we are voting on meaningful legislation. But that is not what we have been doing. We are voting on last-minute, lameduck Biden-Harris judicial nominees.

But we have serious legislation for millions of Americans that the House overwhelmingly passed in mid-November, sent to the Senate, and it is waiting for a vote.

I am speaking of the Social Security Fairness Act, which repeals the Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset—WEP and GPO. This is something which affects my State of Louisiana and affects the President of the Senate's State of California. We are particularly affected, but so are others—Texas and Illinois, Massachusetts, Maine, New York, New Jersey—I could go down the list—both blue States and red States.

It recognizes, first, that Social Security is a sacred trust between generations; a promise to workers that when they retire, they will not live in poverty. But right now, Social Security's future is in danger. According to the people who run this program, if Social Security does nothing, the Social Security trust fund would be busted in 9 years—flat bankrupt.

And then there will be an automatic 20- to 24-percent cut in benefits for everyone receiving Social Security and for those who will receive it in the future. Someone once said: Well, won't I be grandfathered in?

And she was a female, so I said: I think you mean "grandmothered" in, but it doesn't matter. No, if you are already on Social Security, you get a 24-percent cut.

So I will state here, we must save, strengthen, and secure Social Security. And I am pleased to say there is a plan to do so.

But one thing, what we cannot do as we work to save Social Security is perpetuate an unfairness, an unjustness—an unjustness that began decades ago. This unfairness targets people who have dedicated their lives to serving communities on the State and local level, such as first responders and teachers.

So, today, we can take a step toward that fairness. We can repeal two unfair Social Security provisions with the Social Security Fairness Act if the majority leader schedules a vote. WEP and GPO penalize families—and I have already mentioned particularly in States like Louisiana, California, Maine, Texas—who have worked a public service job for part of their career with a separate pension from Social Security.

We are talking about first responders, the police officers, the firefighters but also the teachers and other public employees who are being punished for serving their communities.

How did we get here? WEP and GPO were introduced decades ago to address perceived inequalities in the Social Security system, but they have had the opposite effect of creating real, tangible inequalities.

When my firefighters, police officers, and teachers in Louisiana have a second job or second career or get married, they are being unfairly punished, receiving far less from Social Security than if they had never worked in public service at all, and that is not right.

WEP reduces the earned Social Security benefits of individuals who also receive a pension from a non-Social Security government job. This has resulted in thousands who have paid into the system during their careers receiving a significantly reduced Social Security benefit when they retire.

GPO reduces earned Social Security spousal or survivor benefits for individuals who also receive a government pension.

This provision can reduce or even eliminate the Social Security benefits that a spouse or widow might have expected and relied upon. Public servant spouses would receive more than if they had never worked at all. Let me repeat that. If you have a teacher married to someone who has a great job, he dies, she doesn't receive but a fraction of the Social Security benefit that she would have received from her husband's Social Security benefit.

As a guy who used to work in a hospital for the uninsured run by the State, I worked a lot with nurses, I consistently hear from the people I worked with and from constituents that they feel like they are being punished for serving community, and that is in Louisiana, but it is for public servants across the country who feel the exact same way.

WEP and GPO affect Americans in every single State, and there is no excuse to treat our public servants this way. It should never have become law, but we have an opportunity to fix it. In mid-November, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Social Security Fairness Act. As a longtime original cosponsor of the Senate version, I have been waiting to proudly vote yes and finally repeal WEP and GPO.

Instead, day after day, Senate Democrats have focused their attention on ramming through partisan nominees rather than passing serious legislation.

And if it sounds like I am frustrated, I am. We owe it to every public servant who has taught our kids, protected our streets, run into a burning building, and more to pass this bill.

The time for theater is through. It is time to get serious and vote on legislation that matters. I am ready to vote yes on the Social Security Fairness Act and repeal WEP and GPO for people in Louisiana and for Americans across the country.

So I call upon the majority leader to schedule a vote on the Social Security Fairness Act, and I urge colleagues to join in support of it.

I yield the floor.

NOMINATION OF ANNE HWANG

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Judge Anne Hwang to the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California.

Born in Los Angeles, CA, Judge Hwang attended Cornell University and the University of Southern California Law School before entering private practice at Irell & Manella LLP. While at the firm, she worked on business disputes and Federal white collar criminal cases.

Judge Hwang then joined the Office of the Federal Public Defender for the Central District of California, where she eventually became the district's chief deputy Federal public defender. In addition to trial work, she also represented indigent clients in appellate, habeas, and postconviction matters during this time.

In 2018, she was appointed to serve as a judge for the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles. In her time on the bench, she has presided over both criminal misdemeanor trials and personal injury cases. Judge Hwang has also issued hundreds of opinions in civil matters.

Judge Hwang's deep knowledge of the Central District of California and significant experience in the courtroom ensure that she will be an asset on the Federal bench. She is strongly supported by her home State Senators and will serve honorably as a Federal district judge.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, I would ask that the scheduled vote begin immediately.

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

VOTE ON HWANG NOMINATION

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

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

The result was announced—yeas 48, nays 43, as follows:

(Rollcall Vote No. 304 Ex.)

YEAS—48

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

NAYS—43

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

NOT VOTING—9

Cramer	King	Rubio
Fetterman	Murray	Sinema
Hoeven	Risch	Vance

The nomination was confirmed.

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

The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. KELLY. Mr. President, on behalf of the majority leader, I ask the Chair to execute the order of November 20 with respect to the Murphy nomination.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Brian Edward Murphy, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts.

NOMINATION OF BRIAN EDWARD MURPHY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Brian Edward Murphy to the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts.

Born in Columbia, MD, Mr. Murphy earned his B.A. from the College of the Holy Cross in 2002 and his J.D. from Columbia Law School in 2006.

After graduating from law school, Mr. Murphy joined the Committee for Public Counsel Services as a public defender in the district court division in 2006. He later served the office as a public defender in the superior court division between 2007 and 2009.

Following his time in public service, Mr. Murphy worked as an associate attorney at Todd and Weld LLP from 2009 to 2011. There, his practice centered exclusively on criminal defense work in State and Federal courts. In 2011, Mr. Murphy opened his own practice known today as Murphy & Rudolph LLP. His practice centers on criminal defense, civil, and probate work. He also provides representation to indigent defendants through Criminal Justice Act appointments.

Throughout his career, Mr. Murphy has tried 41 cases to verdict as either sole or chief counsel. Additionally, he has briefed 14 cases in the appeals courts and presented oral argument in seven of those matters.

The American Bar Association unanimously rated Mr. Murphy as "well qualified," and he has the strong support of his home State Senators, Ms. Warren and Mr. Markey.

The extensive litigation experience Mr. Murphy gained while serving as a public defender and as a criminal defense attorney in private practice has equipped him with the requisite skillset to join the Federal bench in Massachusetts.

I am proud to support his nomination.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I rise in support of the nomination of Brian Murphy to serve as a judge on the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts.

Brian Murphy started his legal career as a public defender in Worcester, MA. In that role, he stood on the frontline in the fight for justice. He devoted his practice of law to ensuring that those who could not afford a lawyer—people whose very lives and liberties were at stake—received the legal representation and defense that our Constitution guarantees. In that role, Mr. Murphy gained critical courtroom and trial experience and perspective on how our system of justice operates and impacts the lives of those involved in it.

After serving as a public defender, Mr. Murphy continued to represent criminal defendants in private practice, eventually starting his own law

firm, where he also gained valuable experience on the civil side of the docket.

Mr. Murphy has also held leadership positions in the criminal defense and local bars. He has served as president of the Massachusetts chapter of the Federal Bar Association and served on the board of the Massachusetts Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. And he has served as a supervisor for the Bar Advocates of Worcester County, a private nonprofit providing legal representation to indigent clients charged with crimes.

Brian Murphy has an impressive academic background, as well. He is a graduate of Columbia Law School and Worcester's own College of the Holy Cross.

In law school, he showed academic prowess and an early passion for justice, serving as editor-in-chief of the Columbia Human Rights Law Review.

Having lived and worked in Massachusetts throughout his entire legal career, Brian Murphy understands our State and the importance we place on ensuring justice for all.

It is therefore not surprising that Mr. Murphy has received strong support from the Massachusetts legal community. A group of former assistant U.S. attorneys in Massachusetts—his courtroom opponents—wrote to the Senate Judiciary Committee that they “unreservedly” supported his nomination. They described him as thoughtful, intelligent, and compassionate and committed to justice, his clients, and the court system.

I agree with his former colleagues who told the Judiciary Committee that Brian Murphy's educational background, life experience, and temperament qualify him to be an outstanding Federal district judge.

Senator WARREN—who has been an outstanding partner on Massachusetts judicial nominations—and I are proud to have recommended Brian Murphy's nomination to President Biden. Brian Murphy's confirmation will add to President Biden's legacy of placing on our courts only well-qualified jurists from diverse professional backgrounds, who are committed to justice for all.

I urge my colleagues to vote yea on Brian Murphy's confirmation.

#### VOTE ON MURPHY NOMINATION

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator

from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

The result was announced—yeas 47, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 305 Ex.]

#### YEAS—47

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

#### NAYS—45

Barrasso	Fischer	Mullin
Blackburn	Graham	Murkowski
Boozman	Grassley	Paul
Braun	Hagerty	Ricketts
Britt	Hawley	Romney
Budd	Hoeven	Rounds
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Collins	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Lankford	Sullivan
Cotton	Lee	Thune
Crapo	Lummis	Tillis
Cruz	Marshall	Tuberville
Daines	McConnell	Wicker
Ernst	Moran	Young

#### NOT VOTING—8

Cramer	Manchin	Sinema
Fetterman	Risch	Vance
King	Rubio	

The nomination was confirmed.

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider with respect to the Murphy nomination be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nominations en bloc: Calendar Nos. 815 and 827; that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc without intervening action or debate; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Shall the Senate advise and consent to Calendar Nos. 815 and 827 en bloc?

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

#### IN THE ARMY

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

*To be lieutenant general*

Maj. Gen. Allan M. Pepin

#### IN THE ARMY

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

*To be general*

Lt. Gen. Christopher T. Donahue

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

#### TRIBUTE TO MIKAYLA HULVEY

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam President, I rise today to honor Mikayla Hulvey, an outstanding young Arkansan who has earned the Civil Air Patrol's (CAP) prestigious General Carl A. Spaatz award.

Mikayla is currently a CAP cadet with the 115th Composite Squadron in Rogers, and she plans to join the U.S. Marine Corps as a pilot in the coming years.

The Spaatz award is the highest honor a cadet can receive. It requires rigorous testing, both academic and physical, where candidates demonstrate their aptitude in leadership, fitness, aerospace knowledge, and character. In winning this award, Mikayla has distinguished herself as a remarkable young woman with a bright future ahead.

During her time as a cadet, Mikayla's unwavering drive has helped her rise through the ranks of flight sergeant, deputy commander, and cadet commander in her squadron.

Outside of her time with the Civil Air Patrol, Mikayla prioritizes academics while being a devoted member of her community. She is an Honors Society member who has served as a student body representative and participates in multiple sports including archery, cross country, and track. She also volunteers at her local church as the children's church assistant and drama team participant, in addition to being a dedicated martial arts student who serves as an assistant instructor in Tae Kwon Do.

Mikayla is an exceptional young person who embodies the ideal qualities of our men and women in uniform, and I am confident she will serve our Nation well in the future.

She is certainly deserving of this distinguished award. I congratulate Mikayla and wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors. ●

RECOGNIZING VANDER HAAG'S,  
INC.

• Ms. ERNST. Madam President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize Vander Haag's, Inc., of Spencer, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

In 1939, John C. Vander Haag, Sr., founded South Side Junkyard in Sanborn, IA. It was initially created as a scrap metal business to support the wartime effort. However, he noticed a growing demand for truck parts throughout World War II and transformed the business into a trusted supplier of recycled truck parts. In 1955, his son John C. Vander Haag, Jr., took over and expanded the company's services and community footprint. In 1969, South Side Junkyard rebranded into Vander Haag's, Inc. They relocated its headquarters to Spencer, IA, to enhance repair services and provide an opportunity to better supply truck parts throughout the State. The company evolved into a multifunctional business, focused on customer service and community support.

Today, John M. Vander Haag, the founder's grandson, serves as the president of the company. Over three generations, Vander Haag's has grown into a full-service provider of new and used truck parts, offering services from truck repairs and equipment sales to installation and truck and trailer sales. With 11 locations and a team of over 350 people across the Midwest and Texas, Vander Haag's is recognized as a national leader in the trucking industry.

Through its products, services, and philanthropy, Vander Haag's is deeply involved in its communities. The business sponsors the Career and Technical Academy, which trains people for various job opportunities. The team also supports Woodworking with a Purpose, which has provided over 2,000 desks for schoolchildren since the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2024, Trucks, Parts, and Service recognized Vander Haag's as a Distributor of the Year finalist, marking the company's 3rd year receiving this honor.

In 1997, the Vander Haag family founded Yesterday's Memories & Truck Museum in Sanborn, showcasing antique cars, trucks, and everyday items from the past 80 years. The museum also offers space for nonprofits and other organizations to host events at little to no cost. The Vander Haag family also received the 2022 Beyond Expectations Award from the Iowa Area Development Group for its support in constructing 20 duplexes in Sanborn. Thanks to three generations of hard work, Vander Haag's will celebrate its 86th anniversary next year.

Vander Haag's commitment to high-quality service and customer satisfaction as a family-owned and operated

business is clear. I want to congratulate the Vander Haags and the entire team for their dedication to providing exceptional experiences to families in Iowa and across the country. I look forward to seeing their continued growth and success in Iowa.●

TRIBUTE TO BARRY DUVAL

• Mr. KAINE. Madam President, it is my honor to recognize the distinguished career of Barry DuVal, who is retiring as the president and CEO of the Virginia Chamber of Commerce after more than 14 years in the position. I offer these comments with the support of my colleague Senator MARK WARNER.

Born and raised in Virginia, Barry began his career in public service in 1988, when he was elected to the Newport News City Council. Two years later, he became mayor of the city at just 30 years old. As mayor, he launched the city's first residential recycling program and worked to diversify the city's local economy. Following his 6 years as mayor, Barry took the helm of the Hampton Roads Partnership, a regional organization focused on economic development for a region that was then home to 1.6 million Virginians.

In 1998, Barry was appointed as secretary of commerce and trade for the Commonwealth of Virginia by then-Governor Jim Gilmore. As secretary, he successfully worked to secure 1,500 economic development projects—representing more than 156,000 new jobs and \$13.7 billion in private investment.

Barry was tapped as the president and CEO of the Virginia Chamber of Commerce in 2010. At the time, the chamber had approximately 1,000 members. Today, it counts more than 33,000 members, a testament to Barry's leadership and impact.

During his tenure at the chamber, Barry oversaw the launch of Blueprint Virginia, a comprehensive business-led plan for long-term economic development. The Blueprint has become an institution in and of itself in Virginia, with the chamber presenting an updated Blueprint at the beginning of each of the last four Governorships. It provides valuable insights to business leaders and policymakers on the direction, challenges, and opportunities facing Virginia's economy.

Barry has become a trusted leader in Virginia whose counsel is heeded by both Republican and Democratic officials. He embodies the bipartisan spirit that helps ensure Virginia's economic development strategy progresses forward, regardless of the political composition of Richmond or Washington.

The results of Barry's work and collaboration with elected officials can be seen in the regular recognition of Virginia as one of the best States to do business in. During his tenure, CNBC has ranked Virginia as the "Top State for Business" four times. Over the course of his career, Virginia's been

ranked in the top five best States for business in 10 out of 14 rankings. Similarly, Forbes has regularly had Virginia toward the top of their rankings of best States for business. In the time that Barry led the chamber, Virginia was in Forbes' top five best States to do business for 8 out of 10 years.

As Virginia's Senators, it has been our pleasure to work with Barry over the years. His impact on Virginia will be felt long after his retirement. We wish Barry well in his retirement and thank him for his service to the Commonwealth.●

10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NEW  
RIVER VALLEY RECOVERY  
COURT PROGRAM

• Mr. KAINE. Madam President, I rise to commend the 10th anniversary of the Recovery Court Program in the New River Valley of Virginia and extend recognition to Lori Trail, who has served as program manager and coordinator since the program's creation.

Lori Trail's service to the community is reflected in the hundreds of lives of New River Valley residents whom she has supported in their recovery journey. Her positive leadership and tireless work have paved the way for the success of Recovery Courts across five jurisdictions in Virginia, beginning in Pulaski County in 2014, and expanding to the counties of Floyd, Giles, and Montgomery, as well as the city of Radford.

Over the past decade, Lori has dedicated her life to creating opportunities for New River Valley residents in recovery. She has helped people with substance use and mental health disorders reclaim their lives and served as a bridge for people to mend relationships. Not only has her work positively impacted the participants of Recovery Courts, but their loved ones and families, as well.

Lori's staunch advocacy and dedication has raised the standards for the staff around her, and the community members she works alongside. She is an inspiration to those in the New River Valley and across the Commonwealth. Although her success can be measured through each life she has guided through the program, her influence on the New River Valley is immeasurable, and her legacy will remain as an embodiment of compassion, service, and hope.●

TRIBUTE TO GLEN STUBBE

• Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, I rise today to honor Glen Stubbe, an incredible photojournalist who is leaving the Minnesota Star Tribune after 26 years.

Through his lens, Glen has captured the lives and livelihoods of Minnesotans from all walks of life, each image telling a story words alone never could.

As someone who has had the privilege of being on the other side of Glen's camera—at press conferences, the

State fair, and everywhere in between—I can tell you that what Glen brings to his craft is more than just a keen eye for lighting, color, and perspective. What sets his work apart is his deep understanding of the people he photographs.

A Glen Stubbe photo isn't simply a well-composed frame; it is a one-of-a-kind reflection of humanity. Over the course of his more than two decades at the Star Tribune, Glen has built a level of trust with his subjects that is rare at a time when journalists are too often met with skepticism. Whether he is covering farmers or firefighters, police officers or the President of the United States, he has always approached his subjects with respect.

For hundreds of thousands of Minnesotans, that small print in the parentheses below a photo—"Glen Stubbe/Star Tribune"—is as much a part of our State's largest newspaper as the Vikings scores, the editorials, or even the newsprint itself.

So today, I celebrate Glen Stubbe, a Minnesota institution; Glen Stubbe, the Star Tribune's own in-house historian with a camera; Glen Stubbe, a man for whom photojournalism is more than a profession—it is an art.

Glen, your images are an immortal visual record of who Minnesotans are and what we have been. Our state and country are better because of you.

I wish you all the best.●

#### TRIBUTE TO ROSALYNN BLISS

●Mr. PETERS. Madam President, I rise today to honor and recognize an accomplished leader in Michigan's second largest city, Rosalynn Bliss, mayor of the city of Grand Rapids. Mayor Bliss has made an immeasurable impact on the city of Grand Rapids and its citizens during her tenure as mayor over the last 8 years. It is a privilege to recognize her today and celebrate her many accomplishments.

Mayor Bliss' penchant for public service started long before being elected as mayor. She entered public service in 2005, serving 10 years as a city commissioner for the second ward. During her time as a city commissioner, she led a blue-ribbon panel on parks, was a founding member of the nonprofit organization Friends of Grand Rapids Parks, and served on the millage campaign for parks, pools, and playgrounds.

Mayor Bliss was elected as Grand Rapids' mayor in 2015, receiving a whopping 66 percent of the vote. When she took office in 2016, she became Grand Rapids' first female mayor and the city's youngest mayor in 130 years. During her time in office, Mayor Bliss championed and accomplished several initiatives that moved Grand Rapids forward. She implemented implicit bias training for all city workers, created a fund to help local neighborhoods complete improvement projects, tackled blight by holding property owners accountable, worked to provide a city

park within walking distance to all residents, and invested in affordable housing projects. Perhaps, most notably, she championed an initiative to restore the Grand River rapids that run through downtown. Her legacy of practical, pragmatic, and equitable leadership will be felt by the city for many years to come.

In addition to serving her community in elected roles, Mayor Bliss has had a successful professional career. After graduating from the University of South Alabama with a degree in psychology and criminal justice, she moved to Grand Rapids and worked at Hope Network while pursuing her master's degree in social work from Michigan State University. She has dedicated her career to helping the most vulnerable in our communities, serving as the director of residential services at DA Blodgett-St. John's, an organization which provides emergency shelter and residential services for abused and neglected children.

Mayor Bliss has been recognized by numerous organizations for her impactful work. She has received many awards, including, among others, the Michigan Women Forward's Women of Achievement and Courage Award, U.S. Conference of Mayors Small Business Advocate Award, Tim Pope Memorial Award for Outstanding Young Governmental Leader, Christine Nelson Professional Award for Service to Children, and the Michigan Professional Society on the Abuse of Children Special Recognition Award.

Community involvement for Mayor Bliss extends far beyond her elected role. She serves on several community boards including the Grand Rapids Downtown Development Authority, Housing Kent, Urban Core Mayors, Economic Club of Grand Rapids, and the Interurban Transit Partnership. Her love for and service to the Grand Rapids community knows no bounds.

I cannot understate the impact that Mayor Bliss has had on the Grand Rapids community during her years of public service. A lifelong advocate for the betterment of her community, she has consistently promoted positive change in her community and created a model for public service that is unmatched. Though her leadership as mayor will be sorely missed, I am confident she will continue to make a positive difference in the community for years to come.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

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

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

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:02 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 9495. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to postpone tax deadlines and reimburse paid late fees for United States nationals who are unlawfully or wrongfully detained or held hostage abroad, to terminate the tax-exempt status of terrorist supporting organizations, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 803(a) of the Congressional Recognition for Excellence in Arts Education Act (2 U.S.C. 803(a)), and the order of the House of January 9, 2023, the Speaker appoints the following individuals on the part of the House of Representatives to the Congressional Award Board: Ms. Brenda Larsen Becker of Alexandria, Virginia, Ms. Susan Brackin Hirschmann of Alexandria, Virginia, and Ms. Sylvia Legere of Wilmette, Illinois.

#### ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on November 21, 2024, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 3126. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish or replace a headstone, marker, or medallion for the grave of an eligible Medal of Honor recipient regardless of the recipient's dates of service in the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

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

EC-6622. A communication from the Program Analyst, Rural Utilities Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Policy on Audits of RUS Awardees" (RIN0572-AC67) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 25, 2024; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6623. A communication from the Program Analyst, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Soybean Promotion and Research: Adjustments to Representation on the United Soybean Board" (Docket No. AMS-LP-23-0079) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 25, 2024; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6624. A communication from the Program Analyst, Rural Housing Services, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled

“Updates to the Off-Farm Labor Housing, Loan and Grant Rates and Terms; Clarification of Grant Agreement Terms; Announcement of Enforcement Date” (RIN0575-AD36) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 25, 2024; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6625. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Various Fragrance Components in Pesticide Formulations; Tolerance Exemption” (FRL-12327-01-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 21, 2024; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6626. A communication from the Program Analyst, Food and Nutrition Services, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Standardization of State Heating and Cooling Standard Utility Allowances” (RIN0584-AE69) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 25, 2024; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6627. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13818 with respect to serious human rights abuse and corruption; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6628. A communication from the Chair and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a transaction involving U.S. exports to Guyana; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6629. A communication from the Senior Legal Advisor for Regulatory Affairs, Office of Recovery Programs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Definition of Military Installation and the List of Military Installations in the Regulations Pertaining to Certain Transactions by Foreign Persons Involving Real Estate in the United States” (RIN1505-AC88) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 19, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6630. A communication from the Senior Legal Advisor for Regulatory Affairs, Office of Recovery Programs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Provisions Pertaining to U.S. Investments in Certain National Security Technologies and Products in Countries of Concern” (RIN1505-AC82) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 21, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6631. A communication from the Biologist (Regulations), Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Enhancement of Survival and Incidental Take Permits” (RIN1018-BE70) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 21, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6632. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Secretariat, Office of Asset and Transportation Management, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Use of Federal Real Property To Assist the Homeless” (RIN2506-AC49) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 22, 2024; to the

Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6633. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “North Carolina: Final Approval of State Underground Storage Tank Program Revisions, Codification, and Incorporation by Reference; Correction” (FRL No. 12181-03-R4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 21, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6634. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Excess Emissions During Periods of Startup, Shutdown, and Malfunction; Partial Withdrawals of Findings of Failure to Submit State Implementation Plan” (FRL No. 12161-02-OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 21, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6635. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; California; Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District” (FRL No. 11948-02-R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 21, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6636. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Guideline on Air Quality Models; Enhancements to the AERMOD Dispersion Modeling System” (FRL No. 10391-02-OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 21, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. PETERS, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 59. A bill to implement merit-based reforms to the civil service hiring system that replace degree-based hiring with skills- and competency-based hiring (Rept. No. 118-250).

By Mr. PETERS, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and an amendment to the title:

S. 2278. A bill to establish Image Adjudicator and Supervisory Image Adjudicator positions in the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Office of Field Operations (Rept. No. 118-251).

By Mr. PETERS, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2492. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to improve coordination between the Do Not Pay working system and Federal and State agencies authorized to use the system (Rept. No. 118-252).

By Mr. PETERS, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and an amendment to the title:

S. 4419. A bill to require the Science and Technology Directorate in the Department of Homeland Security to develop greater capacity to detect, identify, and disrupt illicit substances in very low concentrations (Rept. No. 118-253).

By Mr. PETERS, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Af-

fairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 4630. A bill to establish an interagency committee to harmonize regulatory regimes in the United States relating to cybersecurity, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118-254).

S. 4676. A bill to enhance the effectiveness of the Shadow Wolves Program, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118-255).

By Mr. PETERS, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, without amendment:

H.R. 4403. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to make improvements to the Securing the Cities program, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118-256).

H.R. 4467. An act to direct the Under Secretary for Management of the Department of Homeland Security to assess contracts for covered services performed by contractor personnel along the United States land border with Mexico, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118-257).

H.R. 5528. An act to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget conduct a review to determine the impact of the lowest price technically acceptable source selection process on national security, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118-258).

By Mr. DURBIN, from the Committee on the Judiciary, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2220. A bill to amend title 35, United States Code, to invest in inventors in the United States, maintain the United States as the leading innovation economy in the world, and protect the property rights of the inventors that grow the economy of the United States, and for other purposes.

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. WELCH):

S. 5405. A bill to amend the Federal Power Act to establish an Office of Transmission in the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MARKEY:

S. 5406. A bill to establish an Office of Public Engagement and Participation within the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO:

S. 5407. A bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop a plan to identify, integrate, and deploy new, innovative, disruptive, or other emerging or advanced technologies that are safe and secure to enhance U.S. Customs and Border Protection’s capabilities to meet its mission needs along international borders and at ports of entry; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 5408. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative coins in recognition of the life and legacy of Roberto Clemente; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. COONS, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. BOOKER, and Ms. LUMMIS):

S. Res. 918. A resolution designating December 2, 2024, as "World Nuclear Energy Day"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 633

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 633, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Everett Alvarez, Jr., in recognition of his service to the United States.

S. 1228

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1228, a bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to save Federal funds by authorizing changes to the composition of circulating coins, and for other purposes.

S. 2393

At the request of Mr. ROUNDS, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2393, a bill to establish a food and agriculture cybersecurity clearinghouse in the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 4040

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4040, a bill to establish a new non-immigrant visa for mobile entertainment workers.

S. 4243

At the request of Ms. BUTLER, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4243, a bill to award posthumously the Congressional Gold Medal to Shirley Chisholm.

S. 4532

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4532, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish requirements with respect to the use of prior authorization under Medicare Advantage plans.

S. 4667

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4667, a bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to establish the Life Sciences Research Security Board, and for other purposes.

S. 4932

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4932, a bill to amend the National Quantum Initiative Act to provide for a research, development, and demonstration program, and for other purposes.

S. 5336

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5336, a bill to reauthorize child welfare programs under part B of title IV of the Social Security Act, and for other purposes.

S. 5341

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5341, a bill making supplemental appropriations for small business disaster relief for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025.

S. 5353

At the request of Mr. SCHMITT, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5353, a bill to establish a national plan to coordinate research on epilepsy, and for other purposes.

S. 5365

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5365, a bill to require the President to notify Congress and take certain actions in response to any attempt by a country of concern to affect United States elections.

S. 5374

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5374, a bill to support financing of affordable and reliable energy projects by international financial institutions, and for other purposes.

S. 5392

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5392, a bill to prohibit discrimination based on political affiliation in granting disaster assistance.

S. RES. 846

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 846, a resolution commemorating the 30th anniversary of the eradication of wild poliovirus from the Americas.

S. RES. 901

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 901, a resolution supporting the goals and principles of Transgender Day of Remembrance by recognizing the epidemic of violence toward transgender people and memorializing the lives lost this year.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 5408. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative coins in recognition of the life and legacy of Roberto Clemente; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

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

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

S. 5408

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

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Roberto Clemente Commemorative Coin Act".

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) Roberto Clemente Walker was born on August 18, 1934, to Don Melchor Clemente and Luisa Walker in Barrio San Antón, Carolina, Puerto Rico, as the youngest of 7 children.

(2) Clemente excelled in athletics as a youngster and, at the age of 17, was playing for the Santurce Cangrejeros "Crabbers" of the Puerto Rican Baseball League.

(3) In 1954, the Pittsburgh Pirates selected Clemente in the first round of the Major League Baseball Rule 5 draft.

(4) Pirates center fielder Earl Smith wore jersey number 21 until he parted ways with the team in April 1955, and Clemente wore number 13 until then.

(5) In 1955, Clemente made his Major League debut as he went on to play for the Pittsburgh Pirates, starting as a right fielder.

(6) When the team traveled to Richmond, Virginia, for games or Florida for spring training, Clemente encountered Jim Crow laws for the first time when the Black players had to stay at a separate, inferior hotel and were refused the option to dine with their White counterparts.

(7) Clemente was known for being a proud Afro-Latino and protested the discrimination that Latin and Black ball players encountered.

(8) Clemente was known for defending the rights of Black and Brown people, both on the field and in the streets.

(9) After the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., in 1968, Clemente and his teammates refused to play until after the funerals and even wrote a public statement showing their respect for Dr. King.

(10) Clemente became a union leader in the incipient Major League Baseball Players Association and defended players' rights to demand better working conditions and benefits.

(11) In every city where the Pirates played, Clemente visited sick children in hospitals.

(12) Clemente established training clinics, providing baseball lessons and fun for boys and girls in Pittsburgh, his home island of Puerto Rico, and throughout Latin America.

(13) In 1958, Clemente enlisted in the United States Marine Corps Reserve after the 1958 season and spent 6 months on active duty at Parris Island, South Carolina, and Camp LeJeune, North Carolina.

(14) Clemente served until 1964 and was inducted into the Marine Corps Sports Hall of Fame in 2003.

(15) By the end of his career, Clemente had joined the exclusive 3,000-hit club, was selected to 15 All-Star teams, and won 12 Gold Gloves, 2 World Series, and a National League MVP award.

(16) In Clemente's 18 seasons with Pittsburgh he won 4 batting titles, hit 240 home runs, and posted a lifetime .317 batting average.

(17) In late 1972, a 6.3 magnitude earthquake ravaged Managua, Nicaragua, and killed 5,000 people.

(18) In his philanthropic spirit, Clemente sent shipments of humanitarian aid to the country.

(19) After learning that 3 previous shipments had been diverted by corrupt Somoza Government officials, Clemente decided to accompany one of the aid shipments.

(20) The four-engine DC-7 plane Clemente chartered for a flight on New Year's Eve crashed in the Atlantic Ocean immediately after takeoff from the coast of Isla Verde, Puerto Rico.

(21) On December 31, 1972, Clemente died in the plane crash at the age of 38 years young.

(22) Since 1973, Major League Baseball gives out the Roberto Clemente Award to one player in the league who "best exemplifies the game of baseball, sportsmanship, community involvement and the individual's contribution to his team".

(23) In 2002, Major League Baseball declared the first annual Roberto Clemente Day.

(24) In 2021, Major League Baseball announced September 15 would be the permanent date of Roberto Clemente Day to coincide with the beginning of Hispanic Heritage month.

(25) Clemente was the first Latino player to accomplish many feats in Major League Baseball.

(26) Clemente was the first Puerto Rican, and first person of Latino heritage, to win a World Series as a starter, be named league MVP, be named World Series MVP, and be elected to the Hall of Fame.

(27) Clemente was posthumously elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1973, being the first National League baseball player to receive the mandatory 5-year waiting period waiver.

(28) Clemente was a legend in life and death, a baseball star, a humanitarian activist, and a symbol of Latin American pride.

### SEC. 3. COIN SPECIFICATIONS.

(a) DENOMINATIONS.—The Secretary of the Treasury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the "Secretary") shall mint and issue the following coins:

(1) \$5 GOLD COINS.—Not more than 50,000 \$5 coins, which shall—

- (A) weigh 8.359 grams;
- (B) have a diameter of 0.850 inches; and
- (C) contain not less than 90 percent gold.

(2) \$1 SILVER COINS.—Not more than 400,000 \$1 coins, which shall—

- (A) weigh 26.73 grams;
- (B) have a diameter of 1.500 inches; and
- (C) contain not less than 90 percent silver.

(3) HALF-DOLLAR CLAD COINS.—Not more than 750,000 half-dollar coins which shall—

- (A) weigh 11.34 grams;
- (B) have a diameter of 1.205 inches; and
- (C) be minted to the specifications for half-dollar coins contained in section 5112(b) of title 31, United States Code.

(b) LEGAL TENDER.—The coins minted under this Act shall be legal tender, as provided in section 5103 of title 31, United States Code.

(c) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all coins minted under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

### SEC. 4. DESIGN OF COINS.

(a) DESIGN REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The designs of the coins minted under this Act shall be emblematic of the life of Roberto Clemente, including his human rights activism and baseball stardom legacy. At least 1 obverse design shall bear the image of Roberto Clemente.

(2) DESIGNATION AND INSCRIPTIONS.—On each coin minted under this Act, there shall be—

- (A) an inscription of Roberto Clemente;
- (B) a designation of the value of the coin;

(C) an inscription of the year "2027"; and

(D) inscriptions of the words "Liberty", "In God We Trust", "United States of America", and "E Pluribus Unum".

(b) SELECTION.—The designs for the coins minted under this Act shall be—

(1) selected by the Secretary after consultation with the Roberto Clemente Foundation, Roberto Clemente's living family members, and the Commission of the Fine Arts; and

(2) reviewed by the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee.

### SEC. 5. ISSUANCE OF COINS.

(a) QUALITY OF COINS.—Coins minted under this Act shall be issued in uncirculated and proof qualities.

(b) PERIOD FOR ISSUANCE.—The Secretary may issue coins under this Act only during the 1-year period beginning on January 1, 2027.

### SEC. 6. SALE OF COINS.

(a) SALE PRICE.—The coins issued under this Act shall be sold by the Secretary at a price equal to the sum of—

- (1) the face value of the coins;
- (2) the surcharge provided in section 7(a) with respect to such coins; and
- (3) the cost of designing and issuing the coins (including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, overhead expenses, marketing, and shipping).

(b) BULK SALES.—The Secretary shall make bulk sales of the coins issued under this Act at a reasonable discount.

(c) PREPAID ORDERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall accept prepaid orders for the coins minted under this Act before the issuance of such coins.

(2) DISCOUNT.—Sale prices with respect to prepaid orders under paragraph (1) shall be at a reasonable discount.

### SEC. 7. SURCHARGES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—All sales of coins issued under this Act shall include—

- (1) a surcharge of \$35 per coin for the \$5 coins;
- (2) a surcharge of \$10 per coin for the \$1 coins; and
- (3) a surcharge of \$5 per coin for the half-dollar coins.

(b) DISTRIBUTION.—Subject to section 5134(f) of title 31, United States Code, all surcharges received by the Secretary from the sale of coins issued under this Act shall be paid to the Roberto Clemente Foundation to be used for general expenses associated with the fulfillment of the mission of the Roberto Clemente Foundation, including for costs associated with educational, youth sports, and disaster relief historic preservation.

(c) AUDITS.—The Roberto Clemente Foundation, shall be subject to the audit requirements of section 5134(f)(2) of title 31, United States Code, with regard to the amounts received under subsection (b).

(d) LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), no surcharge may be included with respect to the issuance under this Act of any coin during a calendar year if, as of the time of such issuance, the issuance of such coin would result in the number of commemorative coin programs issued during such year to exceed the annual 2 commemorative coin program issuance limitation under section 5112(m)(1) of title 31, United States Code (as in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act). The Secretary may issue guidance to carry out this subsection.

### SEC. 8. FINANCIAL ASSURANCES.

The Secretary shall take such actions as may be necessary to ensure that—

- (1) minting and issuing coins under this Act will not result in any net cost to the United States Government; and
- (2) no funds, including applicable surcharges, shall be disbursed to any recipient

designated in section 7 until the total cost of designing and issuing all of the coins authorized by this Act (including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, overhead expenses, marketing, and shipping) is recovered by the United States Treasury, consistent with sections 5112(m) and 5134(f) of title 31, United States Code.

## SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

### SENATE RESOLUTION 918—DESIGNATING DECEMBER 2, 2024, AS "WORLD NUCLEAR ENERGY DAY"

Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. COONS, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. BOOKER, and Ms. LUMMIS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 918

Whereas, on December 2, 1942, Enrico Fermi and his team achieved a historic milestone by demonstrating the first self-sustaining, controlled nuclear chain reaction in the world at Chicago Pile-1;

Whereas, on December 2, 1957, in the State of Pennsylvania, the Shippingport Atomic Power Station began operations as the first commercial nuclear power plant in the world, dedicated exclusively to peaceful applications;

Whereas nuclear energy produces—

- (1) nearly 20 percent of the electricity generated in the United States; and
- (2) nearly half of the carbon-free electricity generated in the United States;

Whereas the nuclear sector of the United States—

- (1) directly employs nearly 70,000 people in high-quality jobs that last for decades; and
- (2) is responsible for more than 250,000 secondary jobs;

Whereas for every 100 nuclear power plant jobs, another 66 jobs are created in local communities;

Whereas nuclear energy plays a key role in the national security of the United States, as the United States has the largest nuclear-powered Navy in the world, which is supported by—

- (1) the commercial nuclear energy industry in the United States; and
- (2) a shared nuclear supply chain;

Whereas advanced nuclear technologies are vital to powering space exploration;

Whereas nuclear energy promotes grid security and reliability by being 1 of the least expensive sources of baseload power generation worldwide;

Whereas nuclear power plants are largely resilient to adverse weather events, providing electricity 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year to distressed areas when other sources of electricity shut down;

Whereas nuclear energy contributes an estimated \$60,000,000,000 per year to the gross domestic product of the United States;

Whereas a strong civilian nuclear sector is essential to United States leadership in global energy diplomacy, which allows the United States to influence and promote the peaceful use of nuclear technologies; and

Whereas the United States collaborates with other countries to develop new and innovative opportunities for nuclear technologies: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

- (1) designates December 2, 2024, as "World Nuclear Energy Day";

(2) celebrates the contributions of nuclear energy in advancing clean, reliable, and sustainable power generation worldwide;

(3) honors the scientists, engineers, and innovators who have worked toward harnessing the potential of nuclear technology for the betterment of humanity;

(4) commends the global community for its commitment to the safe and responsible utilization of nuclear energy; and

(5) encourages continued cooperation domestically and abroad in research, development, and implementation of nuclear energy technologies.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3307. Ms. STABENOW (for Mr. PETERS) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 4305, to improve the effectiveness of body armor issued to female agents and officers of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

#### TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

**SA 3307.** Ms. STABENOW (for Mr. PETERS) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 4305, to improve the effectiveness of body armor issued to female agents and officers of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

##### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “DHS Better Ballistic Body Armor Act”.

##### SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(a) **BALLISTIC RESISTANT BODY ARMOR.**—The term “ballistic resistant body armor” means torso ballistic protection containing either soft ballistic panels, hard ballistic panels, or a combination of both, contained within a carrier, which may be concealable for wear under a uniform shirt or external for wear over a uniform shirt, and holds panels and plates in position on the torso.

(b) **DEPARTMENT.**—The term “Department” means the Department of Homeland Security.

(c) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Homeland Security.

##### SEC. 3. PROCUREMENT OF BALLISTIC RESISTANT BODY ARMOR TO ENSURE THE PROTECTION OF THE DEPARTMENT'S FEMALE AGENTS AND OFFICERS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall require components of the Department, when procuring ballistic resistant body armor for agents and officers, to procure ballistic resistant body armor that—

(1) is specifically designed to fully protect the body shapes of agents and officers;

(2) is made to conform to the individual wearer and provide the best possible fit and coverage to allow for either a flat or shaped front panel;

(3) is assessed and verified, upon delivery, to fit properly and have sufficient coverage in accordance with American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM International) standards for fit;

(4) has enhanced and advanced fit and technology that stops a bullet from redirecting off the chest at an upward angle into the throat region or the spinal cord area; and

(5) is certified by the National Institute of Justice (referred to in this paragraph as “NIJ”), pursuant to the NIJ standard for ballistic resistant body armor, and listed on the associated NIJ Compliant Products List as successfully passing the ballistic resistant

body armor standards in accordance with the applicable ballistic protection level recommended by the NIJ, including passing testing that uses, for each test sample—

(A) ballistic testing on clay or gelatin molds to ensure better contact of nonplanar panels with clay or gelatin molds, as required by the body shapes of agents and officers;

(B) soft body armor front panels contained in soft carriers on female-shaped clay or gelatin molds designed to fill the space behind the panel;

(C) shots to be placed on shaping features;

(D) angled shots;

(E) an angled shot at the chest to address the concern of a bullet skipping into the neckline; and

(F) any additional testing criteria recommended by the NIJ after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) **ANNUAL REPORTS.**—

(1) **ISSUANCE OF BALLISTIC RESISTANT BODY ARMOR.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for the following 2 years, the head of each relevant component agency of the Department shall submit a report to the Secretary regarding the ballistic resistant body armor issued to female agents and officers of such component agency, including, with respect to the reporting period—

(A) the number of female agents and officers to whom ballistic resistant body armor was issued for performance of their official duties;

(B) the number of ballistic resistant body armor units issued to female agents and officers, the use of which was discontinued due to noncompliance with the requirements described in subsection (a);

(C) the number of ballistic resistant body armor units issued to female agents and officers that are compliant with the requirements described in subsection (a); and

(D) the percentage of female agents and officers of such component agency who, as of the last day of the reporting period, have been issued ballistic resistant body armor that complies with the requirements described in subsection (a), disaggregated by duty station.

(2) **AGGREGATE REPORT.**—Not later than 30 days after receiving all of the reports required to be submitted under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit a report that aggregates all of the data contained in such reports to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives.

##### SEC. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.

Not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, all agents and officers of any component of the Department whose duties require body armor shall have been issued body armor that meets the requirements described in section 3(a).

#### DHS BETTER BALLISTIC BODY ARMOR ACT

Ms. STABENOW, Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 492, S. 4305.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4305) to improve the effectiveness of body armor issued to female agents and officers of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which

had been reported from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

##### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “DHS Better Ballistic Body Armor Act”.

##### SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(a) **BALLISTIC RESISTANT BODY ARMOR.**—The term “ballistic resistant body armor” means torso ballistic protection containing either soft ballistic panels, hard ballistic panels, or a combination of both, contained within a carrier, which may be concealable for wear under a uniform shirt or external for wear over a uniform shirt, and holds panels and plates in position on the torso.

(b) **DEPARTMENT.**—The term “Department” means the Department of Homeland Security.

(c) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Homeland Security.

##### SEC. 3. PROCUREMENT OF BALLISTIC RESISTANT BODY ARMOR TO ENSURE THE PROTECTION OF THE DEPARTMENT'S FEMALE AGENTS AND OFFICERS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall require components of the Department, when procuring ballistic resistant body armor for individuals whose body shapes are most closely associated with female agents and officers, to procure ballistic resistant body armor that—

(1) is specifically designed to fully protect body shapes most closely associated with female agents and officers;

(2) is made to conform to the individual wearer and provide the best possible fit and coverage to allow for either a flat or shaped front panel;

(3) is assessed and verified, upon delivery, to fit properly and have sufficient coverage in accordance with American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM International) standards for fit;

(4) has enhanced and advanced fit and technology that stops a bullet from skipping off the chest at an upward angle into the throat region or the spinal cord area; and

(5) is certified by the National Institute of Justice (referred to in this paragraph as “NIJ”), pursuant to the NIJ standard for ballistic resistant body armor, and listed on the associated NIJ Compliant Products List as successfully passing the ballistic resistant body armor standards in accordance with the applicable ballistic protection level recommended by the NIJ, including passing testing that uses, for each test sample—

(A) ballistic testing on gender-specific clay or gelatin molds to ensure better contact of nonplanar panels with clay or gelatin molds;

(B) soft body armor front panels contained in soft carriers on female-shaped clay or gelatin molds designed to fill the space behind the panel;

(C) shots to be placed on shaping features;

(D) angled shots;

(E) an angled shot at the chest to address the concern of a bullet skipping into the neckline; and

(F) any additional testing criteria recommended by the NIJ after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) **ANNUAL REPORTS.**—

(1) **ISSUANCE OF BALLISTIC RESISTANT BODY ARMOR.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for the following 2 years, the head of each relevant component agency of the Department shall submit a report to the Secretary regarding the ballistic resistant body armor issued to female agents and officers of such component agency, including, with respect to the reporting period—

(A) the number of female agents and officers to whom ballistic resistant body armor was issued for performance of their official duties;

(B) the number of ballistic resistant body armor units issued to female agents and officers,

the use of which was discontinued due to non-compliance with the requirements described in subsection (a);

(C) the number of ballistic resistant body armor units issued to female agents and officers that are compliant with the requirements described in subsection (a); and

(D) the percentage of female agents and officers of such component agency who, as of the last day of the reporting period, have been issued ballistic resistant body armor that complies with the requirements described in subsection (a), disaggregated by duty station.

(2) **AGGREGATE REPORT.**—Not later than 30 days after receiving all of the reports required to be submitted under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit a report that aggregates all of the data contained in such reports to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives.

#### **SEC. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, all agents and officers of any component of the Department whose duties require body armor and who have a body shape most closely associated with female agents and officers shall have been issued body armor that meets the requirements described in section 3(a).

Ms. STABENOW. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be withdrawn; that the Peters substitute amendment, which is at the desk, be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was withdrawn.

The amendment (No. 3307) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

#### **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “DHS Better Ballistic Body Armor Act”.

#### **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

In this Act:

(a) **BALLISTIC RESISTANT BODY ARMOR.**—The term “ballistic resistant body armor” means torso ballistic protection containing either soft ballistic panels, hard ballistic panels, or a combination of both, contained within a carrier, which may be concealable for wear under a uniform shirt or external for wear over a uniform shirt, and holds panels and plates in position on the torso.

(b) **DEPARTMENT.**—The term “Department” means the Department of Homeland Security.

(c) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Homeland Security.

#### **SEC. 3. PROCUREMENT OF BALLISTIC RESISTANT BODY ARMOR TO ENSURE THE PROTECTION OF THE DEPARTMENT'S FEMALE AGENTS AND OFFICERS.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall require components of the Department, when procuring ballistic resistant body armor for agents and officers, to procure ballistic resistant body armor that—

(1) is specifically designed to fully protect the body shapes of agents and officers;

(2) is made to conform to the individual wearer and provide the best possible fit and coverage to allow for either a flat or shaped front panel;

(3) is assessed and verified, upon delivery, to fit properly and have sufficient coverage in accordance with American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM International) standards for fit;

(4) has enhanced and advanced fit and technology that stops a bullet from redirecting off the chest at an upward angle into the throat region or the spinal cord area; and

(5) is certified by the National Institute of Justice (referred to in this paragraph as “NIJ”), pursuant to the NIJ standard for ballistic resistant body armor, and listed on the associated NIJ Compliant Products List as successfully passing the ballistic resistant body armor standards in accordance with the applicable ballistic protection level recommended by the NIJ, including passing testing that uses, for each test sample—

(A) ballistic testing on clay or gelatin molds to ensure better contact of nonplanar panels with clay or gelatin molds, as required by the body shapes of agents and officers;

(B) soft body armor front panels contained in soft carriers on female-shaped clay or gelatin molds designed to fill the space behind the panel;

(C) shots to be placed on shaping features;

(D) angled shots;

(E) an angled shot at the chest to address the concern of a bullet skipping into the neckline; and

(F) any additional testing criteria recommended by the NIJ after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) **ANNUAL REPORTS.**—

(1) **ISSUANCE OF BALLISTIC RESISTANT BODY ARMOR.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for the following 2 years, the head of each relevant component agency of the Department shall submit a report to the Secretary regarding the ballistic resistant body armor issued to female agents and officers of such component agency, including, with respect to the reporting period—

(A) the number of female agents and officers to whom ballistic resistant body armor was issued for performance of their official duties;

(B) the number of ballistic resistant body armor units issued to female agents and officers, the use of which was discontinued due to noncompliance with the requirements described in subsection (a);

(C) the number of ballistic resistant body armor units issued to female agents and officers that are compliant with the requirements described in subsection (a); and

(D) the percentage of female agents and officers of such component agency who, as of the last day of the reporting period, have been issued ballistic resistant body armor that complies with the requirements described in subsection (a), disaggregated by duty station.

(2) **AGGREGATE REPORT.**—Not later than 30 days after receiving all of the reports required to be submitted under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit a report that aggregates all of the data contained in such reports to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives.

#### **SEC. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, all agents and officers of any component of the Department whose duties require body armor shall have been issued body armor that meets the requirements described in section 3(a).

The bill (S. 4305), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

#### **FIFA WORLD CUP 2026 COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT**

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 7438 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 7438) to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the FIFA World Cup 2026, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Ms. STABENOW. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (H.R. 7438) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

#### **GOLD STAR AND SURVIVING SPOUSE CAREER SERVICES ACT**

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 3746 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3746) to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain spouses eligible for services under the disabled veterans' outreach program, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Ms. STABENOW. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (S. 3746) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 3746

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

#### **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “Gold Star and Surviving Spouse Career Services Act”.

#### **SEC. 2. ELIGIBILITY OF SPOUSES FOR SERVICES UNDER THE DISABLED VETERANS' OUTREACH PROGRAM.**

Section 4103A of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting “and eligible persons” after “eligible veterans”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (C), by inserting “, and eligible persons,” after “Other eligible veterans”;

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “and eligible persons” after “veterans” each place it appears; and

(C) in paragraph (3)—

(i) by inserting “or eligible person” after “veteran” each place it appears; and

(ii) by inserting “or eligible person’s” after “veteran’s”;

(2) in subsection (d)(1)—

(A) by inserting “and eligible persons” after “eligible veterans” each place it appears; and

(B) by striking “non-veteran-related”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(e) ELIGIBLE PERSON DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘eligible person’ means—

“(1) any spouse described in section 4101(5) of this title; or

“(2) the spouse of any person who died while a member of the Armed Forces.”.

### ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2024

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 12 noon on Tuesday, December 3; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that following the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Brindisi nomination; further, that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings; that at 2:15 p.m., the Chair execute the order of November 20 with respect to the Sooknanan nomination and that upon disposition of the Sooknanan nomination, the Chair execute the order of November 20 with respect to the Henry nomination; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Tuesday’s session, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action.

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

### ADJOURNMENT UNTIL TOMORROW

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

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:45 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, December 3, 2024, at 12 noon.

### NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

#### IN THE AIR FORCE

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

#### To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. LUKE C. G. CROPPSEY

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

CATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

#### To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. MARK B. PYE

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

#### To be brigadier general

COL. MATTHEW C. BROWN

#### IN THE ARMY

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

#### To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. JOSEPH P. MCGEE

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

#### To be brigadier general

COL. TONRI C. BROWN

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

#### To be brigadier general

COL. JOHN W. SANNES

#### IN THE COAST GUARD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 14, U.S.C., SECTION 2121(E):

#### To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. ANDREW D. MEVERDEN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 14, U.S.C., SECTION 2121(D):

#### To be rear admiral

RICHARD E. BATSON  
MICHAEL E. CAMPBELL  
RUSSELL E. DASH  
AMY E. GRABLE  
MATTHEW W. LAKE  
RALPH R. LITTLE  
JEFFREY K. RANDALL  
WILBORNE E. WATSON

#### IN THE NAVY

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

#### To be lieutenant commander

KEITH C. BRADY

#### IN THE COAST GUARD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS OF THE COAST GUARD PERMANENT COMMISSIONED TEACHING STAFF FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 14, U.S.C., SECTION 1944 AND COMMANDANT INSTRUCTION M1000.3A:

#### To be commander

JASON B. VEARA

#### To be lieutenant commander

TARA E. LARKIN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 14, U.S.C., SECTION 2121, INCLUDING THOSE RESERVE OFFICERS WHO ARE TO BE APPOINTED AS PERMANENT COMMISSIONED OFFICERS PURSUANT TO TITLE 14, U.S.C., SECTION 2101(A)(2):

#### To be lieutenant commander

MICHAEL G. CARMAN

#### FOREIGN SERVICE

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, TO BE A FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER, A CONSULAR OFFICER, AND A SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

BROOK L. ADAM, OF WASHINGTON  
RICHARD KUDJOE ADZEL, OF FLORIDA  
ROSS GARY BARNARD, OF TEXAS  
CHARLIE BENTLEY, OF MISSOURI  
KAYDEN HOANG BUI, OF MINNESOTA  
CYNTHIA COLAS, OF MARYLAND  
DONNA DANIELS, OF FLORIDA  
KEISHA L. EFFIOM, OF MARYLAND  
KIPP EFNIGER, OF WASHINGTON  
ELICE ELEGBE, OF TEXAS  
KEVIN L. FATH, OF SOUTH DAKOTA  
GERARD FONTAIN, OF FLORIDA  
MELISSA SHEA FRASER, OF CALIFORNIA  
MIMI GOODWIN, OF FLORIDA  
LAUREN GRUBBEL, OF COLORADO

MICHAEL HAINES, OF WASHINGTON  
ANNA L. HOFFMAN, OF MARYLAND  
JENNIFER T. HUYNH, OF CALIFORNIA  
LA'NITA JOHNSON, OF GEORGIA  
KATHLEEN MARIE KIRSCH, OF VIRGINIA  
MICHELLE LYN KOULETTO, OF WASHINGTON  
CHARLES LEWIS II, OF TENNESSEE  
ELAINE ELAINE, LI, OF GEORGIA  
JOHN ANDREW MARTEN, OF VIRGINIA  
CHADWICK C. MILLS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
AHMADOU B. NDIADJE, OF OHIO  
PETER NOVAK, OF FLORIDA  
MARIAN OSTERTAG, OF OREGON  
ANDREW BENJAMIN PARKS, OF VIRGINIA  
JACQUELINE IVANIA ROJAS, OF FLORIDA  
ZACHARY SCHEID, OF FLORIDA  
ROBIN SHARMA, OF FLORIDA  
MARGUERITE ELIZABETH SIEMER, OF WYOMING  
HARI KRISHNAN SWAMINATHAN, OF SOUTH DAKOTA  
ARIEL SWAN, OF VIRGINIA  
MULUGETA TADDELE, OF MARYLAND  
KAREN LYNN TOWERS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
MINHTAM ANN TRAN, OF CALIFORNIA  
ROBERT TRIMBLE, OF VIRGINIA  
MARIAM UBLAVA, OF NEW JERSEY  
HUNG DAO VO, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
GENET YOHANNES, OF VIRGINIA

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBERS OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR PROMOTION WITHIN THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, CLASS OF CAREER-MINISTER:

HAVEN G. CRUZ-HUBBARD, OF FLORIDA  
DAVID GOSNEY, OF CALIFORNIA  
ALER GRUBBS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
JENNIFER MARIE LINK, OF ILLINOIS  
STEVEN G. OLIVE, OF CALIFORNIA  
ANDREW W. PLITT, OF MARYLAND  
AMY CHRISTINE TOHILL, OF VIRGINIA  
SHERYL A. STUMBRAS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
ANN MARIE YASTISHOCK, OF FLORIDA

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBERS OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR PROMOTION WITHIN THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR:

ALEXIOUS M. BUTLER, OF FLORIDA  
JEFFERY P. COHEN, OF MICHIGAN  
RAMONA MULLER EL HAMZAOUI, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
NANCY JANE ESLICK, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
MERYVN ANTHONY FARROE, OF FLORIDA  
PAMELA L. FESSENDEN, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
RAMSES GAUTHIER, OF FLORIDA  
SCOTT D. HOCKLANDER, OF ALASKA  
ALYSSA WILSON LEGGOE, OF FLORIDA  
LESLIE C. MARBURY, OF GEORGIA  
HANH N. NGUYEN, OF VIRGINIA  
LUIS A. RIVERA, OF MARYLAND  
KIMBERLY A. ROSEN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
ZEINAH SALAHI, OF CONNECTICUT  
RHONDA SHIRE, OF FLORIDA  
CYBILL MONIQUE SIGLER, OF VIRGINIA  
JULIE A. SOUTHFIELD, OF VIRGINIA  
JAMES S. WRIGHT, OF VIRGINIA  
PETER E. YOUNG, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR PROMOTION INTO THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR:

BRADLEY D. ARSENAULT, OF FLORIDA  
ELIZABETH LEE BOSMAN, OF FLORIDA  
NINA R. BOWEN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
CAROLINE B. BREARLEY, OF MARYLAND  
KARLA KAYE ROBERTS CAMP, OF TEXAS  
KYUNG SHIH (KC) CHOE, OF MARYLAND  
BETTY Y. CHUNG, OF HAWAII  
BARRY LEE COLLINS, OF VIRGINIA  
GREGORY HEATH COSGROVE, OF COLORADO  
DIANNA DARNSEY DE SALLCDO, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
ERIC W. DAVIS, OF CALIFORNIA

JUSTIN TROY DIVENANZO, OF FLORIDA  
CHRISTINE A. DJONDO, OF VIRGINIA  
NANCY A. FISHER-GORMLEY, OF PENNSYLVANIA  
RANDOLPH B. FLAY, OF VIRGINIA  
ANN CAMILLE GARCIA, OF FLORIDA  
LAURA L. GLENN, OF VIRGINIA

ALEXANDRIA ISABEL HUERTA, OF WASHINGTON  
BRIONI ESTELA JAMES, OF MARYLAND  
BENJAMIN D. KAUFFELD, OF VIRGINIA  
MARK ALBERT KERR, OF FLORIDA

ERIN AUSTIN KERR, OF FLORIDA  
AKUA N. KWATENG-ADDO, OF GEORGIA  
DEBRA I. MOSEL, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
ANNE G. MURPHY, OF FLORIDA  
JUNIPER M. NEILL, OF ALASKA

DANIELE HENRIETTE NYRANDUTIYE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

CRISTINA AUSTRIA OLIVE, OF CALIFORNIA  
THOMAS EDWARD RHODES, OF MARYLAND  
JOHN PATRICK RIORDAN, OF ILLINOIS  
SHELLA RANI ROQUETTE, OF MARYLAND  
MARELLA E. RUIZ-RODRIGUEZ, OF CALIFORNIA  
DANIEL SANCHEZ-BUSTAMANTE, OF TEXAS  
WILLIAM KANE SLATER, OF CALIFORNIA  
FRANCISCO RICARDO SOMARRIBA, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

CHRISTOPHER N. STEEL, OF NEW JERSEY  
TIM A. STEIN, OF TEXAS  
PENELOPE A. THOMAS, OF CALIFORNIA  
JENNIFER J. TIKKA, OF MARYLAND  
ANNA TONESS, OF TEXAS  
SERGIU Z. TROIE, OF MARYLAND

BERT C. UBAMADU, OF MARYLAND  
NICHOLAS J. VIVIO, OF TEXAS  
SARA M. WERTH, OF VIRGINIA  
PATRICK JOHN WESNER, OF KANSAS  
RONALD O. WIETECHA, OF VIRGINIA

ANNE HWANG, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES  
DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALI-  
FORNIA.

*To be general*

LT. GEN. CHRISTOPHER T. DONAHUE

IN THE ARMY

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

*To be lieutenant general*

MAJ. GEN. ALLAN M. PEPIN

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

WITHDRAWAL

Executive Message transmitted by  
the President to the Senate on Decem-  
ber 2, 2024 withdrawing from further  
Senate consideration the following  
nomination:

ARMY NOMINATION OF COL. JOHN W. SANNES, TO BE  
BRIGADIER GENERAL, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE  
ON FEBRUARY 16, 2023.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by  
the Senate December 2, 2024:

THE JUDICIARY

BRIAN EDWARD MURPHY, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF  
MASSACHUSETTS.