

time the USS *George Washington*—and other major military assets to provide assistance. Smart, rapid response, combined with unique airlift capability has made all the difference in the world.

In the Philippines, I had the privilege of meeting Col. Eric Mellinger, Chief of Staff of the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Force. I nominated Eric to the Academy in 1982—and it was clear watching him in action that he has earned extraordinary respect. His leadership—and that of Generals Kennedy and Wissler—ensured that a desperate, shell-shocked population of victims got immediate, tangible help. Every Marine we saw, including three from New Jersey—Lance Cpl. Anthony Pellegrini, Lance Cpl. James Soccodato, and Lance Cpl. Michael Nappa—was working around the clock to protect victims. “Sleep—what’s that?” one Marine told me with a smile. “We’re saving lives.”

Al Dwyer, Principal Regional Advisor for East Asia and the Pacific at the USAID Office of Foreign Disaster Relief said “when the U.S. hit the ground things got moving . . . this was a model response . . . we saved lives here—I know that for a fact.” The cooperation and teamwork of the military and disaster assistance leaders from USAID, including Jeremy Konyndyk—Director of the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance—who traveled with us, the NGO community, and Philippine officials was a textbook example of how disaster assistance ought to be done. But of course the relief efforts are far from over. The emergency phase has matriculated into recovery.

With Donald Reilly from Catholic Relief Services, our delegation visited a sanitation kit distribution at a local parish church, and received a briefing from Mayor Remedios Petilla of Palo—whose daughter Jessica Petilla is a medical doctor in New Jersey—and met with numerous survivors who told us heartbreaking stories yet radiated a calm and inner peace. One man told us how his father drowned only a few feet from where we stood and how he had stoically carried many waterlogged dead bodies to a mass grave. He said he nearly collapsed emotionally however when he carried the lifeless body of a three year-old girl. He said he just broke down, overwhelmed, and felt he could continue no more. Yet amazingly, a few hours later, there he was—determined to rebuild and overcome and full of faith in God.

That resiliency was best summed up by Archbishop Jose Palma of Cebu who said “the Typhoon was the strongest in the world . . . but our faith in the Lord is even stronger . . . no calamity or natural devastation can quench the fire of our hope. The Filipino soul is stronger than Yolanda.”

Enroute from Tacloban to Manila aboard a C130 commanded by Major Jason Kauffman, our plane was diverted to seek the whereabouts and rescue of a helicopter that crashed into Manila Bay. After a flawless, just above the deck, systematic search for survivors in the water—kind of like looking for a needle in a haystack—the pilot spotted two individuals, opened the back end of the C130, and kicked out a yellow life raft to two lifejacketless swimmers. With night darkness fast approaching, it was clear that their lives had been saved. Aboard was the crew’s superior officer, Colonel John Peck, 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade Chief of Staff, along with copilot Captain Kim and Crewmasters MSgt. Holdaway, Sgt. Weins, Cpl. Oliver, and LCpl Lopez.

Back in Manila, we had productive meetings with both the Health Minister Enrique Ona and Secretary of Foreign Affairs Albert del Rosario. Matt Bohn, Resident Country Director of the Millennium Challenge Corporation told us that roads that had been constructed pursuant to a \$435 million 5-year MCC grant had been only minimally damaged but had provided—after debris removal—an additional artery for humanitarian aid.

We also met with a plethora of NGOs and U.N. agencies. Our interest was not only in seeing how effective our emergency aid coordination has been throughout it all, but going forward where our assistance ought to be directed in the medium- and long-term. We felt that two areas deserved special attention: preventing or addressing potential epidemics and minimizing human trafficking.

It normally takes two to three weeks for a marked increase in disease prevalence after a natural disaster such as the typhoon, but international health experts on the scene told us that dengue fever already was endemic in the storm-ravaged areas and could increase four- to five-fold in the coming weeks. In addition to dengue fever, cholera, hepatitis A, typhoid fever, leptospirosis, shigelosis, pneumonia and other diseases can proliferate in a post-storm environment. There are vaccines for cholera, hepatitis A and typhoid fever (as well as some other diseases likely to spread post-storm), but there are no such vaccines for dengue fever, leptospirosis or shigelosis.

Efforts to address potential epidemics are complicated by several factors. First, the Philippines is undergoing a rainy season that will not only increase breeding grounds for mosquitoes and other disease-bearing pests, but also will hamper relief efforts. Furthermore, the many residents without shelter or with inadequate shelter will be more susceptible to the elements. Second, the lack of electricity means no cold chain for medicines that must be refrigerated to remain usable. Third, many roads remain uncleared or badly damaged, making transportation for health workers or patients more difficult. Fourth, many Filipino health workers have either left the affected areas or died in the storm, and the continued presence of foreign health workers will depend on ongoing donor funding and the health needs demanded by subsequent crises elsewhere.

Internationally-funded protection efforts currently focus on family reunification, personal identification and creation of safe spaces for women and children. USAID grantees are establishing women-friendly and child-friendly spaces in strategic locations to address the needs of women and adolescent girls, as well as male children. The lack of electricity and insecure housing raises their risk of falling prey to abusers, especially at night.

However, while there is acknowledgement of the increased risk of human trafficking in the wake of the storm, the lack of reports of increased trafficking may be a good thing—or could mean that this issue is not yet a sufficient focus of protection efforts. This is despite the fact that the Philippines had a problem with human trafficking even before the latest typhoon. The Philippines was raised from Tier II Watch List to Tier II in the current human trafficking report by the Department of State. Nevertheless, that report states that trafficking of men, women, and children remains a significant problem, but child sex trafficking is a

special danger, with children being forced to perform sex acts on the internet. Clearly, there needs to be more involvement of trafficking-in-persons experts on recovery planning teams.

Also important will be providing shelter for the 1.2 million families whose homes have been damaged or destroyed. Schools have been so widely destroyed on Leyte that officials told us the school year may be over now—months before it normally would have ended in March. Livelihoods have been severely affected as the coconut industry—the leading agricultural producer—has been decimated, and it will take 5–7 years to replace the trees lost in this storm.

The Philippines is a major American ally and trading partner. There are an estimated 350,000 Americans living in the Philippines, and 4 million Filipinos living in the United States. We have an important stake in seeing that our friends and neighbors in the Philippines can recover from this devastating storm.

#### ANNOUNCING RECIPIENTS OF THE 2013 CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR THE THIRD DISTRICT OF TEXAS

**HON. SAM JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 16, 2013*

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to honor fourteen distinguished military veterans, community servants, and American patriots who call the Third District of Texas home. All faithfully answered the call of duty and placed service above self for the sake of our great nation. Each one leaves a legacy to be remembered, for future generations to follow, a legacy of bravery, loyalty, dedication, and sacrifice. For their selfless service, bold leadership, and undying commitment for their neighbor and nation, the following individual has been selected as a recipient of the third annual Congressional Veteran Commendation:

Keeshawn Coffey served with honor in the United States Navy from 2008 to 2012. He began his military career by enlisting as a Religious Program Specialist. Selected for the Fleet Marine Force, he served at the Officer Candidate School in Quantico, Virginia, where he trained chaplain candidates and facilitated over 150 religious services and over 200 field services.

Mr. Coffey’s next assignment led him to Yokosuka, Japan, where he served with the Forward Deployed Naval Forces. In this position, he planned and implemented community service events which allowed the USS Cowpens to log 3,059 community service hours. Following his service with the USS Cowpens, Mr. Coffey remained in Japan where he was assigned to the Chapel of Hope and the United States Naval Hospital Yokosuka. He was stationed there when the 2011 tsunami and earthquake struck Japan. As his final act of military service, Mr. Coffey spent long hours creating general ledgers for Operation Tomodachi in order to maintain 100 percent accountability in the expenditure of government and donated funds.

After Mr. Coffey’s service to the military honorably ended, he enrolled in the University

of Texas at Dallas to continue his education. On campus he has continued serving the community by co-founding and serving as President of the Veterans of Dallas at UTD's student organization. In 2012, he played an

active role in the creation and establishment of the UTD Veteran Services Center.

Keeshaun Coffey, let me both thank and congratulate you on your exceptional service to our country and community both past and

present. It is my pleasure to award you the 2013 Congressional Veteran Commendation for the Third District of Texas.

## SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

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

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, December 17, 2013 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

## MEETINGS SCHEDULED

DECEMBER 18

10 a.m.

## Committee on Finance

Subcommittee on Social Security, Pensions, and Family Policy

To hold hearings to examine the role of Social Security, defined benefits, and private retirement accounts in relation to retirement crisis.

SD-215

## Committee on Foreign Relations

Subcommittee on East Asian and Pacific Affairs

To hold hearings to examine rebalance to Asia IV, focusing on economic engagement in the Asia-Pacific region.

SD-419

## Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider S. 1417, to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize programs under part A of title XI of such Act, S. 1719, and H.R. 3527, bills to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the poison center national toll-free number, national media campaign, and grant program, and the nominations of David Weil, of Massachusetts, to be Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor, France A. Cordova, of New Mexico, to be Director of the National Science Foundation, Steven Joel Anthony, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Railroad Retirement Board, James H. Shelton III, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Secretary of Education, and any pending nominations.

SD-430

## Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Business meeting to consider S. 1486, to improve, sustain, and transform the United States Postal Service, and an original bill entitled, "Cybersecurity Recruitment and Retention Act".

SD-342

2 p.m.

## Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer, focusing on measuring the effectiveness of the

reauthorization act and maximizing research dollars to America's small businesses.

SR-428A

2:15 p.m.

## Committee on Foreign Relations

Business meeting to consider an original bill entitled, "Egypt Assistance Reform Act of 2013", S. 653, to provide for the establishment of the Special Envoy to Promote Religious Freedom of Religious Minorities in the Near East and South Central Asia, S. Res. 314, commemorating and supporting the goals of World AIDS Day, S. Res. 288, supporting enhanced maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea and encouraging increased cooperation between the United States and West and Central African countries to fight armed robbery at sea, piracy, and other maritime threats, S. Res. 312, calling on the government of Iran to fulfill their promises of assistance in this case of Robert Levinson, one of the longest held United States civilians in our Nation's history, S. Res. 75, condemning the Government of Iran for its state-sponsored persecution of its Baha'i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights, S. Res. 318, expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the critical need for political reform in Bangladesh, S. Res. 317, expressing the sense of the Senate on the continuing relationship between the United States and Georgia, an original resolution entitled, "in support of the Ukrainian people in light of President Yanukovich's decision not to sign an Association Agreement with the European Union", and the nominations of Dana J. Hyde, of Maryland, to be Chief Executive Officer, Millennium Challenge Corporation, Mark E. Lopes, of Arizona, to be United States Executive Director of the Inter-American Development Bank for a term of three years, and Keith Michael Harper, of Maryland, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as United States Representative to the UN Human Rights Council, Department of State.

S-116

## Special Committee on Aging

To hold hearings to examine the future of long-term care policy, focusing on continuing the conversation.

SD-562

2:30 p.m.

## Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine what information data brokers have on consumers, and how they use it.

SR-253

## Committee on Indian Affairs

Business meeting to consider S. 1352, to reauthorize the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996, and the nomination of Vincent G. Logan, of New York, to be Special Trustee, Office of Special Trustee for American Indians, Department of the Interior.

SD-628

## Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Daniel D. Crabbtree, to be United States District Judge for the District of Kansas, Cynthia Ann Bashant, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California, Jon David Levy, of Maine, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maine, and Theodore David

Chuang, and George Jarrod Hazel, both to be a United States District Judge for the District of Maryland.

SD-226

DECEMBER 19

9:30 a.m.

## Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Business meeting to consider S. 37, to sustain the economic development and recreational use of National Forest System land and other public land in the State of Montana, to add certain land to the National Wilderness Preservation System, to release certain wilderness study areas, to designate new areas for recreation, S. 404, to preserve the Green Mountain Lookout in the Glacier Peak Wilderness of the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, S. 974, to provide for certain land conveyances in the State of Nevada, S. 1237, to improve the administration of programs in the insular areas, S. 1300, to amend the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 to provide for the conduct of stewardship end result contracting projects, S. 1301, to provide for the restoration of forest landscapes, protection of old growth forests, and management of national forests in the eastside forests of the State of Oregon, S. 1341, to modify the Forest Service Recreation Residence Program as the program applies to units of the National Forest System derived from the public domain by implementing a simple, equitable, and predictable procedure for determining cabin user fees, S. 1491, to amend the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to improve United States-Israel energy cooperation, H.R. 1158, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to continue stocking fish in certain lakes in the North Cascades National Park, Ross Lake National Recreation Area, and Lake Chelan National Recreation Area, and H.R. 2337, to provide for the conveyance of the Forest Service Lake Hill Administrative Site in Summit County, Colorado.

SD-366

10 a.m.

## Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider S. 619, to amend title 18, United States Code, to prevent unjust and irrational criminal punishments, S. 1410, to focus limited Federal resources on the most serious offenders, S. 1675, to reduce recidivism and increase public safety, S. 975, to provide for the inclusion of court-appointed guardianship improvement and oversight activities under the Elder Justice Act of 2009, and the nominations of John B. Owens, of California, and Michelle T. Friedland, of California, both to be a United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, Nancy L. Moritz, of Kansas, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit, David Jeremiah Barron, of Massachusetts, to be United States Circuit Judge for the First Circuit, Matthew Frederick Leitman, Judith Ellen Levy, Laurie J. Michelson, and Linda Vivienne Parker, all to be a United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan, Christopher Reid Cooper, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, Gerald Austin McHugh, Jr., and Edward G. Smith, both to be a United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, M. Douglas