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Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Sovereign Lord, You are our refuge and deliverer. We look to You for strength. Send to our lawmakers the power and grace they need today to glorify Your Name in all they think, say, and do.

Lord, give them the purity of heart that will shut the doors to all evil. Keep their feet in the path of integrity, that they may walk securely. Develop in them a perseverance which refuses to leave any task half done. Empower them with a diligence to offer You no less than their best.

And, Lord, be with the families of the two National Guard members who were shot. Comfort these loved ones during this season of distress and grief.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore 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.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BUDD). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Iowa.

2026 IOWA TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, as I travel in Iowa throughout the year, I meet some very special people. Last month, in Sheldon, IA, at the high school, I had the honor of meeting Stephanie Pritts, who was recently named Iowa's 2026 "Teacher of the Year."

Now, it goes way back to 1958 that Iowa started the "Teacher of the Year" award, honoring an exceptional Iowa teacher each year. There is very tough competition each year among Iowa's many outstanding educators to find the one who best represents student learning through evidence-based instruction, empowering students with multiple pathways to postsecondary success; the teacher who learns from and invests in other fellow educators and, at the same time, serves students in partnership with their families.

The annual program is sponsored by the Iowa Department of Education, and it is funded by an appropriation of the Iowa Legislature.

Now that she is 2026 "Teacher of the Year," Stephanie will serve as an ambassador to schools, an ambassador to higher education, and an ambassador to various communities across the State.

I would like to congratulate Stephanie, again, and thank her for her service to our State. Iowans can be very proud that teachers like Stephanie call our State their home.

I visit about 10 to 12 high schools a year to have a Q&A with young people because they never come to my open town meetings. One of the surprises that happens at a high school is meeting Iowa's "Teacher of the Year." This year, that was Stephanie Pritts, and I congratulate her for a second time.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

POLITICAL VIOLENCE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, this morning, I was informed by New York law enforcement of multiple bomb threats made against my offices in Rochester, Binghamton, and Long Island. The bomb threats against my offices came with the email subject line "MAGA" and from an email address alleging the "2020 election was rigged."

Local and Federal law enforcement responded immediately and are conducting full security sweeps, and investigations are ongoing. Everyone, thank God, is safe, and I am grateful for the quick and professional response of Federal and local law enforcement to ensure that these offices remain safe and secure for all New Yorkers.

As I have said many times, these kinds of violent threats have absolutely no place—no place—in our political system.

No one—no public servant, no staff member, no constituent, no citizen—should ever be targeted for simply doing their job.

VENEZUELA

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now on Venezuela, Donald Trump has turned the Caribbean into a dangerous tinder box. Today, we have more troops off the coast of South America than we have had in decades. U.S. forces have struck at least 20 alleged drug boats with zero independent evidence, no transparency, and no concrete legal justification.

On Saturday, Donald Trump proclaimed that the airspace above and surrounding Venezuela to be closed in its entirety. What does this mean? We have no clue because Donald Trump said a few hours later not to "read anything into it."

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



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The erraticness of his foreign policy is dangerous in itself—saying one thing one day and one thing the next. So Americans are right to wonder, what on Earth is Donald Trump planning in Venezuela? Is Donald Trump nudging America into another war? Is he seeking regime change for Maduro? Will he put U.S. troops in harm's way? Nobody knows. All we have is a bunch of contradictory statements from Trump.

Donald Trump seems to be planning a war totally in secret—without congressional authorization, without any transparency, without any explanation for what his goals even are. And all it takes—all it takes—is one mistake, one miscalculation, one lapse in judgment from either side, and suddenly our troops could find themselves in armed conflict with Venezuela. Lives could be lost. American security could suffer.

So I want to be very, very clear. If Donald Trump proceeds with his plan to conduct strikes against Venezuela, Senators Kaine, Paul, and I will immediately file a War Powers Resolution to force congressional action to block the use of troops in Venezuela. The power to declare war lies in the hands of Congress, and we intend to exert that authority should the need arise.

Now, I urge my Republican colleagues to work with us to advance this resolution if it becomes necessary because the thought of another forever war makes Americans sick to their stomachs. Americans are tired of seeing troops bogged down in one country after another. Americans do not want a pointless war in Venezuela.

Donald Trump does not have the authority to send our troops into harm's way without authorization from Congress. Should Donald Trump proceed, the Senate will immediately respond. Should a strike occur, we will force a debate in Congress and force a vote to prevent the U.S. troops from being in hostilities against Venezuela. Our troops' safety and our national security are at stake.

I urge both sides to stand ready to assert the powers of Congress on matters of war and peace should the need arise because the rules of the Congress allow us to require a vote on this issue should the need arise.

SECRETARY HEGSETH

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on Hegseth, I want to say a word about Secretary Hegseth. I don't think we have ever seen someone so unserious, so childish, so obviously insecure serving as Secretary of Defense as Pete Hegseth, and that should alarm every single one of us.

Secretary Hegseth loves to look tough. He loves to boast about the lethality of our forces. He wants to be taken seriously, but yesterday he posted a ridiculous tweet of a cartoon turtle firing on alleged drug traffickers—a sick parody of a well-known children's book. This man is a national embarrassment. Tweeting memes in the mid-

dle of a potential armed conflict is something no serious leader would ever even think of doing. The only thing this tweet accomplishes is to remind the world that Pete Hegseth is not up to the job.

But, of course, this is much more serious than memes on Twitter. A few days ago, the Washington Post reported that Secretary Hegseth gave a spoken directive to kill all the occupants of the first alleged drug boat struck by U.S. forces. If the reports in the Washington Post are accurate, this may expose those involved to legal consequences.

What we need right now more than anything else is the truth, the facts, which is precisely what Secretary Hegseth has refused to give.

There are tapes in the possession of the Department of Defense that would show exactly what happened during these military strikes. Secretary Hegseth has an obligation to be truthful, so he should release those tapes. He says the Washington Post account is not correct, so why not release the tapes and prove it? If he refuses to release these tapes, it calls into question the truthfulness of his account.

The tapes will show one way or the other what happened and whether Hegseth is telling the truth. If Secretary Hegseth has nothing to hide, he should not fear being truthful.

In the meantime, Republicans in the House and Senate, including the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, have promised "vigorous oversight" on these strikes. This is very encouraging, and I thank them for working in a bipartisan way on this matter. But now Republicans in both Chambers must follow through. We need congressional hearings. We need full and transparent briefings from the Pentagon. Most importantly, the committees should continue to demand that Secretary Hegseth release—release—the tapes.

This is such a serious matter that Secretary Hegseth himself should come before the Congress to testify under oath about the nature of his order, the evidence supporting the strikes, and an explanation for what the goals are in Venezuela.

With our troops standing on a knife's edge in the Caribbean, we need a Secretary of Defense who can prove himself to be serious, sober-minded, and someone of high character. Sadly, Hegseth has the opposite of each of these qualities.

HEALTHCARE

Mr. SCHUMER. Finally, Mr. President, on healthcare, so the holiday season is upon us, and this year, people are wondering how the hell they are going to afford their health insurance. The ACA tax credits the Republicans have refused to extend will expire, and as many as 20 million Americans will see their healthcare costs skyrocket. Many more than 20 million, even if

they have private insurance, will see their costs skyrocket as well.

What are Donald Trump and Republicans doing to solve America's healthcare crisis? Absolutely nothing. Absolutely nothing. Donald Trump and Republicans seem to be in no hurry at all to prevent tens of millions of people's premiums from skyrocketing.

After waiting until the last minute to even talk about healthcare, Republicans are now in utter disarray. First, Trump said he would finally release his grand plan to fix healthcare. Then Republicans in Congress threw a tantrum and bullied the President into backing down. Now Republicans in the House and Senate can't seem to get on the same page about how they will fix this crisis that has been brewing under their watch.

So while Republicans are in complete disarray about healthcare, Democrats remain united to lower people's premiums and to bring their costs down.

Until Donald Trump and Republicans show they are serious about working with us to solve the healthcare crisis, Americans will continue to see their healthcare costs skyrocket, and they will know it is Donald Trump and the Republicans who are to blame.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

HONORING SPECIALIST SARAH BECKSTROM AND STAFF SERGEANT ANDREW WOLFE

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, before I begin, I want to profess my profound sorrow for National Guard member SPC Sarah Beckstrom. Sarah was one of two National Guard members shot in a targeted attack here in Washington, DC, on the day before Thanksgiving. The other Guard member, SSgt Andrew Wolfe, is hospitalized in grave condition. My prayers are with him and his family, as well as the family of Specialist Beckstrom.

Sarah Beckstrom was just 20 years old. Andrew Wolfe is just 24. They are both at an age when many are quite naturally figuring out their path in life. But Sarah and Andrew chose early, and they chose service—service up to and including the sacrifice of their lives for their country and their fellow citizens. It is a remarkable thing, and may we never forget how much we owe men and women like Andrew Wolfe and Sarah Beckstrom.

Again, my prayers are with the family of Specialist Beckstrom, and I am praying for Staff Sergeant Wolfe's full and swift recovery.

AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, Thanksgiving is one of the busiest travel seasons of the year. More than 80 million

Americans traveled for the holiday last week. And while most of them packed up the car and hit the road, about 6 million Americans boarded planes to spend the holidays with relatives and friends across the country. I am sure all of them were breathing a sigh of relief that the government shutdown was over and air traffic control had resumed normal operations before their trips.

The impact on air travel was one of the most visible aspects of the chaos that ensued during the Democrats' 43-day shutdown. Flights were snarled throughout the shutdown, but it got progressively worse as the shutdown dragged on. By the time Democrats' shutdown entered its second month, the FAA was forced to order cutbacks in air traffic as a matter of safety, and more would have been required if we hadn't been able to finally reopen the government when we did.

I am relieved that air traffic was able to get back to normal levels before the holiday travel surged. I am grateful to the thousands of air traffic controllers who were on duty during the shutdown without pay and who work hard every day to keep planes moving quickly and safely. They have an important job, and I know that every controller shares a commitment to putting safety first, whether it is a normal day, the middle of a snowstorm, or a government shutdown.

Even before the shutdown, our air traffic control system was facing challenges, and modernization efforts had been a priority for both the Trump administration and for Congress this year. Before the holiday, the Commerce Committee's Aviation Subcommittee held a hearing that examined operations during the shutdown, as well as the challenges that existed prior to the shutdown and that still exist today. I appreciate Chairman MORAN's attention to these important issues. I am grateful that my colleagues are taking the time to delve into the challenges facing air traffic control.

At least our Republican colleagues are taking the time. The lead Democrat on that panel called the hearing "political theater," and the Democrats' witness for the Aviation Subcommittee talked only about—get this—ObamaCare. That is right—ObamaCare. A hearing to examine air traffic safety and air traffic control, and that was the only witness the Democrats asked to come and testify.

I am hoping that this was a one-time political stunt and not an indication of the attitude Democrats are going to take going forward, because we have a lot more work to do on this issue. Republicans remain focused on improving air travel and safety, and that hearing was just one part of our continued efforts.

Earlier this year, Republicans took a major step forward in air traffic modernization with the One Big Beautiful Bill, which made a significant invest-

ment in technology improvements for the air traffic system. The systems being used in air traffic control towers today are in desperate need of an update. This funding will help to deploy state-of-the-art technology to towers across America.

One example of the need for modernization is what happened at the Newark airport—one of the busiest airports in the country—earlier this year. In April and May, Newark experienced equipment outages that led to major flight delays and significant disruptions in air travel. The Trump administration moved quickly to address these issues and bring Newark back to full strength, but the underlying issue is aging technology across the air traffic control system—issues that are only exacerbated when adverse conditions strike, such as severe weather or the recent government shutdown.

The investment from the One Big Beautiful Bill will go a long way toward solving the underlying technology problems and will strengthen the entire system.

Another challenge is the shortage of air traffic controllers. We are almost 4,000 controllers short of full strength, which means that controllers at a number of airports need to work longer hours and more shifts to keep the system going. Addressing the shortfall has been a priority for the Trump administration, which has devoted attention to hiring and training additional controllers.

I appreciate that the administration managed to keep hiring and training operations going throughout the shutdown, which lessened the potential long-term consequences for America's skies.

Republicans and Democrats here in Congress are focused, too, on supporting hiring and training efforts, and this year's transportation funding bill, which I hope to take up in the near future, supports sustained hiring and training to add 2,500 new controllers next year.

Upgrading outdated technology and adding new air traffic controllers will make a big difference for the traveling public and for supply chains that rely on air cargo, and it will help deliver a more modern air traffic system, capable of providing more efficient and safer skies for all Americans.

Things won't be fixed overnight, but thanks to the Trump administration and our continued efforts in Congress, we are making progress toward a state-of-the-art air traffic control system for America.

I am glad that the system is back at full strength after the shutdown, and we are working to make it stronger every day.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic whip.

AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, let me pick up where the Republican leader left off on air traffic controllers.

The biggest, busiest airport in the United States is O'Hare, when you count both passengers and cargo traffic. After the government reopened, I went to O'Hare, and I met with the air traffic controllers. I have known them for years, dating back to the first government shutdown during President Trump's first administration.

There are roughly 10,500 air traffic controllers nationwide in America. We need 14,000. What does that mean if you are understaffed by that 40 percent figure?

It means that those who are presently working work extraordinarily long hours. In fact, the normal routine at O'Hare with the air traffic controllers who manage that airport is to work 6 days out of 7, 10 hours each day. So in one of the most stressful possible jobs in America, they are working 6 days a week, 10 hours a day. The stress is overwhelming.

I told them that, with the closure of the government behind us, we have to do something, and I hope we agree on a bipartisan basis to do it quickly. We need not only more air traffic controllers, well-trained and ready to work—and that will take some time to find those people—but we also need new technology. We waited too long. We have talked about this issue over and over again. It is time to do something.

I want to salute those air traffic controllers. They have gone through a tough weekend, with Americans traveling for Thanksgiving, and I know that many of them have worked hard to make sure we have safe air travel.

I want to echo the comments of the Republican leader. This is an issue that should not go away. It is an issue we should address.

HONORING SPECIALIST SARAH BECKSTROM AND STAFF SERGEANT ANDREW WOLFE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I want to start by acknowledging, as well, the horrific—horrific—shooting of two National Guard members in Washington, DC, last week.

As was reported, 20-year-old SPC Sarah Beckstrom tragically passed away on Thanksgiving Day, and 24-year-old SSgt Andrew Wolfe remains in critical condition. We pray for his recovery and, as one Nation, we send our deepest condolences to the Beckstrom family.

Whether or not you agree about the delegation of National Guard troops to Chicago or Washington or any other place, that is really beside the point. We should make a note today that this is an acknowledgement of the importance of the National Guard to America's defense at home and abroad many times.

Time and again, those guardsmen and guardswomen have served our country and served them well. Living proof of that statement is my colleague in Congress, TAMMY DUCKWORTH, who was injured in a helicopter incident

over Iraq and today serves with me as my colleague in the Senate. She speaks for all of the members of the National Guard when she says they are dedicated to our Nation and our States.

There must be a full investigation into the attack on Sarah Beckstrom and SSgt Andrew Wolfe. I implore the President to lower the temperature on political rhetoric and try not to exploit this to demonize immigrants, including many who make the ultimate sacrifice for our country. Instead, the President should work with Congress on commonsense and evidence-proven strategies to reduce crime and reform our broken immigration system.

My wife and I send our deepest condolences to the Beckstrom family, and we pray that Staff Sergeant Wolfe makes a full, speedy recovery.

THE ECONOMY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, on an unrelated issue, last week, families gathered around the table to give thanks and enjoy a plate or two of turkey, mashed potatoes, casserole, cranberry sauce, and more. Except, this year, the Thanksgiving feast cost more than last year—because of what? President Trump's economic policies are driving up the prices of groceries. The President claims the opposite, but that is not a fact.

In a social media quote, President Trump said, "Prices for a Thanksgiving Dinner is now down 25% . . . since 2024." "AFFORDABILITY," he said, "is a Republican Stronghold."

Does the President of the United States actually have any conversations with families who are shopping for groceries?

Here is the truth: Costs are going through the roof because of President Trump and his MAGA policies. The American people know this. Recent polling from none other than FOX News shows that nearly two-thirds of Americans blame President Trump for higher prices—FOX News.

Listen to my constituent Tria, who wrote to me from Chicago. After experiencing the sticker shock at a South Loop grocery store, she said:

No matter if it's organic or not . . . it's still going to be an arm and a leg for it. It's like you're spending your soul on groceries.

Another constituent Esther said:

A loaf of bread costs us \$4, and it looks like it's getting smaller.

I know what she means. Tria and Esther are not alone in their shared frustration. Working families across the country are feeling the squeeze at the checkout counter and are having to cut back on spending for the holidays.

This struggle has been exacerbated for several reasons, one of them being the President's massive cuts to the SNAP program—used to be known as food stamps—in his Big Beautiful Bill—not so beautiful—that will reduce or eliminate food assistance for more than 22 million families. This is Amer-

ica. This President gives 20 million bucks to Argentina, but he can't find the money for American citizens.

Another is the administration's attacks on immigrant workers, which is fueling a labor shortage, thereby hurting farmers in Illinois and across the Nation, who are already struggling, and driving up prices on the products they grow. Even President Trump's own Labor Department agrees, saying that his war on immigrant workers is "threatening the stability of domestic food production and prices."

Now let's get to the bottom line here and be honest about it. The farmers in my State are great men and women, and I thank them for what they do. When it comes to the political scene, after a lifetime of dealing with them, I know that they are very courteous and kind, come to see me with regularity, give me a lot of things to seriously consider, and usually vote for the other party. I get it. They are more conservative, and they just don't see things politically the way I see them. But when you close the door and there is no press around and you ask them what is going on, they are scared to death.

They see China stopping purchases of soybeans. Why is that important? Illinois is the No. 1 soybean-producing State in the United States, and it is a major cash crop for farmers all across the country. So when China stops buying, what do we do? Unfortunately, our buyers, like China, turn to other countries, and they use those countries as sources when they used to rely on us. That worries these farmers behind closed doors, but they don't say much publicly.

They don't like tariffs. They tell me that behind closed doors too. They don't want to be open in public about their criticism of President Trump, but the tariffs are taxes that they know are going to make it difficult for them and their exporters and importers of important goods.

In addition to all of that, they need workers on the farm. It is a fact. Whether it is an orchard or a dairy farm or any other farm operation, many of them need workers on the farm, and there aren't a lot of local people volunteering for that job. The President's policies against immigrants are not only denying them the source of these workers, but they are also creating an attitude in other adjoining countries that have served us in the past that it is too dangerous to try to come and work in the United States. That is the reality.

Nationwide, for example, the costs of a lot of basics just keep going up. Orange juice is up 29 percent compared to last year. Ground beef is up 14 percent. Coffee is 26 percent more. None of these developments have occurred in a vacuum. They are a direct response to the President's chaotic tariff policies. He changes his mind every 15 minutes. Is it 10 percent? Is it 15 percent? Is it 100 percent? Wait a minute. The Premier of Ontario just ran an ad during a base-

ball game. Let's raise tariffs on products from Canada by 50 percent. Is that any way to run a country? Already, families in Illinois have paid more than \$700 just this year, on average, because of these policies.

In a Supreme Court hearing last month on the legality of these tariffs, Justice Sotomayor said to the lawyers defending the President:

You say tariffs are not taxes, but that's exactly what they are.

Justice Sotomayor is absolutely right.

We are paying for Donald Trump's failed economic agenda—an agenda which runs back and forth, helter-skelter, day by day. The President recognizes it too, really. That is why a few weeks ago he watered down his own economic proposal when he suspended certain tariffs on bananas, coffee, beef, and clothing. You just can't keep up with him. Why backtrack? Because he knows that the voters and consumers in America are fed up with rising costs and place it by a factor of 2 to 1 at his feet. My source again? FOX News. The President sees the writing on the wall, and he is scrambling to undo the damage he has caused, but it is too little, too late, unless he moves quickly and changes dramatically.

The damage goes beyond food prices. Thanks to this President, Americans are now confronting higher utility bills. Just ask them. On the campaign trail, the President promised to slash electricity prices in half. "Drill, baby, drill" will take care of everything. It ain't working. On average, Illinois households are paying more than \$1,500 annually for lights and heat in their homes—up more than 15 percent from last year. Cause and effect.

Under President Biden, with the support of a Democratic Congress, we signed into law the Inflation Reduction Act. This historic law provided tax credits to help households and businesses install energy-efficient windows, insulation, HVAC, and solar panels to lower their bills. I know because I put solar panels on my home in Springfield. Our monthly electric bill was cut dramatically because of that policy decision from the Biden administration.

Earlier this year, President Trump and congressional Republicans scrapped these credits for solar energy with their so-called Big Beautiful Bill. So while utility bills go up, people who want to go to cheaper forms of sustainable energy, such as solar, are told the tax incentives are no longer there, which is just the opposite of what we should be doing. Then they went further, eliminating incentives for wind and solar projects, meaning fewer jobs and less power to the grid. It is supply and demand. Less power equals higher prices. And the consequences of these policies are already taking effect.

According to the Century Foundation, past-due utility balances have jumped 10 percent this year. They are 10 percent more than they were the year before. People can't afford to pay these utility bills.

Just like SNAP cuts, Trump's energy policies harm those who are already struggling the most. One example is his budget proposal that calls to eliminate LIHEAP—a program that helps millions of low-income Americans pay their energy bills on time.

Between the sky-high cost of rent, groceries, and utilities, Americans are being hit from all sides.

The President has recently floated \$2,000 tariff rebate checks as an idea. Not only are these checks unlikely to see the light of day, but the hole he has put American families in is far greater than 2,000 bucks. The American people see right through the dumb scheme, and they know that the sole reason they are facing higher prices is because of his policies.

While Republicans ignore higher costs at their own peril, Democrats are still going to keep fighting to lower costs for the American people. We know that there is an opportunity that is going to come before the Senate in just a few days to do something about the high cost of health insurance premiums. I am hearing it back home. People understand what is happening. They are getting notices about what these premiums are going to be as of the first of the year. Some 24 million Americans are affected by the "Big Beautiful Budget Bill" of Donald Trump and the elimination of these tax credits.

It is time for us to do something for American families that makes a difference. Help them pay their health insurance. For goodness' sake, that should be a high priority not only for the Senate but because it is a high priority for every family.

I hope we can work on a bipartisan basis to extend these tax credits and to make sure the American people understand that both Democrats and Republicans can work together to solve this problem. I think some want to on the other side of the aisle. We should do that in the spirit of bipartisanship.

The last point I want to make is almost impossible to understand or explain. Can you imagine that the former President of Honduras—his name is Juan Orlando Hernández—was prosecuted by the Federal Government of the United States for his involvement in the trade of narcotics? He was found guilty of having been involved and was sentenced to some 45 years in prison as a result. He once boasted as President that he would "stuff the drugs up the gringos' noses." He accepted a \$1 million bribe from El Chapo—one of the leaders of narcotics international—to allow cocaine shipments to pass through Honduras that were destined for the United States. This former President Hernández had a man killed in prison to protect him.

Honduras has become a bastion of the global drug trade. This former President Hernández orchestrated a vast trafficking conspiracy that prosecutors said raked in millions of dollars for cartels while making Honduras one of

Central America's poorest, most violent, and most corrupt countries.

So they prosecuted him and found him guilty of being involved in selling narcotics through these cartels in the United States. Can you think of anyone more reprehensible than that—selling drugs to this country—and finding more victims by the day, many of them children, who become addicted to cocaine? Well, of course, it is terrible. It is so terrible that he was found guilty and sentenced to 45 years in prison.

Then what happened? Well, you won't believe it. Donald Trump pulls out his pardon pen.

[On Saturday, Mr. Trump said in a statement to the New York Times that "many friends" had asked him to pardon Mr. Hernández. "They gave him 45 years because he was the President of the Country."

Then Donald Trump said:

"[Y]ou could do this to any President."

I won't go into President Trump's own criminal convictions, but I will tell you this: When this man who was President of Honduras was facilitating the sale of narcotics in America, we thought so much of the effort to prosecute him that we assigned an assistant U.S. attorney by the name of Emil Bove. Ring a bell? Emil Bove was chosen by President Trump to serve on the circuit court of the United States. He was approved by this Chamber. I was at the hearing where he was considered, and I will tell you this: He was proud of the fact that he was tough on crime—so tough that he helped prosecute Hernández and ended up seeing him sent to jail for so many years.

Then along comes President Trump with his pardon pen, and he releases Hernández from jail. He releases him after years and years of prosecution, evidence, and hard work in stopping this man who was facilitating the sale of narcotics in the United States.

Once he started serving the prison sentence, President Trump said that "many friends" had asked him to pardon Mr. Hernández. "They gave him 45 years," President Trump said, "because he was the President of the Country—you could do this to any President." And he then pardoned him.

Hard to imagine, isn't it? But it isn't hard to imagine if you were here on January 6 and saw the insurrectionists come roaring through this Capitol, storm this Chamber, and drive the Senate into recess as we went to an adjoining building so that law enforcement could take over the situation. There were 149 law enforcement officers who were seriously injured, and several died as a result of that experience. It was a terrible day in the history of the United States and a terrible day in the history of this magnificent building I am honored to serve in.

What did Donald Trump do as soon as he was reelected President? He issued a full and unconditional pardon to all of the people who stormed the Capitol.

So it comes as no surprise when it comes to drug kingpins like former Honduran President Hernández. He got

his pardon pen, and he decided—because he had heard from so many friends, the President said, he decided to pardon Mr. Hernández and release him.

This is not an action by a President who is trying to keep America safe from narcotics. It is a strange understanding of his power that he would use this and not end up penalizing those who are responsible for the narcotics coming into the United States.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BRITT). The Senator from West Virginia.

HONORING SPECIALIST SARAH BECKSTROM AND STAFF SERGEANT ANDREW WOLFE

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam President, I rise today with a very heavy heart, one shared by all West Virginians and by so many across our country, including the Presiding Officer. This past Wednesday, two members of the West Virginia National Guard were targeted and shot in the line of duty right here in Washington, DC.

In the days since this horrific attack, our entire State has been praying, grieving, and rallying around these heroes, their loved ones, and their families.

Today, I want to speak about these two brave, fine guardsmen: U.S. Army SPC Sarah Beckstrom, who passed away on Thanksgiving day, and U.S. Air Force SSgt Andrew Wolfe, who remains in critical condition, still fighting for his life.

This was a deliberate and senseless act of violence—an attack not only on two individuals but on the very values and the country that they took an oath to protect. These young soldiers put on the uniform to protect all of us, and on Wednesday, they were ambushed and attacked because they were U.S. servicemembers, because of that sense of duty that led them to serve their country.

SPC Sarah Beckstrom was just 20 years old. So think about it. I am looking at the young people here. Just think about that—20 years old. She had her whole life ahead of her.

We are so proud to claim her as one of our own. Sarah was a West Virginia girl. She served with honor, distinction, and a deep sense of responsibility—qualities that her family, her fellow soldiers, and her community have all recognized.

Those who served alongside of her talk about her leadership and her very bright spirit, and you can see that in her smile from her photographs.

They talk about somebody who showed up every single day. They describe her as a peacemaker, and that is what she was doing on the streets of DC. She was being a peacemaker; and that is exactly what she was. Her loss is immeasurable.

On a holiday that means to bring many families together and create joyous moments, her loved ones instead

faced the unthinkable. My prayers and deepest condolences are with them.

Sarah's service, her sacrifice, and her example will not be forgotten by her Guard family, by the State—by her own family, by the State of West Virginia, which we so proudly shared, or by this Nation.

U.S. Air Force SSgt Andrew Wolfe remains in the hospital, and we are all praying hard, hard for him, his family, and his fellow guardsmen. Andrew volunteered to serve and to take on missions that protect our country and our communities while he was still in high school. Andrew is 24 years old.

I spoke with his mother Melody this morning, and my biggest takeaway is that Andrew is a fighter.

My other takeaway in talking with Melody is that she and the entire family, including Andrew, are very devout. They believe in the power of prayer. They believe in the power of the God Almighty to weave his way and his will, and they have gathered much strength from that.

There are so many people in his community and in our State and really across the country and around the world who are praying for him.

His family has shown extraordinary strength during these painful days, and I want them to know this, as I told her this morning: Andrew is not alone. West Virginia stands behind him; the National Guard stands behind him; and this country stands behind Andrew. Powerful and plentiful prayers are offered to Andrew and to his family.

I also want to take a moment to recognize the West Virginia National Guard. This attack has shaken them deeply, as you can imagine. Guard leadership, including Major General Seward, the Adjutant General of the West Virginia National Guard, has been steadfast, compassionate, and focused on the families and the servicemembers.

Whenever tragedy hits our State, whether it is a flood, fire, storms, or public health emergencies or overseas deployments, the Guard is always there—always there.

Today, as they bear tremendous grief for themselves, they continue to support the families of Sarah and Andrew with the same dedication that they bring to every mission. West Virginia is so proud of our servicemembers. We always have been. And this moment, while it is painful, reminds us again just how much they sacrifice and just how much we depend on them every day.

Let me be perfectly clear: This was an unprovoked and targeted attack on two American servicemembers. It was a horrific act of violence. When our men and women take an oath of office to defend our country, they know they may be called to fight, but I imagine they never really fathomed that they would be attacked right here on our own soil. It is just unthinkable.

This is a moment for unity, for resolve, and for honoring the men and

women who serve our country so bravely. It is a moment to stand against violence of any kind, especially violence directed at those who protect us.

Tomorrow, I intend to introduce a resolution in this Chamber to formally honor Specialist Beckstrom and Staff Sergeant Wolfe. This resolution will reflect what every West Virginian already knows—that Sarah and Andrew represent the very best of our State, the very best of the National Guard, and the very best of America.

The resolution also lets their families and loved ones know that the U.S. Senate will stand with them, support them during this terrible time, painful time, and for them to know that they are not alone.

Madam President, West Virginians are tough; we are resilient; but we are deeply—deeply—connected to our communities and to our values. When we lose one of our own, we all feel it.

Today, we mourn SPC Sarah Beckstrom, and we pray—pray hard—for SSgt Andrew Wolfe. We extend our love and support to their families and reaffirm our gratitude for every member of the West Virginia National Guard who continues to serve with courage and honor.

Madam President, I yield the floor. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

HONORING SPECIALIST SARAH BECKSTROM AND STAFF SERGEANT ANDREW WOLFE

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, as we all know, we are back from the Thanksgiving holiday where most of us—I hope all of us—had a chance to spend some time with our family and show thanks for the blessings that we have experienced, first and foremost of which is to live in a country like the United States of America. We truly won the lottery when we became Americans by virtue of birth or getting here as fast as we could.

After a weekend of turkey and football, we return to some somber news. As the Senator from West Virginia recounted just a moment ago, on Wednesday, two of our National Guard servicemembers stationed near the White House were shot in a targeted ambush. One of these victims, Army SPC Sarah Beckstrom, was only 20 years old and passed away the following day, while another victim, SSgt Andrew Wolfe, remains in critical condition, and I know we all continue to pray for his recovery.

The perpetrator was an Afghan parolee—that has special significance—who entered the country under the Biden administration's Operation Allies Welcome Program, which was notorious for insufficient vetting of Afghan refugees.

I raised alarm bells about this mass parole of Afghan refugees back in 2024 when I co-led a letter to Department of Homeland Security Secretary Mayorkas, pressing the Biden adminis-

tration for their inadequate screening processes for Afghan refugees, including some who were later found to have had ties to ISIS.

I ask unanimous consent to have this letter printed in the RECORD at the end of this statement.

Madam President, I would like to point out that this risk and the threat of these kinds of deadly results was something that many of us were concerned about and raised with the Biden administration a long time before the tragic incidence of this Thanksgiving season.

We wrote in this letter:

In the chaos following the withdrawal [from Afghanistan], the Biden-Harris administration paroled into the U.S. over 77,000 Afghans with no or significantly incomplete security checks done on them prior to their arrival.

The reason why “parole” is an important word is because this particular shooter who shot these two West Virginia guardsmen did not come into the country on any one of the Special Immigrant Visa Programs. He was simply paroled, which is an exercise of Executive or Presidential authority allowing an immigrant into the country without adjudicating any sort of asylum or refugee claim or anything else.

As we point out in this letter of October 18, 2024, we raised concerns about the Biden administration passing this massive parole of 77,000 Afghan nationals with no or insignificant or significantly incomplete security checks done on them prior to their arrival.

The letter goes on to say:

In the three years since, the Department of Homeland Security . . . has failed to conduct proper vetting of these parole recipients.

People like the shooter who shot the two West Virginia National Guardsmen.

A DHS Office of Inspector General report from May of 2024 found that [the Department of Homeland Security] has no established process or dedicated component for monitoring parole expiration for the Afghan parolee population, and that there are significant gaps in how DHS responds to potential derogatory information discovered in the recurrent vetting process.

But here is perhaps the most important line in this letter. We said:

This ongoing failure to protect Americans from potential terrorist threats is unacceptable and it is only a matter of time before it yields deadly results.

Well, unfortunately that prediction of this massive parole of 77,000 Afghans into the United States under the Biden administration's Operation Allies Welcome Program, that prediction proved to be true and come to pass.

Our prayers continue to go out to the family of Sarah Beckstrom, an American hero who gave and made the ultimate sacrifice for her country, and we continue to pray for the full recovery of Andrew Wolfe. These young men and women in uniform put their lives on the line day in and day out so that the rest of us can sleep safe and secure.

When tragic events like this take place, it is a reminder to all of us of

the sacrifices they make in order to protect our freedom and public safety.

I am grateful to President Trump and to FBI Director Patel for their swift response and for their commitment to bring the perpetrator of this heinous event to justice; but even more than that, we need to make sure it does not reoccur through other poorly or insufficiently vetted Afghan parolees. Unfortunately, this is part of the legacy of the Biden administration's open borders and immigration policies where they defied the law which reserves parole through a case-by-case basis to do it on a categorical basis along the southern border and now with the Afghan parolees.

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

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC, October 18, 2024.

Hon. ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS,
Secretary, U.S. Department of Homeland Security,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY MAYORKAS: We write today to request more information about the immigration status of Nasir Ahmad Tawhedi, the Afghan national who was recently arrested in connection with a plot to commit a violent attack on behalf of ISIS in the United States on Election Day. According to the criminal complaint filed by the Department of Justice, Tawhedi "entered the United States on September 9, 2021, on a special immigrant visa and is currently on parole status pending adjudication of his immigration proceedings." However, according to reporting from Fox News, Tawhedi was never approved for a special immigrant visa and was not "well known to the US government" when he was brought to the United States.

We remain deeply troubled by the increasing likelihood that foreign extremists may successfully exploit the weaknesses of our immigration system or our southern border to commit an act of political violence or an act of terror here on U.S. soil, and the policies of the Biden-Harris administration have only made matters worse. It was President Biden and Vice President Harris disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan that led to Tawhedi being in the United States in the first place. In the chaos following the withdrawal, the Biden-Harris administration paroled into the U.S. over 77,000 Afghans with no or significantly incomplete security checks done on them prior to their arrival. In the three years since, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has failed to conduct proper vetting of these parole recipients. A DHS Office of Inspector General report from May 2024 found that DHS has no established process or dedicated component for monitoring parole expiration for the Afghan parolee population, and that there are significant gaps in how DHS responds to potential derogatory information discovered in the recurrent vetting process.

This ongoing failure to protect Americans from potential terroristic threats is unacceptable and it is only a matter of time before it yields deadly results. As part of our ongoing oversight of DHS's use of immigration parole and its response to the heightened threat environment the U.S. finds itself in, we are requesting that you provide to us for review a copy Nasir Ahmad Tawhedi's alien file (a-file) and any other records related to his parole and vetting he received prior to his arrest, no later than November 1, 2024.

Thank you for your prompt attention and cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Lindsey O. Graham, John Cornyn, Mike Lee, Ted Cruz, Josh Hawley, Tom Cotton, Thom Tillis, Marsha Blackburn.

SENATE AGENDA

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, on another matter, we have only three scheduled workweeks before Christmas. Compared to what the Senate had left on its plate last year, I think a great deal of praise is in order for our leadership—Senator THUNE and Senate Republicans generally—for getting so much done in the last 11 months.

We started the year off with an impressive clip, confirming President Trump's Cabinet at a record speed. We successfully passed a reconciliation package, which will extend President Trump's tax cuts for working families, known as the One Big Beautiful Bill or the Working Families Tax Cuts Act, which contains far more than just tax relief for the American people. We passed our first draft of the National Defense Authorization Act in the Senate.

In addition to these impressive accomplishments, the Senate has also passed the first tranche of government funding bills and a continuing resolution to keep the lights on through January. While it may seem odd to commend Congress for just doing its job, this has become a notable achievement because it means we will not be here on Christmas Eve voting on a massive omnibus spending package. That, unfortunately, has happened too often in the past.

Suffice it to say, the first year of the 119th Congress, led by Republicans, has been far more productive than recent years, but now we have more work to do because we are not quite finished. We have a few more tasks to complete before Saint Nick comes to fill up our stockings.

First and foremost, we need to finish the National Defense Authorization Act. This is a must-pass piece of legislation. It is absolutely critical to providing the men and women who protect this country with the finances and the resources and the training they need in order to do their job.

The House and the Senate have passed their own respective versions, which means now, the task is for a conference between those two versions to reconcile any differences and pass that version in both Chambers. Then the final version, of course, as we all know, can go to President Trump.

As part of the process to finalize the NDAA this year, I remain adamant in my provisions to address outbound foreign investments that they be included in the final version.

We all know that the Chinese Communist Party is the greatest national security threat—not just to the region but globally—at this time. What many of us did not fully appreciate is how

American investors are directly supporting the Chinese economy and the Chinese military through outbound investments to the tune of billions of dollars.

The U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission noted that the United States is "the most important single source of investment to semiconductors, quantum computing, and AI in China." In other words, we are funding our principal competitor, and that competitor is not only an economic competitor but is vying for hegemony in the Indo-Pacific and threatening a military conflict to take Taiwan any day, week, or month in the future.

So why in the world would we engage in willful blindness, not knowing what American investors are doing to help prop up the Chinese economy and the Chinese military?

Failure to address outbound investment transparency is to pretend that national security doesn't matter. And we don't have any more time to procrastinate. The best time to act on this was years ago when my initial outbound investment legislation was proposed and passed as part of the Senate NDAA, but now, we need to finish the job we started back then in this year's NDAA.

The last item on our plate, in addition to securing our national defense, is to address our Nation's healthcare. The so-called Affordable Care Act—better known as ObamaCare—was as dubiously named as the Inflation Reduction Act, which did not reduce inflation, just like the Affordable Care Act did not make healthcare affordable.

When ObamaCare was crafted, debated, and passed, Democrats refused to work with Republicans to make it a bipartisan law.

So this failed experiment in ObamaCare that is now proposing 18 percent premium increases in places like the State of Texas this upcoming year has been a complete failure.

President Obama said that if you like your doctor, you can keep your doctor; he said that if you like your healthcare plan, you can keep your healthcare plan; and he also said that it would reduce healthcare costs by an average of \$2,500 per American consumer—none of which has proven to be true. Democrats preferred to write the bill all by themselves and then misrepresent to the American people about their being able to keep their doctor or existing insurance plans.

ObamaCare was a massive failure that left Americans disappointed and our healthcare system virtually bankrupt. Ignoring this reality, Democrats came back for more during the COVID pandemic, using a national healthcare crisis as an opportunity to serve up more of the same bad recipe for our healthcare needs.

Of course, we all know the Senate's secret sauce is deliberation and debate. That is what we are supposed to do. The Senate is a forum where colleagues

who may have different party affiliations and different ideas about how we should solve problems can come together to try to build consensus and to work through our differences to arrive at a policy framework that gets at least 60 percent support in this body. The result of that process is a product that has been stress-tested by Members on both sides and one that works out better in the long-term for the American people.

But with the COVID-era enhanced ObamaCare credits set to expire according to a timetable set by Democrats since no Republican voted for it in the first place—instead of working through the regular order to come up with a bipartisan solution, the Senate Democrats have chosen to play hardball. They shut down the government, denying paychecks to millions of Americans, in an attempt to beat Republicans into accepting their terms unilaterally. This is simply not the way the Senate is supposed to work.

The Democrats' use of a government shutdown as a tactic to get what they wanted—to extend this failed policy in ObamaCare—is a shameful tactic, but now that the shutdown is over, Democrats have an opportunity to reconsider and do the right thing.

President Trump has already given us some great ideas about how to accomplish this and made the point, which I think is an important one, that rather than send the money to insurance companies that have, by the way, done very, very well and made a lot of money, let's send the money directly to the consumer so they can choose what suits their needs the best.

There are many good ideas that have been circulated. Senator BILL CASSIDY, a physician from Louisiana and a member of the Finance Committee, has put forward a framework based on the administration's proposals—bypassing the insurance companies and sending the money directly to the consumer. I know others who have a lot of experience in the healthcare field, like Senator RICK SCOTT of Florida, have introduced legislation as well. So there are a lot of great ideas out there.

We know that ObamaCare itself has failed and is unsustainable in its current form, so we have a lot of work to do and not much time to get it done. The goal, of course, is to make sure that everybody in America can get access to healthcare and to make sure we don't bankrupt the country in the meantime.

So all these ideas are a solid step in the right direction toward righting the wrongs of ObamaCare and ensuring we put dollars in the hands of the consumer or American families rather than in the coffers of insurance companies and insurance company executives.

But to actually solve the healthcare challenges that this country faces, we need to have a robust debate between our Members, and I hope our colleagues on the other side of the aisle will ap-

proach this discussion in good faith. Based on history, I am not overly confident that will happen, but I remain hopeful.

So I look forward to working with all of our colleagues, as well as President Trump, to come up with the right solution for healthcare that actually relieves the burden of rising health costs on American families, primarily caused by the abomination known as ObamaCare.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. PAUL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum call with respect to the Bragdon nomination.

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

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

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

John Thune, John Barrasso, Jon A. Husted, John R. Curtis, Tom Cotton, Bernie Moreno, John Boozman, Chuck Grassley, James Lankford, John Cornyn, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Markwayne Mullin, Kevin Cramer, Pete Ricketts, Katie Boyd Britt, Tim Sheehy, Jim Banks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of David A. Bragdon, of North Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of North Carolina, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Utah (Mr. CURTIS), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), the Senator from Arizona

(Mr. GALLEGO), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. KIM), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF), and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 624 Leg.]

YEAS—50

| | | |
|-----------|------------|------------|
| Banks | Graham | Moreno |
| Barrasso | Grassley | Mullin |
| Blackburn | Hagerty | Murkowski |
| Boozman | Hawley | Paul |
| Britt | Hoeven | Ricketts |
| Budd | Husted | Rounds |
| Capito | Hyde-Smith | Schmitt |
| Cassidy | Johnson | Scott (FL) |
| Collins | Justice | Scott (SC) |
| Cornyn | Kennedy | Sheehy |
| Cotton | Lankford | Sullivan |
| Cramer | Lee | Thune |
| Crapo | Lummis | Tillis |
| Cruz | Marshall | Tuberville |
| Daines | McCormick | Wicker |
| Ernst | Moody | Young |
| Fischer | Moran | |

NAYS—41

| | | |
|-----------------|--------------|------------|
| Alsobrooks | Hickenlooper | Reed |
| Baldwin | Hirono | Rosen |
| Bennet | Kaine | Schatz |
| Blumenthal | Kelly | Schumer |
| Blunt Rochester | King | Shaheen |
| Booker | Klobuchar | Slotkin |
| Cantwell | Lujan | Smith |
| Coons | Markey | Van Hollen |
| Cortez Masto | Merkley | Warner |
| Duckworth | Murphy | Warren |
| Durbin | Murray | Welch |
| Gillibrand | Ossoff | Whitehouse |
| Hassan | Padilla | Wyden |
| Heinrich | Peters | |

NOT VOTING—9

| | | |
|-----------|-----------|---------|
| Curtis | Kim | Sanders |
| Fetterman | McConnell | Schiff |
| Gallego | Risch | Warnock |

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RICKETTS). On this vote, the yeas are 50, the nays are 41.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of David A. Bragdon, of North Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of North Carolina.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, all postcloture time be expired and the Senate vote on confirmation of the Bragdon nomination at 11:30 a.m. tomorrow; further, that the cloture motion with respect to the Freeman nomination ripen following disposition of the Bragdon nomination; further, that if cloture is invoked on the Freeman nomination, the Senate vote on the nomination at 2:15 p.m. tomorrow; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Tuesday's session of the Senate, 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.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. Res. 520

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I send an executive resolution to the desk for consideration of certain nominations en bloc and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the title of the resolution for the information of the Senate.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 520) authorizing the en bloc consideration in Executive Session of certain nominations on the Executive Calendar.

Mr. THUNE. In order to place the executive resolution on the calendar, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the executive resolution will lie over 1 calendar day.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. 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. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 474.

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 senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Matthew E. Orso, of North Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of North Carolina.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. 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 legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 474, Matthew E. Orso, of North Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of North Carolina.

John Thune, John Barrasso, Jon A. Husted, John R. Curtis, Tom Cotton, Bernie Moreno, John Boozman, Chuck

Grassley, James Lankford, John Cornyn, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Markwayne Mullin, Kevin Cramer, Pete Ricketts, Katie Boyd Britt, Tim Sheehy, Jim Banks.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. 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. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 475.

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 senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Susan Courtwright Rodriguez, of North Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of North Carolina.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. 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 legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 475, Susan Courtwright Rodriguez, of North Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of North Carolina.

John Thune, John Barrasso, Jon A. Husted, John R. Curtis, Tom Cotton, Bernie Moreno, John Boozman, Chuck Grassley, James Lankford, John Cornyn, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Markwayne Mullin, Kevin Cramer, Pete Ricketts, Katie Boyd Britt, Tim Sheehy, Jim Banks.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume 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.

DISCLOSURE OF CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING ITEMS UNDER RULE XLIV OF THE STANDING RULES OF THE SENATE

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. President, the information required by rule XLIV of the

Standing Rules of the Senate related to congressionally directed spending items is included in the committee reports (Senate Reports 119-44, 119-46, 119-47, and 119-55) that are referenced in Senate amendment No. 3951 to H.R. 4016. I hereby incorporate that information into this disclosure by reference.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I was absent, but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 623, H.J. Res. 130, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Land Management relating to "Buffalo Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment."

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I am thrilled to recognize the centennial of Hebrew University of Jerusalem. The American Friends of Hebrew University, AFHU, is helping to celebrate 100 years of accomplishment and toast the next generation of visionaries who will carry forward this tradition to the next century and beyond.

Hebrew University is home to over 23,000 students and 1,400 researchers across six campuses. Faculty and alumni have received 9 Nobel Prizes and registered more than 11,000 patents. Its impact has shaped not just Israel but the whole world, including in Virginia through the Mid-Atlantic Branch of AFHU. Benefactors of HU and this celebration include so many whose legacy can be seen across Virginia and the Mid-Atlantic region: the family and descendants of Charles E. Smith, the Theodore and Annette Lerner Family Foundation, Sheryl and Bradley Schwartz, Susie and Michael Gelman, and many more.

I would be especially remiss not to recognize my friends Bill and Bobbie Kilberg. Bill is president of the mid-Atlantic region of the AFHU and a member of the board of governors, among many other stops in his legal and business career. Bobbie is president and CEO emerita of the Northern Virginia Technology Council, an entity that has done so much to shape the Virginia economy of today.

As I reflect on the interweaving strands of academic excellence embodied by Hebrew University and the economic and technological innovation for which Israel is renowned, I see a story that has played out in Virginia and elsewhere. Virginia's technology economy has blossomed in just a few short decades, largely due to its first-rate higher education sector, careful attention to cultivating a strong workforce, and the efforts of organizations like NVTC and people like Bill and Bobbie to cultivate those resources.

Today, it is home to innovative companies, large and small, and exports its goods and services to the world through an international airport and international seaport. We are economically stronger when we invest in our people. Our people are stronger when we invest in education and workforce.

The change that Hebrew University has seen over the past century is profound, in some ways miraculous. Your steadfast support has produced this positive change, and that change continues today. You have my fondest wishes for the celebration of the century, and I look forward to what the next century will bring.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL ANNA KO

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to LTC Anna Ko for her exemplary dedication to duty and service as an Army Congressional Fellow. Lieutenant Colonel Ko currently serves in the Army Congressional Budget Liaison Office.

Lieutenant Colonel Ko was born in the Republic of Korea and moved to New York City when she was 9 years old. In 2007, she attended Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, GA, and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Army's Logistics Branch. She earned a bachelor's degree in TV production from the City-University of Brooklyn and a master's degree in legislative affairs from George Washington University.

Lieutenant Colonel Ko has served in a broad range of assignments during her 18 years as an Army officer, including company executive officer; battalion and brigade operations officer; company commander; and an aide-de-camp to a deputy commanding officer. She has served in multiple countries, including the Republic of Korea; Afghanistan; and Poland, in support of Atlantic Resolve. Prior to her selection to the Army Congressional Fellowship, she served with the 1st Infantry Division as the division supply and services officer, battalion executive officer, and support operations officer for the 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team.

This past year, I had the privilege of working directly with Anna in her role as an Army liaison, and she escorted me on multiple congressional delegations, including to Turkey, Lebanon, and Israel. Her professionalism, performance, and commitment to the mission are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and made a lasting impression on both Members of the U.S. Congress and their staff. Throughout her career, Lieutenant Colonel Ko has positively impacted soldiers, peers, and superiors alike.

Working with Lieutenant Colonel Ko during the 119th Congress has been a genuine pleasure. Our country has benefited from her extraordinary leadership, judgment, and passion for the Army profession. On behalf of the State of South Carolina, the U.S. Sen-

ate, and a grateful Nation, I join my colleagues today in recognizing and commending LTC Anna Ko on her service to our Nation. We wish Anna all the best as she continues her journey in the Army.

TRIBUTE TO DENNIS MIOTLA

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, with my colleagues Senator JIM RISCH, Representative MIKE SIMPSON, and Representative RUSS FULCHER, we congratulate Dennis Miotla, who is retiring from his position as Chief Operating Officer and Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Infrastructure Programs for the U.S. Department of Energy's, DOE, Office of Nuclear Energy, after 35 years of service.

Throughout his extensive career in nuclear energy, Dennis Miotla has served in a number of leadership positions as he has contributed significantly to guiding nuclear operations. Prior to his current position, Mr. Miotla was the Acting Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy. He previously served as the Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office of Nuclear Energy. Mr. Miotla also served as the Deputy Director for Nuclear Facility Operations, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Operations, and the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Power Deployment. Additionally, he was the interim manager of the Department of Energy's Idaho Operations Office where he had full responsibility for DOE operations at Idaho National Laboratory, INL.

Dennis has also worked for the National Nuclear Security Administration and at the Westinghouse Electric Corporation's Bettis Atomic Power Laboratory in West Mifflin, PA. As Dennis said about himself, "About 50 years working in various positions in nuclear energy. I think I have pretty much seen it all and done it all."

His extensive and remarkable work in the field of nuclear energy has understandably been recognized. He is a two-time recipient of the Presidential Rank Award for his outstanding performance in the advancement of nuclear energy programs.

Dennis is generous with his time as he cares deeply about the legacy of Federal service and is invested in those who choose that path. He is known at DOE, the Lab, and the nuclear industry for his leadership, mentorship, and sarcastic humor. He has taught many the importance and intricacies of the Lab's research, and his patience and guidance are deeply appreciated by many who have worked with him.

Dennis' years of service and dedication to nuclear energy and INL have helped support the current fleet of reactors and will help ensure continued research into advanced nuclear reactors, facilitating their commercialization and deployment in the private sector. His contributions are significant. Thank you, Dennis, for lending your knowledge, know-how, direction, and

vast experience so extensively to advancing nuclear energy and shaping future leaders in this important field. We wish you all the best on your well-earned retirement.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO SISTER KATHLEEN ATKINSON

• Mr. CRAMER. Mr. President, these weeks between Thanksgiving, Christmas and the New Year are a time of reflecting, giving thanks, and expressing gratitude for the blessings in our lives. Today, I would like to recognize and honor a remarkable woman from Bismarck, ND, who has been a profound blessing to my community and beyond.

I have known Sister Kathleen Atkinson, a member of the Order of Saint Benedict at Annunciation Monastery in Bismarck, for many years. In 2004 we cochaired the establishment of a Center for Christian Ministry at the University of Mary, which fostered leadership and service between students and the community.

In 2010, Sister Kathleen began leading Bible studies at the North Dakota State Penitentiary. She called the inmates her "men in the Pen," meeting them one-on-one behind the prison doors. Despite any fears she had, she believed in the importance of bringing God's love to the incarcerated and persevered with her ministry.

One day an inmate shared with her how terrified he was about his upcoming prison release. He had no ride, no job, no money, and no place to stay. Despite her own apprehension about taking responsibility for a prisoner she barely knew, Sister Kathleen agreed to pick him up on the day of his release. That was the beginning of her commitment to a prison re-entry program known as Ministry on the Margins, which she founded in 2013. Originally sponsored by the Annunciation Sisters, it later became an independent organization. She has served as its executive director ever since. The ministry has expanded to include a food pantry, street outreach, a nighttime low-barrier coffee house, and other programs serving the most vulnerable among us. What began with one volunteer has now expanded to 15 employees and countless volunteers serving some 1,600 people weekly.

I have watched with admiration her servant leadership in action over these many years. She has grown this ministry by recruiting volunteers regardless of religious denomination or comfort level serving others. Despite her short stature, she is powerful and fearless in her dedication. When she speaks, even the toughest audience listens. She asks for prayers, encourages selfless service, tirelessly fundraises, and testifies on legislation, policies, and solutions. Her success with Ministry on the Margins has inspired others to establish similar programs for

the vulnerable in Bismarck, across North Dakota, and throughout the Nation.

Sister Kathleen announced her retirement effective December 31, and I join the many who know this national leader in thanking her for being the hands and feet of Christ. Her ministry embodies Jesus' words from the Sermon on the Mount, where He says, "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was in prison and you came to me. Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'" Matthew 25:35-40.

Mayor Mike Schmidt has designated December 10 as Sister Kathleen Atkinson Day in Bismarck, where the community will be able to come together and personally express their appreciation. The impact of Sister Kathleen's ministry will resonate for decades to come. She is a State treasure and one of Bismarck's most beautiful souls. North Dakota is a better place because of her vision and dedication. On behalf of all North Dakotans, I thank Sister Kathleen Atkinson for her years of ministry. I wish her many years of health and happiness in the future.●

TRIBUTE TO SUSAN SHAPIRO

● Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, the holidays are a great reminder of the joy that comes from giving of our time and talents. It is also a time to reflect on those like LTC Susan Shapiro of New Market, AL, who are willing to spend holidays away from loved ones so that we can celebrate in peace with ours.

Susan grew up in a military family. Her father was a master sergeant in the Air Force, and many of her four older siblings either served themselves or are military spouses. Susan decided to join herself in 1989 as a means to pay for her college. However, this decision led to more than two decades of service. While in basic training in California, Susan met her husband—and fellow Army veteran—Jeff. They later welcomed their son Trent.

Susan spent the next decade going back and forth serving in both Active Duty and in the Army Reserves. During a stint in Oklahoma, she helped in the recovery and investigation logistics from the tragic Oklahoma City bombing. Her work took her all over the country: California, Oklahoma, Kentucky, New York. But the traveling stopped in 1999 when her husband was located to Huntsville, and they knew they had found their home. Shortly upon this move, Susan was assigned an overseas deployment to Iraq.

But before fighting on the battlefield abroad, she had to defeat a battle here at home: breast cancer. And that she did. Just 3 years after defeating cancer, Susan deployed to the Middle East to serve with the Headquarters Company Command and fight in the war on terror. While she was overseas, she connected deeply with two other women—her "battle buddies" as she calls them—Tammy and Sabine. One of her fondest memories of her time in Iraq is when her team members coordinated a Cancer Walk with her entire command as her family members back in the States did a Cancer Walk of their own.

The bond Susan formed with her team, Tammy, and Sabine was truly unbreakable. After returning home from deployment, the three remained inseparable. Susan walked with them through their own personal battles with breast cancer and has taken Tammy's family as her own after Tammy sadly lost her fight with cancer.

Susan also played a key part in Redstone Arsenal's Missile Defense Agency until her retirement in 2013. She now spends most of her time with her friends and family and rescuing animals in need of a home.

As we enter into this holiday season, I am honored to recognize Susan Shapiro as the December Veteran of the Month.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

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

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

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2025, the Secretary of the Senate, on November 21, 2025, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills and joint resolutions:

S. 260. An act to amend the Bottles and Breastfeeding Equipment Screening Act to require hygienic handling of breast milk and baby formula by security screening personnel of the Transportation Security Administration and personnel of private security companies providing security screening, and for other purposes.

S. 2392. An act to increase, effective as of December 1, 2025, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1512. An act to amend the Taiwan Assurance Act of 2020 to require periodic reviews and updated reports relating to the Department of State's Taiwan Guidelines.

S.J. Res. 80. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Land Management relating to "National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska Integrated Activity Plan Record of Decision".

H.J. Res. 133. Joint resolution requesting the Secretary of the Interior to authorize unique and one-time arrangements for displays on the National Mall and the Washington Monument during the period beginning on December 31, 2025, and ending on January 5, 2026.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2025, the enrolled bills were signed on November 21, 2025, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. SHEEHY).

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills and concurrent resolutions, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3109. An act to require the Secretary of Energy to direct the National Petroleum Council to issue a report with respect to petrochemical refineries in the United States, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3426. An act to amend title 40, United States Code, to limit the construction of new courthouses under certain circumstances, and for other purposes.

H. Con. Res. 58. Concurrent resolution denouncing the horrors of socialism.

H. Con. Res. 62. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for an event to unveil the statue of Barbara Rose Johns.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 3109. An act to require the Secretary of Energy to direct the National Petroleum Council to issue a report with respect to petrochemical refineries in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 3426. An act to amend title 40, United States Code, to limit the construction of new courthouses under certain circumstances, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

MEASURES HELD OVER/UNDER RULE

The following resolution was read, and held over, under the rule:

S. Res. 520. An executive resolution authorizing the en bloc consideration in Executive Session of certain nominations on the Executive Calendar.

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-2153. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Castor oil, polymer with 2-ethylhexanol, maleic anhydride and soybean oil, sodium salt in pesticide formulations; Tolerance exemption" (FRL No. 12955-01-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 19, 2025; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2154. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fluopyram; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 12909-01-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 19, 2025; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2155. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fluazinam; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 12959-01-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 19, 2025; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2156. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Various Fragrance Components in Pesticide Formulations; Exemption from the Requirement for a Tolerance" (FRL No. 12962-01-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 19, 2025; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2157. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Chlorantraniliprole; Pesticide Tolerance for Emergency Exemption" (FRL No. 12973-01-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 19, 2025; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2158. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Oxirane, Methyl-, Polymer with Oxirane, Monobutyl Ether And Oxirane, 2-Methyl-, Polymer with Oxirane, Monomethyl Ether in Pesticide Formulations; Exemption from the Requirement for a Tolerance" (FRL No. 12955-01-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 19, 2025; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

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 and Ms. WARREN):

S. 3282. A bill to authorize the imposition of sanctions with respect to significant ac-

tions that exacerbate climate change, to reinforce comprehensive efforts to limit global average temperature rise, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. MORENO:

S. 3283. A bill to establish that citizens of the United States shall owe sole and exclusive allegiance to the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. KELLY, and Mr. WARNOCK):

S. 3284. A bill to amend chapter 53 of title 49, United States Code, to allow funding recipients to assume certain responsibilities relating to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. CRAMER, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. HUSTED):

S. 3285. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to criminalize unlawful adoption practices; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 3286. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve processes relating to appeals of decisions regarding claims for benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CRAMER (for himself and Mr. HOEVEN):

S. 3287. A bill to prohibit the allocation of costs for certain electric transmission facilities to consumers in a State the public officials of which did not expressly consent to the transmission facility, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. YOUNG:

S. 3288. A bill to require the Director of National Intelligence to develop a strategy on intelligence coordination and sharing relating to critical and emerging technologies; to the Select Committee on Intelligence.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 3289. A bill to amend section 923 of title 18, United States Code, to require an electronic, searchable database of the importation, production, shipment, receipt, sale, or other disposition of firearms; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HAGERTY:

S. 3290. A bill making appropriations for financial services and general government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. YOUNG:

S. 3291. A bill to require a declassification review for intelligence relating to the COVID-19 pandemic, and for other purposes; to the Select Committee on Intelligence.

By Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. 3292. A bill to support research about the impact of digital communication platforms on society by providing privacy-protected, secure pathways for independent research on data held by large internet companies; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. KENNEDY:

S. 3293. A bill making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND
SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. KELLY (for himself, Mr. GALLEGOS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. OSSOFF, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. HICKENLOOPER):

S. Res. 519. A resolution recognizing the achievements and contributions of the AH-64 Apache attack helicopter to the national defense of the United States and its allies and honoring the dedication, service, and sacrifice of the United States Army aviators, maintainers, and support personnel who operate and sustain the Apache; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. THUNE:

S. Res. 520. An executive resolution authorizing the en bloc consideration in Executive Session of certain nominations on the Executive Calendar; placed on the executive calendar.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 475

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 475, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure appropriate access to non-opioid pain management drugs under part D of the Medicare program.

S. 688

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 688, a bill to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing at its sources globally.

S. 926

At the request of Mr. KING, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGOS) were added as cosponsors of S. 926, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a program to furnish to certain veterans items used for the secure storage of firearms, and for other purposes.

S. 1320

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1320, a bill to direct the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to take certain steps regarding research related to menopause, perimenopause, or mid-life women's health, and for other purposes.

S. 1410

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1410, a bill to provide for health coverage with no cost-sharing for additional breast screenings for certain individuals at greater risk for breast cancer.

S. 1538

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1538, a bill to amend the

Animal Welfare Act to expand and improve the enforcement capabilities of the Attorney General, and for other purposes.

S. 1541

At the request of Mr. KELLY, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. HUSTED) were added as cosponsors of S. 1541, a bill to support the national defense and economic security of the United States by supporting vessels, ports, and shipyards of the United States and the U.S. maritime workforce.

S. 1563

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1563, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to establish a grant program to help law enforcement agencies with civilian law enforcement tasks, and for other purposes.

S. 1643

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1643, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to protect patient access to ground ambulance services under the Medicare program.

S. 1703

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1703, a bill to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to improve access to disaster assistance for individuals located in rural areas, and for other purposes.

S. 1748

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEG0) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1748, a bill to protect the safety of children on the internet.

S. 1996

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1996, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve coverage of audiology services under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 2042

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2042, a bill to provide lasting protection for inventoried roadless areas within the National Forest System.

S. 2196

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) and the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) were added as cosponsors of S. 2196, a bill to amend title 18, United States

Code, to define intimate partner to include someone with whom there is or was a dating relationship, and for other purposes.

S. 2207

At the request of Ms. LUMMIS, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2207, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform the treatment of digital assets.

S. 2381

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2381, a bill to require the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology to develop a framework for detecting, removing, and reporting child pornography in datasets used to train artificial intelligence systems, and for other purposes.

S. 2503

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2503, a bill to require all aircraft to be equipped with Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast In, to improve aviation safety, and for other purposes.

S. 2594

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2594, a bill to amend section 236 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to require immigration enforcement officers of the Department of Homeland Security to display visible identification during enforcement actions and provide privacy enhancing services.

S. 2667

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 2667, a bill to prevent violence in the West Bank and authorize the imposition of sanctions with respect to any foreign person endangering United States national security and undermining prospects for a two-state solution by committing illegal violent acts.

S. 2759

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2759, a bill to enhance our Nation's nurse and physician workforce by recapturing unused immigrant visas.

S. 2915

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2915, a bill to require the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to establish an emerging developer fund program to provide competitive grants to nonprofit housing organizations and community development financial institutions, and for other purposes.

S. 2950

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2950, a bill to require the Secretary of State and relevant executive branch agencies to address international scam compounds defrauding people in the United States, to hold significant transnational criminal organizations accountable, and for other purposes.

S. 2952

At the request of Ms. LUMMIS, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2952, a bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint and issue \$2.50 numismatic coins and \$2.50 circulating coins, and for other purposes.

S. 3062

At the request of Mr. HAWLEY, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3062, a bill to require artificial intelligence chatbots to implement age verification measures and make certain disclosures, and for other purposes.

S. 3087

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3087, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to prohibit certain acts related to fentanyl, analogues of fentanyl, and counterfeit substances, and for other purposes.

S. 3090

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3090, a bill to prohibit the use of funds for an explosive nuclear weapons test.

S. 3209

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BANKS), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 3209, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs furnishes certain non-opioid pain medications to veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 3253

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 3253, a bill to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to extend the interest rate limitation on debt entered into during military service to debt incurred during military service to consolidate or refinance student loans incurred before military service, and for other purposes.

S. 3257

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr.

RISCH) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 3257, a bill to require the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to revise regulations for certain individuals carrying out aviation activities who disclose a mental health diagnosis or condition, and for other purposes.

S. 3259

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3259, a bill to amend the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to require remaining funds under the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program to be used for deficit reduction.

S.J. RES. 82

At the request of Mr. KING, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 82, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Office of the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services relating to "Policy on Adhering to the Text of the Administrative Procedure Act".

S. RES. 236

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 236, a resolution calling for the return of abducted Ukrainian children before finalizing any peace agreement to end the war against Ukraine.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 519—RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE AH-64 APACHE ATTACK HELICOPTER TO THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES AND ITS ALLIES AND HONORING THE DEDICATION, SERVICE, AND SACRIFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY AVIATORS, MAINTAINERS, AND SUPPORT PERSONNEL WHO OPERATE AND SUSTAIN THE APACHE

Mr. KELLY (for himself, Mr. GALLEG0, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. OSSOFF, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. HICKENLOOPER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

S. RES. 519

Whereas, on September 30, 1975, the Apache attack helicopter prototype YAH-64 took its first flight, marking a defining milestone in the history of aviation and defense innovation;

Whereas the AH-64 Apache was designed as a twin-engine, tandem-seat, heavy attack helicopter capable of providing close air support, deep strike, and reconnaissance missions under adverse conditions;

Whereas, since its first flight, the AH-64 Apache has become the most advanced, combat-proven attack helicopter in the world, amassing more than 5,200,000 total flight

hours, including over 1,300,000 combat hours, in defense of the United States and its allies;

Whereas the AH-64 Apache has undergone continuous modernization, from the AH-64A through the AH-64E, incorporating digital avionics, advanced sensors, and networked weapons systems to enhance survivability, lethality, and interoperability;

Whereas production and sustainment of the AH-64 Apache have been carried out at facilities across the United States, with final assembly in Arizona and a supplier base across 46 States, reflecting decades of leadership of the United States in aerospace design, engineering, and advanced manufacturing;

Whereas the AH-64 Apache has played a decisive role in major combat operations, including—

(1) Operation Desert Storm (1991), where it conducted the opening strikes of the Gulf War;

(2) Operation Allied Force (1999), during the conflict in Kosovo;

(3) Operation Enduring Freedom (2001–2014), providing close air support and reconnaissance in Afghanistan;

(4) Operation Iraqi Freedom (2003–2011), supporting ground operations and counter-insurgency missions; and

(5) Operation Inherent Resolve (beginning in 2014 and ongoing as of the date of the introduction of this resolution), conducting precision strike operations against the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria;

Whereas the AH-64 Apache attack helicopters operate from key United States Army installations around the world, including the United States Army Aviation Center of Excellence at Fort Rucker, Alabama, and 4 Army National Guard battalions;

Whereas the AH-64 Apache also serves with 18 allied and partner nations, strengthening global security and coalition interoperability and continuing to prove the indispensable role of the AH-64 Apache on the modern battlefield, including in counter-unmanned system efforts;

Whereas the AH-64 Apache continues to demonstrate versatility, resilience, and decisive battlefield capability in combat operations around the world; and

Whereas, on the 50th anniversary of the first flight of the AH-64 Apache, it is fitting to recognize the extraordinary innovation, dedication, and service that have defined the aircraft and the individuals who have designed, built, and maintained it: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the achievements and contributions of the AH-64 Apache attack helicopter to the national defense of the United States and its allies;

(2) honors the dedication, service, and sacrifice of the United States Army aviators, maintainers, and support personnel who operate and sustain the AH-64 Apache;

(3) acknowledges the enduring role of the AH-64 Apache in ensuring that the United States maintains unmatched close air support and precision strike capability; and

(4) respectfully directs the Secretary of the Senate to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the United States Army Aviation Center of Excellence at Fort Rucker, Alabama.

SENATE RESOLUTION 520—AUTHORIZING THE EN BLOC CONSIDERATION IN EXECUTIVE SESSION OF CERTAIN NOMINATIONS ON THE EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE submitted the following resolution; which was placed on the executive calendar:

S. RES. 520

Resolved, That it shall be in order to move to proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following nominations on the Executive Calendar:

(1) Calendar Number 166: Henry Mack III, of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor.

(2) Calendar Number 267: James Percival, of Florida, to be General Counsel, Department of Homeland Security.

(3) Calendar Number 354: Pedro Allende, of Florida, to be Under Secretary for Science and Technology, Department of Homeland Security.

(4) Calendar Number 429: Michael Powers, of Virginia, to be Deputy Under Secretary of Defense.

(5) Calendar Number 430: Benjamin Kohlmann, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Navy.

(6) Calendar Number 431: Amy Henninger, of Virginia, to be Director of Operational Test and Evaluation, Department of Defense.

(7) Calendar Number 432: David Denton, Jr., of Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Navy.

(8) Calendar Number 452: Benjamin Hobbs, of Ohio, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(9) Calendar Number 453: Ronald Kurtz, of Georgia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(10) Calendar Number 454: Jonathan Burke, of Georgia, to be Assistant Secretary for Terrorist Financing, Department of the Treasury.

(11) Calendar Number 455: Chris Pilkerton, of Maryland, to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Investment Security.

(12) Calendar Number 456: David Courcelle, of Louisiana, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Louisiana for the term of 4 years.

(13) Calendar Number 461: Jeremiah Workman, of Ohio, to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training.

(14) Calendar Number 462: Derek Theurer, of Virginia, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury.

(15) Calendar Number 463: Jonathan Greenstein, of New York, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury.

(16) Calendar Number 465: Crystal Carey, of New Jersey, to be General Counsel of the National Labor Relations Board for the term of 4 years.

(17) Calendar Number 466: Rosario Palmieri, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor.

(18) Calendar Number 467: James Murphy, of Maryland, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board for the term of 5 years expiring December 16, 2027.

(19) Calendar Number 468: Kirsten Davies, of Tennessee, to be Chief Information Officer of the Department of Defense.

(20) Calendar Number 469: Derrick Anderson, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

(21) Calendar Number 470: James Mazol, of Virginia, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of Defense.

(22) Calendar Number 476: Sara Bailey, of Texas, to be Director of National Drug Control Policy.

(23) Calendar Number 477: Braden Boucek, of Tennessee, to be United States Attorney for the Middle District of Tennessee for the term of 4 years.

(24) Calendar Number 478: Dominick Gerace II, of Ohio, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio for the term of 4 years.

(25) Calendar Number 479: Jerome Francis Gorgon, Jr., of Michigan, to be United States

Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan for the term of 4 years.

(26) Calendar Number 480: Bryan Stirling, of South Carolina, to be United States Attorney for the District of South Carolina for the term of 4 years.

(27) Calendar Number 481: Thomas Wheeler II, of Indiana, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana for the term of 4 years.

(28) Calendar Number 482: Thomas Albus, of Missouri, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Missouri for the term of 4 years.

(29) Calendar Number 483: Adam Mildred, of Indiana, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of Indiana for the term of 4 years.

(30) Calendar Number 484: Harry Kumar, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce.

(31) Calendar Number 486: Joyce Meyer, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Economic Affairs.

(32) Calendar Number 488: Andrew Veprek, of Louisiana, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Population, Refugees, and Migration).

(33) Calendar Number 489: John Bartrum, of Indiana, to be Under Secretary for Health of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(34) Calendar Number 509: William Kirk, of Maryland, to be Inspector General, Small Business Administration.

(35) Calendar Number 510: Jeffrey Hall, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(36) Calendar Number 511: Mitch Graves, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority for a term expiring May 18, 2029.

(37) Calendar Number 512: Jeff Hagood, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority for a term expiring May 18, 2029.

(38) Calendar Number 513: Randall Jones, of Alabama, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority for a term expiring May 18, 2028.

(39) Calendar Number 514: Arthur Graham, of Florida, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority for the remainder of the term expiring May 18, 2026.

(40) Calendar Number 516: Douglas Troutman, of Maryland, to be Assistant Administrator for Toxic Substances of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(41) Calendar Number 517: Anthony D'Esposito, of New York, to be Inspector General, Department of Labor.

(42) Calendar Number 518: Platte Moring, of South Carolina, to be Inspector General, Department of Defense.

(43) Calendar Number 520: Mindy Brashears, of Texas, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Food Safety.

(44) Calendar Number 521: Stella Herrell, of New Mexico, to be an Assistant Secretary of Agriculture.

(45) Calendar Number 522: Peter Metzger, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis, Department of the Treasury.

(46) Calendar Number 524: Edward Forst, of Florida, to be Administrator of General Services.

(47) Calendar Number 525: Stephen F. Rickard, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of 15 years.

(48) Calendar Number 526: Elana S. Suttenger, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of 15 years.

(49) Calendar Number 527: John Cuong Truong, of the District of Columbia, to be an

Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of 15 years.

(50) Calendar Number 528: Thomas Ferguson III, of North Carolina, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of North Carolina for the term of 4 years.

(51) Calendar Number 529: Robert Kadlec, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

(52) Calendar Number 530: Marc Berkowitz, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

(53) Calendar Number 531: Joseph Jewell, of Indiana, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

(54) Calendar Number 532: Brendan Rogers, of Connecticut, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Navy.

(55) Calendar Number 533: David Beck, of Tennessee, to be Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs, National Nuclear Security Administration.

(56) Calendar Number 534: Charles Young III, of West Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Army.

(57) Calendar Number 535: Michael Borders, of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Air Force.

(58) Calendar Number 536: William Lane III, of Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Air Force.

(59) Calendar Number 537: John Noh, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

(60) Calendar Number 538: James Caggy, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense. (New Position)

(61) Calendar Number 539: Timothy Dill, of Ohio, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

(62) Calendar Number 540: Michael Payne, of Virginia, to be Director of Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation, Department of Defense.

(63) Calendar Number 541: Maurice Todd, of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

(64) Calendar Number 550: Ethan Klein, of New Jersey, to be an Associate Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy.

(65) Calendar Number 551: Stephen Carmel, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Maritime Administration.

(66) Calendar Number 552: Timothy Petty, of Indiana, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere.

(67) Calendar Number 553: Laura DiBella, of Florida, to be a Federal Maritime Commissioner for a term expiring June 30, 2028.

(68) Calendar Number 554: Trent Morse, of Florida, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority for a term expiring May 30, 2030.

(69) Calendar Number 555: Michelle A. Schultz, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the Surface Transportation Board for a term expiring November 30, 2030. (Reappointment)

(70) Calendar Number 557: Francis Cassidy, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(71) Calendar Number 558: Joseph Gormley, of Maryland, to be President, Government National Mortgage Association.

(72) Calendar Number 559: Travis Hill, of Maryland, to be Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation for a term of 5 years.

(73) Calendar Number 561: Jeffrey Goettman, of Virginia, to be a Deputy United States Trade Representative (Africa, Western Hemisphere, Europe, the Middle East, Environment, Labor, and Industrial Competitiveness), with the Rank of Ambassador.

(74) Calendar Number 562: Arjun Mody, of New Jersey, to be Deputy Commissioner So-

cial Security for the term expiring January 19, 2031.

(75) Calendar Number 563: Julie Callahan, of the District of Columbia, to be Chief Agricultural Negotiator, Office of the United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador.

(76) Calendar Number 564: Leo Brent Bozell III, of Virginia, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of South Africa.

(77) Calendar Number 565: Benjamin Leon, Jr., of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Spain, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Principality of Andorra.

(78) Calendar Number 566: Brent Christensen, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

(79) Calendar Number 567: Morvared Namdarkhan, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Consular Affairs).

(80) Calendar Number 568: Thomas Bell, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services.

(81) Calendar Number 569: John Walk, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Department of Agriculture.

(82) Calendar Number 570: Andrew Duva, of Florida, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

(83) Calendar Number 575: Erin Creegan, of New Hampshire, to be United States Attorney for the District of New Hampshire for the term of 4 years.

(84) Calendar Number 576: Ryan Anthony Kriegshauser, of Kansas, to be United States Attorney for the District of Kansas for the term of 4 years.

(85) Calendar Number 577: James Kruger, of Mississippi, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Mississippi for the term of 4 years.

(86) Calendar Number 578: Scott Leary, of Mississippi, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of Mississippi for the term of 4 years.

(87) Calendar Number 579: Michael Selig, of Florida, to be Chairman of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

(88) Calendar Number 580: Michael Selig, of Florida, to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission for a term expiring April 13, 2029.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3954. Mr. SHEEHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3954. Mr. SHEEHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3951 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30,

2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In the matter under the heading “ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—FOREST SERVICE” under the heading “FOREST SERVICE” under the heading “DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE” in title III of division C, insert “until the briefing requirements described in the paragraph entitled ‘Wildland Fire Consolidation’ in the report accompanying this Act are satisfied” before the period at the end.

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair announces, on behalf of the Secretary of the Senate, pursuant to Public Law 101-509, the appointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress: George L. Apodaca of Virginia.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2025

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, December 2; 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 the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each; further, that the Senate recess following the cloture vote on the Freeman nomination until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly conference meetings.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

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

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:01 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, December 2, 2025, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

JAMES BISHOP, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE SANDRA J. HAIRSTON.

THE JUDICIARY

MEGAN BLAIR BENTON, OF MISSOURI, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI, VICE M. DOUGLAS HARPOOL, RETIRING.

CHRISTOPHER MICHAEL DE BONO, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS, VICE HEIDI M. PASICHOW, RETIRED.

BRIAN CHARLES LEA, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE, VICE JOHN THOMAS FOWLKES, JR., RETIRED.

JUSTIN R. OLSON, OF INDIANA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA, VICE JANE E. MAGNUS-STINSON, RETIRED.

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL SERVICE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 7064:

To be major

GEORGE A. MESIAS

IN THE COAST GUARD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203(A):

To be captain

JAROD M. ROSS
ANDREW R. YOUNKLE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203(A):

To be captain

JONATHAN B. BERNHARDT
JAMES R. COLLINS
BRIAN W. DUDLEY
JOHN C. ELKINS
NICHOLAS E. FRIEDEN
FAITH L. GAMBOA
PATRICK S. HANLEY
LORALEIGH A. HILD
STEVEN C. MANNION
AUSTIN D. SHUTT
RYAN S. TOWNSEND

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

To be captain

MICHAEL ADAMS
WILLIAM C. ALBRIGHT

NICHOLAS M. ANDERSON
STEVEN J. BALDOVSKY
JEFFREY C. BARNUM
ROGER B. BARR
NICHOLAS A. BARROW
WILLIAM W. BELCHER
NATALIA M. BEST
SAMUEL A. BLASE
STEPHEN BOR
MATTHEW P. BRINKLEY
MARK H. BROWN
JESSICA J. BURRELL
REY CASTILLO
JOEL C. COITO
THOMAS S. CROWLEY
KRISTEN A. CURRAN
CAREN C. DAMON
HOLLY J. DEAL
ANTHONY M. DESTEFANO
JOSHUA M. DIPIETRO
ADAM J. DISQUE
MEGAN I. DREWNIAK
MICHAEL P. FELTOVIC
MICHELLE FERGUSON
BRIAN M. FINN
PHILIP J. GRANATI
GEORGE F. HALL
JARED A. HARLOW
JONATHAN R. HARRIS
ANNA M. HART
JOSEPH H. HART
TODD E. HARTFIEL
RYAN D. HAWN
KELLY I. HIGGINS
JEFFREY S. HOLM
ELIZABETH A. HUTTON
NOEL H. JOHNSON
MATTHEW V. KEMPE
DANIEL P. KILCULLEN
AMY M. LOCKWOOD
JUSTIN M. MATEJKA
JACOB T. MCMILLAN
DANIEL J. MCQUATE
DAVID A. MIDDLETON
STEPHEN MIROS
KIRA M. MOODY
ELLEN M. MOTOI
SEAN M. MURRAY
GINNY R. NADOLNY
ERICK M. NEUSSL
ELIZABETH J. NEWTON
WAYNE T. O'DONNELL
JEFFREY K. PADILLA
TREVOR E. PARRA
KRYSTYN E. PECORA
JONATHAN C. PERRY
KRYSLIA V. POHL
DAVID W. RATNER
CORY A. RIESTERER
CHRISTOPHER C. ROSEN
MICHAEL T. ROSS
KYLE T. RUSSELL
JOSEPH R. SEMKE
NICHOLAS C. SENIUK
GREGORY S. SICKELS
JARED I. SILVERMAN
RICHARD S. SLOCUM
JUSTIN C. SMITH
CHARLES B. STANLEY
BRENDAN SULLIVAN
COLLEEN A. SYMANSKY
NICOLE M. TESONIERO
BRYAN D. TILEY
JONATHAN T. TILLMAN
TRACEY I. TORBA
JESSICA A. TRUJILLO
JUSTIN O. VANDENHEUVEL
OSVALDO E. VERA
JONATHAN I. WELCH
JUDSON B. WHEELER
DEWEY W. WORKER