

be a Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense. In this important position, the second highest ranking acquisition official at DOD, Mr. Estevez will help oversee hundreds of billions of dollars in procurement during his tenure.

I am eager to work with Mr. Estevez on an issue important to my State and our overall security strategy. Like my colleagues Senators BLUMENTHAL and CORNYN have discussed, it is unacceptable to me that the Department of Defense is continuing the procurement of Mi-17 helicopters from Rosoboron export, Russia's official arms export firm.

The reasons to stop this procurement are numerous, and, by contrast, the logic behind the continuation of this procurement is flawed.

Not only is Rosoboronexport at the heart of an industry that Russia's own chief military prosecutor publicly stated is corrupt, but this company is also supplying the Assad regime in Syria. We are handing money—tax dollars from my constituents in Connecticut—to a company that is propping up a regime that is committing atrocities against its own people.

I was outraged to learn that earlier this year that DOD awarded Rosoboronexport a \$572 million contract for the procurement of 30 Mi-17 helicopters for the Afghan Special Mission Wing, completely ignoring the recommendation of the Special Inspector General for Afghan Reconstruction, SIGAR, to halt this procurement.

Even if DOD thinks that this procurement should go forward in light of the SIGAR recommendation, there is no credible reason that these helicopters should not be made in America. My constituents are tired of our procurement dollars going to overseas firms, and this particular example is one of the most egregious.

We have spent over \$100 billion on equipment from overseas manufacturers in the last several years. When I talk to manufacturers in Connecticut who are churning out the most reliable and rugged military equipment in the world, including helicopters, they just can not understand why we are paying a corrupt Russian arms dealer for equipment we already make at home.

I look forward to making my feelings known to Mr. Estevez and, as we did last year during the consideration of the National Defense Authorization Act, making it clear that this body does not approve of this Mi-17 procurement.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE S. ARTHUR SPIEGEL

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor a friend and fellow Cincinnati, Judge S. Arthur Spiegel, on the occasion of his 94th birthday and would also like to recognize him for his service to our community and our Nation.

On April 5, 1980, Judge Spiegel was appointed as a United States District Judge for the Southern District of Ohio

by President Jimmy Carter. He was confirmed on May 20, 1980 and began his duty on June 5, 1980.

With 33 years of Federal judicial service, including as Chief United States District Court Judge for the Southern District of Ohio and by designation on the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, he took Senior Status on June 5, 1995. He continues to serve on the Court as Cincinnati's oldest sitting judge and continues to handle a full docket and hundreds of cases a year.

Judge Spiegel served his country valiantly in World War II in the Pacific campaigns while serving as a flying artillery spotter in an unarmed light aircraft. He was a United States Marine Corps Captain from 1942 to 1946 in the First Marine Division.

Judge Spiegel received a BA from the University of Cincinnati in 1942 and obtained his LL.B. from Harvard University in 1948—postgraduate University of Cincinnati, 1949. In addition, he was awarded an Honorary Degree, Doctor of Humane Letters by Hebrew Union College, Jewish Institute of Religion in 1996 and a Distinguished Alumni Award, College of Arts & Sciences from the University of Cincinnati in 1997.

Judge Spiegel has served as a role model to many lawyers in private practice and on the bench. His intelligence and strength of character have been revered by many and he has set the highest standards of professionalism for those appearing in his courtroom. He was a co-founder of the Potter Stewart American Inn of Court in Cincinnati, which was one of the first establishments of this kind, and serves to mentor and teach professionalism and trial techniques to law students and young lawyers.

Judge Spiegel is a member of the American Bar Association, the Ohio Bar Association, the Cincinnati Bar Association and the Federal Bar Association. He was a lecturer on labor law, debtor/creditor rights, and appellate advocacy at the University of Cincinnati College of Law from 1970 through 1975. He was also a Delegate, Sixth Circuit Judicial Conference from 1967 through 1970; a Life Member, Sixth Circuit Judicial Conference beginning in 1971; and was a District Judge Representative for the Sixth Circuit, United States Judicial Conference in 1996 and 1997.

He has served on numerous boards of trustees in his community. He served on the Mayor's Friendly Relations Committee from 1961 to 1965 and the Cincinnati Human Relations Commission from 1967 to 1973, including serving as its first Chairman from 1965 to 1967. He was also a Board Trustee for Bowling Green State University from 1973 to 1981 and has been a Trustee and Trustee Emeritus for The National Conference for Community and Justice since 1973.

In recent years, Judge Spiegel has served on the Roundtable of the Black Lawyers Association of Cincinnati,

which aims to broaden the opportunities in the legal profession for minorities. He regularly meets with students of local high schools regarding the role of the courts in our society and also conducts naturalization ceremonies in the local schools. He received the Award of Recognition from the Black Lawyers Association of Cincinnati in 1995.

A civil rights advocate both on and off the bench, Judge Spiegel served as the first Chairman of the Cincinnati Human Relations Commission, an organization with the mission of helping the community overcome prejudice and discrimination. As an active participant in the civil rights movement, Spiegel worked to calm tensions after race riots in the late 1960s.

A true renaissance man, Judge Spiegel is a pilot, painter, tennis player, writer, horseback rider and self-taught mechanic.

He is married to Louise Wachman Spiegel, and they have four sons, Thomas, Arthur M., Andrew and Roger, and seven grandchildren.

Today, I would like to recognize my friend and an Ohio icon and commend him for the many contributions he has made to our community and to the legal profession.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CONGRATULATING CSU-GLOBAL CAMPUS

• Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, in an increasingly global economy, we must find ways to promote innovation, increase college access, and make college affordable so that our students can remain competitive. In light of today's Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee hearing which focused on these important topics, I want to recognize Colorado's own Colorado State University-Global Campus for their impressive work in this area. This year marks CSU-Global Campus' 5-year anniversary, and I would also like to congratulate them on reaching that milestone.

CSU-Global Campus, and its president, Dr. Becky Takeda-Tinker, have demonstrated a remarkable commitment to ensuring a quality education at an affordable price. As the first and only 100 percent online, fully accredited public, non-profit institution in America, students enrolling at CSU-Global today will not see any tuition increases as long as they take at least one class per year, even if tuition rates increase five years down the road. CSU-Global does this because it wants students entering today to be able to plan their education and anticipate the full cost of graduation.

CSU-Global Campus has been at the forefront of new innovative approaches to learning, including offering competency-based courses. Students have access to CSU-Global's full course content online for free and can receive

academic credit for passing an exam with a score of 70 percent or better. A 3-credit exam costs \$250 and a 1-credit costs \$150; the fee covers 2 exam attempts in 12 months. There is no additional fee for students to access the materials, faculty, and resources during their study period leading up to the exam. Many of these resources are innovations themselves and include a 24-7 online tutoring service, 24-7 tech support, and a virtual library.

Its students' progress are carefully tracked electronically and student support is a priority. Students partner with faculty or receive other student support if it seems they have struggled in a certain class. Students at CSU-Global are given the flexibility needed to accommodate the many demands on their time, but are still counseled through to completion.

Thirty-four percent of CSU-Global's students are first-generation college students and 23 percent are from the underserved population. Finally, at a time when our country continues to recover financially, 95 percent of CSU-Global graduates are working for pay as of February 2013.

As the cost of college continues to rise, CSU-Global Campus is an innovative alternative. After repaying its \$12 million start-up loan a year ahead of schedule in 2012, it now operates a sustainable model without future appropriations from the State of Colorado.

Mr. President, in April 2013, CSU-Global ranked seventh in U.S. News & World Report's ranking of the Best Online Bachelor's Programs. On the occasion of its fifth anniversary, I congratulate CSU-Global on its tremendous achievements.●

TRIBUTE TO JAMES BUCK

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I am delighted to honor the contributions of a loyal and dedicated public servant, Mayor James Buck. In November, Mayor Buck will retire after 4½ decades of public service, 29 years of which he served as Mayor of Grandville, MI. Through his vision and tireless advocacy, Mayor Buck has helped to make sure this fine city continues to be a wonderful place to raise a family and for businesses to thrive.

Jim Buck began his career in public service as an appointed member of the Grandville Park & Recreation Board in 1968. Three years later, in 1971, he was elected to the Grandville City Council. After a successful stint on the city council, Jim was elected mayor of Grandville in 1984 and has gone on to serve eight consecutive terms.

Although the position of mayor of Grandville is part-time, Mayor Buck has always approached it as a full-time responsibility. He has devoted himself to his work as mayor and is visible at community events throughout the year. He is committed to economic and residential development, and has made decisions that have brought businesses and residents to Grandville. He has

been a pillar of integrity and a consensus builder. Under Mayor Buck's stewardship, the City of Grandville has maintained sound financial footing despite immense economic challenges.

Mayor Buck is a firm believer that a strong sense of community is vital and improves the quality of life of its residents. Throughout his 45 years on the Grandville Park & Recreation Board, which he has chaired for decades, the city has created new trails and parks and revitalized existing ones. During his tenure, the Park & Recreation Board has turned Grandville's 4th of July Celebration into a major regional event and a beloved community tradition.

An avid tennis player, Jim Buck has enjoyed many successful years of competition, including at the Senior Olympics in recent years. He has been assistant coach to the Grandville High School tennis team for the last 17 years. This year, the team won the OK Red Conference and Regional Championships. It is no coincidence that Grandville has some of the best tennis courts of any city its size in Michigan.

A dedicated and visionary leader, Mayor Buck has not only been Grandville's strongest advocate but also an active civic leader on regional and State levels. He is an honorary life member of the Michigan Municipal League (MML), chair of the MML Foundation Board, member of the West Michigan Strategic Alliance and the long-time chairman of the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council.

But more than the list of boards and commissions to his credit, Jim Buck is a man of his community. He works long hours attending events, meeting with residents, visiting schools, and listening to and appreciating the people of Grandville. He has created a standard of community engagement that will be an inspiration to his successors. Indeed, Mayor Buck has made a tremendous contribution to the lives of residents of the City of Grandville now and for generations to come.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the dedicated public service of one of the finest locally elected officials in Michigan, Jim Buck. He has dedicated himself to the betterment of his community. On behalf of the people of Michigan, I wish Jim and his wonderful wife, Kathryn (Kitty) Buck the very best for a well-deserved retirement.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:03 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill and joint resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 992. An act to amend provisions in section 716 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act relating to Federal assistance for swaps entities.

H.J. Res. 99. Joint resolution relating to the disapproval of the President's exercise of

authority to suspend the debt limit, as submitted under section 1002(b) of the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2014 on October 17, 2013.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The message also announced that the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. THORNBERRY) has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 3190. An act to provide for the continued performance of the functions of the United States Parole Commission, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The message further announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 3003, and the order of the House of January 3, 2013, the Speaker appoints the following Members on the part of the House of Representatives to the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: Mr. PITTS of Pennsylvania, Mr. ADERHOLT of Alabama, Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, and Mr. BURGESS of Texas.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 992. An act to amend provisions in section 716 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act relating to Federal assistance for swaps entities; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following joint resolution was read the second time, and placed on the calendar, pursuant to Sec. 1002 of Public Law 113-46:

H.J. Res. 99. Joint resolution relating to the disapproval of the President's exercise of authority to suspend the debt limit, as submitted under section 1002(b) of the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2014 on October 17, 2013.

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-3391. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Cold Treatment for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables; MidAmerica St. Louis Airport, Mascoutah, IL" (Docket No. APHIS-2012-0089) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 24, 2013; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3392. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Gypsy Moth Generally Infested Areas; Additions in Wisconsin" (Docket No. APHIS-2012-0075) received during adjournment of the Senate in