

noted Islamic scholar at the University of Richmond, was inspired by the verse which reads: "We have given dignity to the Children of Adam." With faithful commitment to the idea that this verse establishes the fact that human dignity is bestowed upon all human beings, Dr. al-Hibri has committed herself to advancing this understanding of the unalienable rights of women, a cause she continues to champion today.

Dr. al-Hibri has dedicated her life to education, legal outreach and advocacy. Among her many accomplishments, Dr. al-Hibri is a Fulbright scholar and is the founding editor of the journal *Hypatia*, which is dedicated to Feminist philosophy, particularly as it relates to Muslim women. Recognizing the national importance of her voice and contributions, in 2011 President Obama appointed Dr. al-Hibri to U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, a truly deserved honor.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to honor Dr. al-Hibri for her many contributions to our community and her leadership in advancing Human Rights. I wish her many more years of health, happiness, and productive advocacy.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF THOMAS W. BIRMINGHAM

#### HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 9, 2015*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague Mr. LAMALFA to pay tribute to the life of Thomas "Tom" Birmingham, who passed away on January 8, 2015 at the age of 93. Tom was an extraordinary person, and he will always be remembered as a man who lived his life with purpose and great dedication to his students, family, friends and community.

Tom was born on March 21, 1922 to Thomas and Nell Birmingham in Red Bluff, California. He spent much of his childhood living in various northern California towns, as his father's career as a Highway Patrolman required. It was while living with his family in Westwood, California that Tom developed many life-long friendships and his happiest childhood memories. He graduated from Clarksburg High School in Clarksburg, California, now called Delta High School, in 1940.

World War II interrupted Tom's first attempt at attending college. He left school to join the United States Navy. In the Navy, Tom was assigned to Bombing Squadron Nineteen which flew off of the USS *Lexington*. Mr. Birmingham proudly served our country as an aviator, and was awarded an Air Medal and a Distinguished Flying Cross for his actions on October 25, 1944 during the Battle of Leyte Gulf. Tom was extremely proud of his service and of the men with whom he served on board the *Lexington*.

Mr. Birmingham continued his education after the War. He enrolled at San Jose State College and graduated in 1950. While at university, Tom competed in numerous track events including the high hurdle and the triple jump, known at the time as the "hop, skip, jump." A talented, athletic individual, Mr. Birmingham garnered the reputation of a world class athlete. In addition to his skills on the track field, Tom was an avid skier, becoming

one of the first instructors at the Mt. Shasta Herald Ski School.

It was while Tom studied at San Jose State College that he met the love of his life, Lulu Archer. Tom and Lulu were married in 1951 and stayed in the bay area for another year while Tom completed his teaching credential. Lulu truly was Tom's one and only. Later the same year, Tom and Lulu moved to Yreka, California where they grew their family with the addition of three children, Kate, Thomas, and John.

In Yreka, Mr. Birmingham accepted a teaching and coaching position at Yreka High School. As a teacher of art and history, Mr. Birmingham was able to motivate students and develop an excitement in them for learning and personal development. Additionally, coaching track and basketball allowed Tom to form lasting bonds with his students, many of whom he kept in contact throughout his life.

Following a distinguished 31 years at Yreka High School, Mr. Birmingham retired in 1983. Upon his retirement, Tom and Lulu made it a priority to travel together. He also accepted the responsibility of taking care of his wife in the latter stages of her illness. Several years after her passing in 1987, Tom chose to relocate to Redding, California to be closer to family, specifically his beloved grandchildren. Throughout his life, his hobbies included hunting, fishing, and, in retirement, restoring old cars.

Tom's friendliness and honest nature built many lasting friendships during his lifetime. His long and remarkable life is fondly remembered by colleagues, students, friends and family. Tom leaves behind his three children; Kate, Thomas, John, their spouses, and his grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join Mr. LAMALFA and me in saying farewell to a man from the greatest generation, Mr. Thomas W. Birmingham. His genuine character and his loving commitment to his family and community will be greatly missed.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 9, 2015*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for roll call votes 65–68 due to a family emergency.

Had I been present, I would have voted yes on #65, yes on #66, yes on #67, and no on #68.

#### 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, February 10, 2015 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

#### MEETINGS SCHEDULED

FEBRUARY 11

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the situation in Afghanistan.

SH-216

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) proposed carbon dioxide emissions rules from new, modified, and existing power plants.

SD-406

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine the National Labor Relations Board's (NLRB) new election rule, focusing on employers and employees.

SD-430

10 a.m.

Committee on the Budget

To hold hearings to examine Social Security disability trust fund insolvency.

SD-608

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the Internet.

SR-253

Committee on Finance

Business meeting to markup an original bill relating to access and administration of the U.S. Tax Court; an original bill to remove alcohol bonding requirements for certain taxpayers; an original bill relating to modifications to alternative tax for certain small insurance companies; an original bill to modify the excise tax on cider; an original bill to truncate the collection period for taxpayers hospitalized for combat zone injuries; an original bill to provide special rules concerning charitable contributions to, and public charity status of, agricultural research organizations; an original bill to provide an exception to the private foundation excess business holdings rules for certain philanthropic business holdings; an original bill to clarify a special rules for certain governmental plans; an original bill to modify the treatment of income received under student work-learning-service programs; an original bill for a waste-heat-to-power investment tax credit; an original bill to allow enrolled agents who meet certain requirements to use specified designations; an original bill relating to real estate investment trusts (REITs), regulated investment companies (RICs) and the Foreign Investment in Real Property Tax Act (FIRPTA); an original bill to exclude from gross income certain compensation received by public safety officers and their dependents; an original bill to convert the tax on liquefied natural gas and liquefied petroleum gas to an energy equivalent

basis; an original bill to require the Internal Revenue Service to notify exempt organizations before revoking exempt status for failing to file information returns; an original bill to exclude from gross income certain clean coal power grants; and an original bill to create a military spouse job continuity credit.

SD-215

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the Government Accountability Office's (GAO) 2015 list of high risk government programs.

SD-342

2:15 p.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine ending modern day slavery, focusing on the role of United States leadership.

SD-419

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of the Interior.

SD-192

2:45 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces

To receive a closed briefing on worldwide nuclear capabilities.

SVC-217

3 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Personnel

To hold hearings to examine the retirement and compensation proposals of the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission.

SD-G50

## FEBRUARY 12

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the situation in Afghanistan; to be immediately

followed by a closed hearing in SVC-217.

SD-G50

10 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To resume hearings to examine regulatory relief for community banks and credit unions.

SD-538

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2016 for the Department of Energy.

SD-366

Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Loretta E. Lynch, of New York, to be Attorney General, Daniel Henry Marti, of Virginia, to be Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator, Executive Office of the President, Michelle K. Lee, of California, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Alfred H. Bennett, George C. Hanks, Jr., and Jose Rolando Olvera, Jr., each to be a United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas, Jill N. Parrish, to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah, and Nancy B. Firestone, of Virginia, Thomas L. Halkowski, of Pennsylvania, Patricia M. McCarthy, of Maryland, Jeri Kaylene Somers, of Virginia, and Armando Omar Bonilla, of the District of Columbia, each to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims.

SD-226

Committee on Rules and Administration

Business meeting to markup the Omnibus Budget resolution for Senate committees for the period March 1, 2015, through February 28, 2017, and an original resolution to amend Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

SR-301

12 noon

Committee on Foreign Relations

Business meeting to markup S. Res. 65, supporting efforts to bring an end to violence perpetrated by Boko Haram,

and urging the Government of Nigeria to conduct transparent, peaceful, and credible elections, and an original resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the January 24, 2015, attacks carried out by Russian-backed rebels on the civilian population in Mariupol, Ukraine, and the provision of lethal and non-lethal military assistance to Ukraine.

S-116

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Closed business meeting to markup S. 165, to extend and enhance prohibitions and limitations with respect to the transfer or release of individuals detained at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

SVC-217

Select Committee on Intelligence

To hold hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH-216

## FEBRUARY 24

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2016 for the Department of the Interior.

SD-366

## FEBRUARY 26

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2016 for the Forest Service.

SD-366

## MARCH 25

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces

To hold hearings to examine ballistic missile defense programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR-222