

a. Do you disagree with GAO or that a biometric exit system must be implemented to ensure real border security?

b. Do you acknowledge that federal law requires DHS to implement a biometric entry-exit system?

c. If confirmed, will you commit to implementing this system within one year?

We appreciate your pledge of "transparency and candor with Congress," and look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

CHUCK GRASSLEY.
JEFF SESSIONS.
MICHAEL S. LEE.
ORRIN HATCH.
JOHN CORNYN.
TED CRUZ.

REMEMBERING ROBERT C. BYRD

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, today I wish to observe the birthday of one of the greatest Americans to grace these Chambers—Cornelius Calvin Sale Jr., better known to us—and to history—as Robert C. Byrd of West Virginia.

Robert C. Byrd was born Cornelius Calvin Sale Jr. in North Wilkesboro, NC. He was 10 months old when his mother died from flu, and he was adopted by his aunt and uncle, Titus and Vlurma Byrd. They changed his name to Robert Carlyle Byrd and raised him in the coal-mining Appalachian region of West Virginia.

And in the 150 years of West Virginia's history, our State has had no greater advocate than Robert C. Byrd. Many in the Senate today served with Robert C. Byrd, and they can bear witness to the fact that the Senate, like the State of West Virginia, also had no greater advocate than Robert C. Byrd. Today would have been the Senator's 96th birthday, and every day since his passing in 2010, the people of West Virginia feel the loss of this great man.

The Senate also feels his loss because no one knew the Senate—its history, its traditions, its precedents—better than Robert C. Byrd.

He made it a point to meet with every new Senator and to impress upon them the fact that they were to be caretakers of this institution—an institution he regarded as both the morning star and the evening star of the American constitutional constellation. He also impressed upon them that they did not serve "under" any president, but that as a separate but equal branch of the government, they served "with" presidents, acting as a check on the executive's power. When he passed away, he was the longest serving member of Congress in our Nation's history and, as such, served with 11 Presidents.

In his long life, Robert C. Byrd had three great loves—his wife "fair" Erma, as he called her; the State of West Virginia; and the United States Senate. But he also had a great passion for the document from which the Senate and this great country sprang—the U.S. Constitution. I have always thought that is why he kept a copy of the Constitution in his coat pocket—it was easy to reach for quick reference, but in his coat pocket, it also was close

to his heart. Even though he could recite most of it by memory, he consulted his dog-eared copy of the Constitution often and without hesitation. In its words, he often said, he always found wisdom, truth and excitement—the same excitement he felt as a boy in Wolf Creek Hollow, WV, reading by kerosene lamp about the heroes of the American Revolution and the birth of our Nation. And those words guided him every day of the 58 years he spent in Washington as a member of Congress and as a Senator.

Robert C. Byrd cast more than 18,500 votes in the Senate—a record that will never be equaled. Whether he voted with others or against them, it was never hard ideology with Robert C. Byrd. He had no use for narrow partisanship that trades on attack and values only victory.

Any time Robert C. Byrd spoke, the Senate came to a halt and Senators on both sides of the aisle leaned forward—to listen and to learn.

He ran for public office 15 times—and he never lost. He was first elected to the West Virginia legislature in 1946 and then was elected to three consecutive terms in the U.S. House of Representatives before his election to the Senate. He was a keen observer of politics—he advised more than one Presidential candidate to go to West Virginia, "get a little coal dust" on their hands and "live in spirit with the working people."

He was deeply proud of West Virginia and its people. He proudly defended his work to invest Federal dollars in his State.

He breathed new life into many communities with funding for highways, hospitals, universities, research institutes, scholarships and housing—giving West Virginians the opportunities he himself never had.

Robert C. Byrd's journey was, in many ways, America's journey. He came of age in an America segregated by race, which he eventually said was one of our country's greatest mistakes. And, as did America itself, he repented and made amends.

The moments that define the lives of most men are few. Not so with Robert C. Byrd. He devoted his life to his beloved Erma and his family and to public service. He was a major figure in the great panorama of American history for more than half a century. His devotion to the Senate and his colleagues was unequalled. His mastery of Senate rules and parliamentary procedures was legendary. And his contributions to West Virginia and to this Nation were monumental. He was a true giant of the Senate. He is as much a part of this Chamber as these 100 historic desks, these galleries, and these busts of Senate presidents.

Robert C. Byrd revered the Senate and the Senate revered Robert C. Byrd. It is for this reason that I wish to observe the anniversary of the birth of a great West Virginian and great American—Robert Carlyle Byrd.

May God bless his memory and his great spirit.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I regret having missed two votes on November 18, 2013. The two votes that I missed are as follows: motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Robert L. Wilkins to be a U.S. circuit judge for the DC Circuit and motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to S. 1197, National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of both motions to invoke cloture.

LONG-TERM CARE NEEDS

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, with the Thanksgiving holiday, November is a time for many of us to enjoy time with our loved ones and reflect on our futures together. With so many family gatherings, many retirement experts also encourage us to use this time to talk with family about our long-term needs.

In addition to thinking about financial needs for retirement, it is important to also address our health as we age. According to the Department of Health and Human Services, an individual turning 65 today has almost a 70 percent chance of needing long-term care in the future, and 1 in 5 will need long-term care for more than 5 years. Conversations about long-term care and advance care planning can be understandably difficult, but they are necessary to ensure our loved ones receive the care they want if they are no longer able to speak for themselves.

Thinking about long-term care means recognizing the invaluable—but too often unrecognized—contributions made daily by family caregivers. Over 65 million Americans provide \$450 billion worth of unpaid care every year, twice as much as homecare and nursing home services combined, and these numbers are increasing. More than one-half of family caregivers perform intensive activities such as bathing, feeding, and medication management. However, these services often come with a cost to the caregiver, such as financial burdens and a toll on physical and mental health.

As the chairman of the Special Committee on Aging, I want to help middle-class families struggling to provide necessary care for their loved ones. This year, the committee has examined the importance of advance care planning as well as why a majority of Americans have done little to no planning for future long-term care needs. Next month, we will continue this series of hearings by looking at expert recommendations for reforming our long-term care system. Lastly, Senator BALDWIN and I penned a column in recognition of the critical need to address the long-term care inadequacies in this country, and I ask unanimous consent that a copy be printed in the RECORD following my remarks.

I urge my colleagues to join me in this effort. As our Nation continues to grow older, this problem will continue to grow worse, and the current system must change to meet these needs.

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

[From The Hill, Oct. 29, 2013]

TIME HAS COME TO ADDRESS THE CHALLENGES OF LONG-TERM CARE

(By Sens. Bill Nelson and Tammy Baldwin)

As Congress embarks on a new venture to create a bipartisan budget that would strengthen the economic security of families and reduce the deficit without shortchanging our future, it's our hope that both parties will also work together to find viable ways to help families pay for long-term care.

With the aging of the baby boomers, our country finds itself in the midst of one of the most dramatic demographic shifts in our history. And, as the aging population grows, so too will the long-term-care needs of many in our society.

Providing assistance to family members who can no longer care for themselves can be taxing for all involved.

In fact, the Senate Special Committee on Aging held a hearing last month to examine a myriad of challenges facing seniors today, and found many were unprepared.

So, later this year, we're going to hold another hearing to see what we can do to help. Some of the things we're going to look at include the possibility of expanding Medicare to cover long-term care, and other various ways to possibly make private long-term care coverage more affordable for those who need it.

Currently, about 12 million Americans have long-term-care needs—a number that's rising rapidly. While most receive care from family and friends, an increasing number depend on costly in-home care or end up in assisted living facilities or nursing homes, where the median annual costs range from \$40,000 to \$80,000, respectively.

Most middle-class families in this country simply can't afford the expense of providing long-term care for a loved one. And there are few viable options available to help them pay for the services they would need. Medicare and most traditional health insurance plans don't cover long-term-care expenses. And while private long-term-care insurance is available, most people don't have it because they see long-term care as something they'll never need.

In fact, according to a recent study from the SCAN Foundation, most Americans have done little or nothing to prepare for their future long-term-care needs. This is despite research that shows that 70 percent of people 65 or older will eventually need some form of assistance.

Clearly, our current system of providing long-term care is unsustainable. And, that's why we shouldn't wait much longer to address it.

NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, with November being National Adoption Month and this Saturday being National Adoption Day, I would like to take a moment to highlight the issue of adoption—an issue that is near and dear to my heart. Earlier this month Senator LANDRIEU and I introduced our annual National Adoption Day and Month Resolution which was agreed to on November 13 by unanimous consent.

The importance of family in the growth and development of a child can never be overstated. There are millions of children worldwide who are growing up without the love and support of a family. It is my hope that through National Adoption Day and our work on the Congressional Coalition on Adoption, we can one day make the dream of every child having a permanent and loving family a reality.

Like Senator LANDRIEU, I have seen first-hand the many blessings that come from the adoption of a child. My daughter Molly adopted my granddaughter, Zegita Marie, from an orphanage in Ethiopia. Z-girl, as I like to call her, is such a smart and confident young girl and I know it is because of the support and love of her family she is able to thrive. More so, Z-girl has been a huge blessing to our family and one that I am forever grateful for.

National Adoption Month is about recognizing those who have made the sacrifices to make a child's life better, and encouraging those who are thinking about adopting to take that step and make a real difference in a child's life. In that spirit, I want to take a moment to recognize a young woman that has taken the step to be a difference in a child's life. As many of my colleagues know, each October the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute hosts its annual Angels in Adoption Gala here in Washington. Every year Senators and Representatives nominate an individual or a family who has made a significant difference in the area of adoption and foster care, and I have had the honor of nominating individuals from my home State of Oklahoma. Unfortunately, circumstances did not allow my nominee, Kate Arnold of Oklahoma City, to come to the event, so I would like to take a moment to recognize her and share her wonderful story.

In 2003, Kate Arnold was volunteering at a San Francisco Bay Area home for teenage mothers when she met Miriam, a mother to 2 boys. Over the course of years Kate developed a relationship with Miriam, her boys, and a daughter born during that time. Kate became a constant presence in their lives, frequently taking the children out for the day or overnight, while Miriam struggled to care for them.

In March of 2011, Child Protective Services removed Miriam's children from her care and over the next several months Miriam continued her struggle with addiction. In October of that year, a social worker asked her to name who her children should go to if she lost them permanently. Miriam named Kate.

At the time Kate was here in D.C. attending Georgetown University School of Medicine. However, she did not let that stop her and immediately petitioned Georgetown for the ability to complete her fourth year of medical school in California so that she could become the children's foster parent and begin adoption proceedings.

In July 2012, Kate returned to California and by August the children were living with her. This year she graduated from Georgetown and the family moved to Oklahoma City so Kate could begin her residency at the University of Oklahoma.

Kate reflects the spirit of National Adoption Month and Day, not only in her decision to foster and adopt Miriam's children but also through years of prior work and commitment to the foster care community. Kate is a great example of what one person can do to become a blessing to the millions of children throughout the world that are in need of a family. I hope that others will join Senator LANDRIEU and myself this month of November and recognize the great need that exists for families to open their arms to children, both here in the United States and abroad, and take the leap of faith that will change a child's life.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO JON E. ZUFELT

• Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize and pay tribute to Dr. Jon E. Zufelt for his exceptional contributions to the Nation as he retires after 30 years of service in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Dr. Zufelt's dedication as a civil engineer with the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center's Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory has resulted in the transfer of knowledge on a global scale.

As a research hydraulic engineer, Dr. Zufelt's career focused on solving tough problems in cold regions hydraulics and hydrology, ice jam processes, erosion and bank protection, ice mitigation, permafrost dynamics, seasonal water quality issues, environmental remediation, and Arctic coastal processes affecting military lands. Dr. Zufelt spent his entire 30-year career with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, culminating in the management of the Anchorage Office of the Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory, primarily in support of projects in Alaska.

Dr. Zufelt came to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in April of 1983 as a civil engineer working in Vicksburg, MS. Later that year, he began working for the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center's Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory in Hanover, NH, and then the project office located in Anchorage, AK, in 2001.

Dr. Zufelt is a leader in cold regions engineering issues in Alaska and beyond. He is often sought out by universities, technical societies, and journals for his affiliation and technical expertise. Throughout his career, Dr. Zufelt has served for many years on multiple professional society committees and working groups, which include the American Society of Civil Engineers,