

current enjoyment by people and improves quality of life, including playgrounds, pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly infrastructure, sports and recreation facilities, community events, programming and concessions. This expanded mission would only apply to parks in areas that have been defined and designated as “urban” in the most recent decennial census by the Secretary of Commerce and would not impact wilderness areas.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING THE HONORABLE
JOYCE CONNERY ON HER EXTRAORDINARY PUBLIC SERVICE CAREER

HON. EUGENE SIMON VINDMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 18, 2025

Mr. VINDMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor The Honorable Joyce Connery, a dedicated public servant who retired from the Federal Government on January 31, 2025, after an illustrious career spanning several decades.

Ms. Connery's service to our Nation has been exemplary, culminating in her role as Chair of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB). Appointed to this critical position by President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. on January 29, 2021, Ms. Connery led the Board in its vital mission of providing recommendations to the President and the Secretary of Energy on public health and safety issues at Department of Energy defense nuclear facilities.

Her journey in public service is marked by a series of high-profile positions that showcase her expertise in nuclear policy and national security. Ms. Connery served as the Director of Nuclear Energy Policy within the Office of International Economics on the National Security Council under President Obama. In this role, she coordinated policies and programs related to nuclear safety, security, and trade across various agencies. Ms. Connery's commitment to nuclear security extended to her work as the Director for Threat Reduction and Nuclear Energy Cooperation at the National Security Council. Serving under both the Bush and Obama Administrations, she played a crucial role in managing nuclear Cooperative Threat Reduction programs and was instrumental in organizing the Nuclear Security Summit.

Her dedication to public service began early in her career when she served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Turkmenistan from 1993 to 1995. This experience laid the foundation for her future work in international relations and nuclear nonproliferation. Throughout her career, Ms. Connery has been recognized for her outstanding contributions. She received the NNSA's Silver Medal, the Secretary of Energy's Distinguished Service Award, and was a finalist for the 2012 Service to America Medal for National Security and International Relations. Her expertise in nuclear policy was further acknowledged with a Presidential Citation from the American Nuclear Society in 2013 and a Meritorious Achievement Award from the Nuclear Infrastructure Council in 2015.

Beyond her professional achievements, Ms. Connery has demonstrated a strong commit-

ment to community service. She serves on the Board of HopeLink Behavioral Health, as Vice Chair of the Executive Board of the Hylton Center for the Performing Arts and is a member of Prince William County's Community Safety Advisory Board. Ms. Connery's educational background is equally impressive. She holds a Bachelor's degree in International Relations from Tufts University, a Master of Arts in Law and Diplomacy from the Fletcher School, and is a graduate of the University of Virginia's Sorenson Public Leadership Program. In 2023, she advanced her passion for serving others by earning a Master's in Social Work from George Mason University.

Ms. Connery's career exemplifies the highest standards of public service. Her unwavering dedication to nuclear safety and security, coupled with her diplomatic skills and commitment to community service, have made our Nation safer and stronger. As she retires from federal service, we extend our deepest gratitude for her decades of exemplary service and wish her the very best in her future endeavors.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Joyce Connery for her remarkable contributions to our Nation's security and well-being.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF JIMMY JOHNS

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 18, 2025

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Jimmy Johns from Elbit America. Prior to his work with Elbit America, Jimmy served in the United States Marine Corps from 1979 to 1983. Following his honorable service to our country, he joined International Enterprises (now known as Elbit America) as a Technical Assistant.

Jimmy has been a fixture at Elbit America for over 42 years working up to be the site lead for the entire Talladega operation. In this capacity, he oversees over 150 employees.

Elbit America is a treasured part of the Talladega community generating over \$150 million in revenue every year. Under Jimmy's leadership, Elbit has prospered and regularly gives back to the community generously.

Jimmy's colleagues are extremely grateful for his leadership and friendship over the many years he has served with them, and his presence will be dearly missed.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Jimmy Johns for his many years of service and wishing him the best in retirement. I congratulate Jimmy.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose

of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Wednesday, February 19, 2025 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

FEBRUARY 20

Time to be announced

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider the nomination of Linda McMahon, of Connecticut, to be Secretary of Education, and other pending calendar business.

TBA

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To receive a closed briefing on the USS *Gravely* and operations in the Red Sea.

SVC-217

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Steven Bradbury, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Transportation.

SR-253

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine research security risks posed by foreign nationals from countries of risk working at the Department of Energy's National Laboratories and necessary mitigation steps.

SD-366

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Troy Edgar, of California, to be Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security, and James Bishop, of North Carolina, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

SD-342

10:15 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider S. 331, to amend the Controlled Substances Act with respect to the scheduling of fentanyl-related substances, and the nominations of Todd Blanche, of Florida, to be Deputy Attorney General, and Abigail Slater, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Attorney General, both of the Department of Justice.

SH-216

FEBRUARY 25

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Stephen Feinberg, of New York, to be Deputy Secretary of Defense.

SD-G50

10 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Michael Kratsios, of South Carolina, to be Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, and