

So as our country recommits to that promise this Veterans Day, I want to let veterans know in my home State of Washington and across the country that I will not stop fighting for them. I again want to express my heartfelt thanks to all the veterans around the country who have served and for all who are still serving today.

I call on all of my colleagues and fellow citizens to honor our veterans every day of the year with the kind of action that shows them we are grateful for their service.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. ISAKSON. Madam President, I want to thank Senator KIRK and Senator TESTER for their outstanding work on this appropriations bill; Senator MURRAY for her cooperation and help on caregivers and so many programs in the committee; and Senator COLLINS and her work on MILCON. I want to encourage all my fellow Members of the Senate to vote favorably on this legislation when it comes before us later today.

I want everyone to stop, take a deep breath, and think about three things: No. 1, today is the 240th anniversary of the United States Marine Corps—the strongest veterans we have, veterans who fought and died for us around the world for 2½ centuries. Tomorrow, at the eleventh hour, on the eleventh day of the eleventh month, we celebrate the armistice of World War I and Veterans Day in America. And today on the floor of the Senate, we are fixing some problems that have confronted our veterans for the better part of the last 10 years. As the Members of the committee who are on the floor know, the VA literally almost collapsed 2 years ago. Health services in Phoenix, AZ, were a disaster. People were cheating on appointments and shortening veteran times to make themselves look better. The VA had a reputation of being the worst agency in the Federal government.

Now, I don't take credit for it as chairman, but I will tell you what your committee members have done—members like Senator TESTER and Senator MURRAY. Instead of complaining about people, instead of putting targets on the wall and saying they are the problem, we decided to be part of the solution. I want to recite for just a second what has happened in the last 10 months.

No. 1, we passed the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act, and this bill funds it. It will help to reduce the number of suicides. Today, 22 veterans per day commit suicide, and we want that reduced to a perfect score of zero at some point in time. But you do that only by investing funds, hiring psychiatrists, and making a commitment. This Senate and the House have done so.

We had an overrun of \$1.428 billion—more than I can count to—in the Denver hospital the VA was trying to

build. They were 13 years into construction and not even half finished. This committee said that will not stand. We passed legislation to complete the funding by taking the money out of VA without additional appropriations from the Congress, and more importantly we got the VA out of the construction business. We said: You guys are supposed to take care of the health of our veterans, not—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority time has expired, Senator.

Mr. ISAKSON. I ask unanimous consent to have 3 additional minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. TESTER. I just need about 1 minute, JOHNNY—sorry, the Senator from Georgia. You can have everything, but just give me 1 minute.

Mr. ISAKSON. How much time remains?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Approximately 2½ minutes, Senator.

Mr. ISAKSON. Well, let me just give you the closing, and I will leave all the juicy parts for later on. We will talk about those in the press release.

The story that should be read about this appropriations bill is we are not letting our veterans down. We are uplifting our veterans, and we are seeing to it they get what they deserve. We are seeing to it that the problems we have seen illustrated in the papers of the United States of America are being fixed.

The VA is a work in progress. There will still be problems but not because of attitude or lack of funding and not because of a lack of commitment by this Congress. We are going to do what our veterans did for us. We are going to stand ground, we are going to take the hill, we are going to hold the hill, and we are going to see to it that those who fought and died for the United States of America are rewarded, not only for themselves and for their health care but for their retirement benefits and for their loved ones as well.

I commend Senator TESTER on what he has done, Senator KIRK for what he has done, and all the members of the committee.

I yield back the remainder of the time to the distinguished Senator from Montana, who can call me JOHNNY any time he wants to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. TESTER. Madam President, I thank the Senator from Georgia. I appreciate his comments and very much thank him for the compliments. This MILCON-VA appropriations bill is a critically important bill. Why? Because we are demanding a lot from the VA. In order to demand a lot, we need to give them the tools and resources they need to be successful. It would be totally unfair to put them on the line without the resources they need to take care of our veterans.

That is important because today we have unprecedented demand. Not only are our Vietnam veterans getting

older, not only do they need services like never before, but we have been at war for 15 years in the Middle East, and we have folks coming back with complex injuries. We have men and women who need help when they get back. Some of these veterans would not have survived if they had been in any other war but this one. So the pressure on the VA is incredibly important, and if we are going to fix the access problem, if we are going to serve our veterans in the way they need to be served, we need to pass this bill.

Let me finish with a quick story. Not long ago a guy by the name of Henry—a Vietnam vet from Helena, MT—walked into my office. Henry fought in Vietnam. He was awarded four Purple Hearts for his combat and for his sacrifice. Henry walked into my office, sat down across from my staff member, and said: I can't live any more. Henry was in trouble. He had behavioral health problems that he needed professional help to get fixed. We were able to get him to the VA. The VA had a behavioral health professional who was able to help Henry, and Henry is living a good life today.

Our veterans deserve no less than to make sure they get the help they need when they need it, and that is what this bill is about. So we will be voting on a managers' package soon, and then we will be voting on passing this bill and getting it to the President's desk. Hopefully, we can do it with a strong, healthy vote—a unanimous vote, as a matter of fact—because this is an important bill not only for military construction but also for veterans.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### RELATING TO PROVISIONS OF THE BORDER PATROL AGENT PAY REFORM ACT OF 2014

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Chair lays before the Senate the House message to accompany S. 1356, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Resolved, That the bill from the Senate (S. 1356) entitled "An Act to clarify that certain provisions of the Border Patrol Agent Pay Reform Act of 2014 will not take effect until after the Director of the Office of Personnel Management promulgates and makes effective regulations relating to such provisions," do pass with an amendment.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H. CON. RES.

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Mr. MCCAIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate proceeds to the consideration of H.

Con. Res. 90, as under the previous order, it be in order for me to offer an amendment to the resolution; further, that the amendment be agreed to and all other provisions under the previous order remain in effect.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. FISCHER). Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

MOTION TO CONCUR

Mr. MCCAIN. Madam President, I move to concur in the House amendment to S. 1356.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 20 minutes equally divided prior to a vote on the motion to concur in the House amendment to S. 1356.

The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. MCCAIN. Madam President, today the Senate will once again consider the National Defense Authorization Act. This legislation passed the House last week in an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote of 370 to 58. I hope we will have a similarly resounding vote here today.

Today's vote would not be possible without the hard work of Chairman MAC THORNBERRY, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee. It has been a privilege to work alongside him and the gentleman from Washington, Congressman SMITH, to produce a defense authorization bill worthy of the troops it supports.

I thank my friend and colleague from Rhode Island, Senator REED, for his dedicated work on this legislation and his many substantive contributions that made this a better bill.

I thank the majority leader, Senator MCCONNELL, for bringing this legislation to the floor today and for his commitment throughout this process to ensuring we give our military the certainty they need to plan and execute their missions.

For 53 consecutive years, Congress has passed the National Defense Authorization Act. That is a testament to the vital importance of this legislation, which provides the authorities and support necessary for our military to defend the Nation. But perhaps at no time in the last half century has this legislation been so critical. Our Nation confronts the most diverse and complex array of crises since the end of World War II—the rampage of ISIL's terrorist army, Iran's malign activities across the Middle East, Russia's invasion of Ukraine and bloody intervention in Syria, China's continued pattern of assertive behavior toward its neighbors in the Asia-Pacific, and the list goes on, including what appears to be the recent bombing of an airliner over Egypt which apparently caused the loss of 244 lives, apparently an act of terror of monumental consequences.

Rising to the challenges of an increasingly dangerous world requires bold reforms to national defense, and that is what this legislation delivers. The legislation is a reform bill. This legislation delivers the most sweeping reforms to our defense acquisition sys-

tem in a generation. The NDAA modernizes a 70-year-old military retirement system and extends benefits to hundreds of thousands of servicemembers previously excluded under the old system. The legislation also makes significant reforms to Pentagon headquarters and management to ensure that precious defense resources are focused on our warfighters rather than bloated staffs. The bill identifies \$11 billion in excessive and unnecessary spending from that request and reinvests those savings in critical national security priorities, including more fighter aircraft, accelerated shipbuilding, strengthening our cyber defenses, and \$300 million in vital assistance to Ukraine to resist Russian aggression.

We did all of this while upholding our commitments to our servicemembers, retirees, and their families. The NDAA reauthorizes over 30 special pays and bonuses, makes military health care more portable, increases access to urgent care facilities, strengthens sexual assault prevention and response, and knocks down bureaucratic obstacles to ensure servicemembers maintain access to the medicines they need as they transition from Active Duty.

Finally, the legislation before us recognizes that a strong national defense requires supporting our friends and allies and responding to common threats. With Vladimir Putin on the march, the NDAA includes \$300 million to help Ukraine resist Russian aggression, including \$50 million for lethal assistance and counter-artillery radars. As China continues its aggressive behavior in the South China Sea, the NDAA will provide \$50 million to assist and train our allies in the region to increase maritime security and the maritime domain awareness. As the Taliban mounts an offensive across Afghanistan, the NDAA authorizes \$3.8 billion for the Afghanistan Security Forces Fund to preserve the gains of the past decade and continue to degrade and defeat terrorists who want to attack the United States and our allies.

This is an ambitious piece of legislation, but in the times we live, we cannot afford business as usual in the Department of Defense. To prepare our military to confront our present and future national security challenges, we must champion the cause of defense reform, rigorously root out Pentagon waste, and invest in modernization and next-generation technologies to maintain our military technological advantage. That is what this legislation is all about.

Additionally, I would point out that as our citizenry and our voters are deeply frustrated and angry about our failure to get anything done here in the Congress of the United States, I would at least make the comment that our highest priority and responsibility is defending the Nation. I believe this legislation is an example of working not only on both sides of the aisle but on both sides of the Capitol. I would argue

that this is the most significant reform legislation that has been passed in 30 years, but I would also tell my colleagues that this is just the beginning. This is the beginning of a bipartisan effort to reform the Pentagon, to reform the way we do business, to reform our priorities, and to reform the way the Pentagon was structured and our defense was structured. The last time it was reformed was 30 years ago under legislation called Goldwater-Nichols. Obviously, in the last 30 years that world situation has changed dramatically—dramatically.

On a bipartisan basis, working across the aisle and across the Capitol, I can assure my colleagues that next year at about this time, they will be seeing legislation that will try to address the challenges we are now facing in the world—in a more chaotic world than we have seen since the end of World War II. That is not just JOHN MCCAIN's opinion; that is the opinion of every knowledgeable, respected national security expert, ranging from Henry Kissinger, to Madeleine Albright, to Zbigniew Brzezinski, to Brent Scowcroft and others. We have to have a reformed Pentagon to meet the challenges. One great example of that is cyber security. Thirty years ago there were no cyber attacks on the United States of America. Today it is one of the looming challenges we face.

I intend to carry on in the long tradition of this committee in which the Senator from Rhode Island and I have worked in partnership in addressing these new challenges and these grave challenges to America's security.

I am proud of this legislation. Could we have done more? Yes. Were there different areas to which perhaps we should have paid more attention? Perhaps. But I would argue that this is the most significant reform legislation in the last 30 years.

I thank my friend and colleague from Rhode Island.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Madam President, I rise to speak in support of the revised National Defense Authorization Act conference report we have before us today. It is the result of months of collaborative work by the Senate Armed Services Committee and a very thoughtful conference. I would like to join Chairman MCCAIN and commend Chairman MAC THORNBERRY of Texas and Ranking Member ADAM SMITH of Washington. The collaboration, the thoughtfulness, and the consideration were extraordinary and outstanding throughout the conference process.

I have to say that from my point of view, the reason we are here today most fundamentally is the leadership of Chairman MCCAIN on the committee. It was thoughtful, it was bipartisan, and it encouraged participation by all the members of the committee. There was vigorous debate and then there were votes, and that is the way this

committee and this Congress should operate.

Ultimately, too, I think it reflected what the Chairman has always brought to his duties as a Member of the U.S. Senate and before that the U.S. House of Representatives and before that the U.S. Navy—understanding that what we do here ultimately reflects and influences and shapes the service and sacrifice of millions of young Americans in uniform. The Chairman never forgets that. He has laid out some of the extraordinary reforms that have been included in this legislation, and he has also indicated that we will continue to work next year under his leadership on additional reforms. These reforms in compensation, personnel policies, and a host of others, are going to set us and our Department of Defense on a better path forward. Again, much of it is because of his leadership and his direction.

Previously, the National Defense Authorization bill came before the Senate and there was one area of major disagreement; that was the use of the overseas contingency operations fund. I must again thank the Chairman because he allowed a vigorous debate, a vote on the floor, and ultimately and very satisfactorily this has been resolved in the recent budget agreement. So now we have legislation before us that raises the annual budget cap of the Department of Defense and other agencies, and it allows our defense to be more forward-looking and more able to rationally budget going forward. I think this has given us both the budget authority and the proper direction so that we can have a much more stable and much more predictable future. Again, I think it will be a wonderful facilitator as we consider additional reforms next year in the Defense Authorization bill.

The budget agreement also recognizes the fact that one of the challenges is not only those programs that are controlled by the Department of Defense but also other agencies that are involved in national security. Relief for those agencies is also important in carrying out the mission of the Department of Defense and protecting the American people.

With this new NDAA, I think we have been able to keep our pledge to the men and women in uniform of the United States.

Let me finally conclude where I began. I thank Chairman MCCAIN, Chairman THORNBERRY, and Ranking Member SMITH, but more particularly the staff. We who have the privilege of serving on the Armed Services Committee understand the extraordinary hours, the effort, the insight, and the total commitment of not only the committee staff members but the staffs of the individual members. Their efforts are reflected in this bill. It will not bear their names but, more importantly, it will bear their work. For that I thank them very, very much.

Let me urge all of my colleagues to support this bill, to join Senator

MCCAIN and others so that for the 54th straight year we will have a National Defense Authorization Act that will become the law of the United States.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, earlier this year, I voted in opposition to the fiscal year 2016 National Defense Authorization Act, NDAA. Since the Senate last voted on the fiscal year 2016 NDAA, Congress has passed and the President has signed the new Bipartisan Budget Act, which raised the discretionary caps on spending across the government, averted a default, and provided a path forward on appropriations.

The Bipartisan Budget Act also enabled authors of the NDAA to fix a gimmick that called for spending from overseas contingency operations, OCO, funding to meet requirements that should have been supported by the Department's base budget. I remain concerned, however, that, in order to meet the new caps, budgetary authority had to be cut from this bill. Specifically, I do not believe that readiness funds for the Army, the Army National Guard, and the Army Reserves should be slashed at the same time that many in this body are demanding more soldiers be sent to places like Eastern Europe. This authorization bill will spend hundreds of millions of dollars on unneeded and ineffective missile defense programs, for example, while cutting the training and preparation funds for the men and women we send overseas. The bill also makes significant changes to the defense acquisition system and, inexplicably, cuts key provisions to support the National Guard that enjoyed support in both the Senate and the House.

But perhaps most importantly, I am concerned that, in this new version of the bill, Congress failed to reconsider the ill-advised restrictions on detainee transfers from Guantanamo Bay that are contained in this NDAA—restrictions that President Obama cited as one reason for his veto of the original version of the bill last month. I opposed passage of that conference report in part because it contained a needless prohibition on transferring detainees to the United States for detention or trial, and it imposed unnecessary restrictions on transferring detainees to foreign countries.

Rather than working to address these misguided provisions, Republicans in Congress have evidently decided to stand in the way of finally bringing this terrible chapter to a close. They are making a grave mistake. For over a decade, the detention facility at Guantanamo has been a stain on our national reputation and served as a recruitment tool for terrorists. Guantanamo is also a tremendous waste of taxpayer dollars, costing approximately \$3.4 million per year to maintain a single detainee—an astonishing amount of money that could be repurposed to keep our men and women in uniform safe. Closing Guantanamo is the morally and fiscally responsible

thing to do, and I am deeply disappointed that these restrictions have been included. That is why I was proud to cosponsor an amendment filed by Senator FEINSTEIN to strip these troubling provisions from the bill.

The bill does include an extremely significant provision: the McCain-Feinstein antitorture amendment. Last year, Senator FEINSTEIN and the Senate Intelligence Committee did this country a great service in exposing the CIA's horrific practices under the Bush administration. The McCain-Feinstein amendment is a major step toward finally bringing to a close that dark, shameful chapter in our Nation's history. This provision finally codifies in statute the interrogation standards in the Army Field Manual—not just for military personnel, but for intelligence agents as well. It will clearly define acceptable interrogation practices and will hopefully ensure that America never engages in torture again.

Providing certainty for the Department's men and women and their families, as well as for military planners, is very important, and in significant ways, this bill accomplishes that. While this bill has shortcomings I hope we can address in the near future, I have given my support to its adoption and will only add that, in advance of Veterans Day and every day the men and women who serve and protect us deserve nothing less than the thanks of a grateful nation.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I wish to express reluctant support for the fiscal year 2016 National Defense Authorization Act.

Many parts of the agreement represent bipartisan consensus between Chairman MCCAIN, Chairman THORNBERRY, Ranking Member REED, and Ranking Member ADAM SMITH. We all appreciate their hard work on those matters for our troops and their families.

It provides well-deserved pay increases to our uniformed and defense civilian workforce. It modernizes the personnel benefit system to include a government matched savings plan. It authorizes \$300 million in assistance to Ukraine, of which \$50 million may be lethal assistance. It codifies the President's Executive order against torture and ensures that interrogations follow the Army Field Manual. I wish to thank Senator MCCAIN and Senator FEINSTEIN in particular for their leadership on this issue.

In addition, it extends the Afghan Special Immigrant Visa program so that we may continue to keep faith with foreign translators who risked their lives working with our troops. It authorizes a number of military construction projects around the world, including \$29 million in family housing units at Rock Island Arsenal, IL. It reauthorizes the DOD-VA pilot program at North Chicago, the Lovell Federal Health Care Center.

For these and many other reasons, I voted for the agreement, but it is a

compromise, and I must express my opposition to a few of its provisions.

One of those points of disagreement is that the bill prevents the closure of the U.S. military base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The reality is that, every day that it remains open, Guantanamo prison weakens our alliances, inspires our enemies, and calls into question our commitment to human rights.

Time and again, our most senior national security and military leaders have called for the closure of Guantanamo. In addition to the national security cost, every day that Guantanamo remains open, we are wasting taxpayer dollars. We are spending \$3.3 million per year for each detainee held at Guantanamo Bay—compare that with the estimated \$78,000 that it costs to hold a detainee in a Federal super maximum security prison.

Yet the conference agreement makes it even harder to transfer detainees to foreign countries, prohibits transfers to the U.S., and prohibits construction or modification of facilities in the U.S.

All of us are committed to preventing terrorist attacks. Terrorists deserve swift and sure justice and severe prison sentences.

But holding detainees at Guantanamo does not administer justice effectively. It does not serve our national security interests, and it is inconsistent with the country's history as a champion of human rights.

In order to conform to the budget agreement, the bill also includes \$1.7 billion in reductions to headquarters management personnel. Everyone in the Senate wants to cut the fat from the Pentagon, but we must make sure that these cuts are targeted toward inefficiency and waste, as opposed to recklessly eliminating our valued DOD civilian workforce.

The women and men who serve our Nation's defense outside of a uniform are our teammates in making our country secure. They process military pay; investigate fraud, waste, and abuse; oversee expensive weapons programs; and many more important functions. I am proud of each DOD civilian, especially those who work in Illinois, and I will work to make sure that the Congress supports their contributions to our country.

This is a very good agreement, these reservations notwithstanding. It is full of provisions which help our troops, reforms the way the Pentagon does business, and provides for our military families. I thank Senator MCCAIN and Senator REED for their hard work and commend the bill's passage for the 54th year in a row.

Mr. MCCAIN. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

## UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 2029

Mr. KIRK. Madam President, the ranking member and I have a package of amendments that have been cleared by both sides. I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate resumes consideration of H.R. 2029, the following amendments be called up, reported by number, and the Senate vote on the amendments en bloc: Moran, No. 2774; Murkowski, No. 2775; Murkowski, No. 2776; Blumenthal, No. 2779; Blumenthal, No. 2781; Toomey, No. 2785; Sullivan, No. 2786; Sullivan, No. 2787; Collins, No. 2788; Cornyn, No. 2789; Bennet, No. 2795; Durbin, No. 2794; and Boxer, No. 2798.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question occurs on agreeing to the motion to concur in the House amendment to S. 1356.

Mr. DAINES. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) would have voted "yea" and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) would have voted "yea."

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SULLIVAN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 91, nays 3, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 301 Leg.]

## YEAS—91

Alexander	Feinstein	Murphy
Ayotte	Fischer	Murray
Baldwin	Flake	Nelson
Barraso	Franken	Perdue
Bennet	Gardner	Peters
Blumenthal	Gillibrand	Portman
Blunt	Grassley	Reed
Booker	Hatch	Reid
Boozman	Heinrich	Risch
Boxer	Heitkamp	Roberts
Brown	Hirono	Rounds
Burr	Hoeven	Sasse
Cantwell	Inhofe	Schatz
Capito	Isakson	Schumer
Cardin	Johnson	Scott
Carper	Kaine	Sessions
Casey	King	Shaheen
Cassidy	Kirk	Shelby
Coats	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Cochran	Lankford	Sullivan
Collins	Leahy	Tester
Coons	Lee	Thune
Corker	Manchin	Tillis
Cornyn	Markey	Toomey
Cotton	McCain	Udall
Crapo	McCaskill	Warner
Daines	McConnell	Warren
Donnelly	Menendez	Whitehouse
Durbin	Mikulski	Wicker
Enzi	Moran	
Ernst	Murkowski	

## NAYS—3

Merkley	Sanders	Wyden
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## NOT VOTING—6

Cruz	Heller	Rubio
Graham	Paul	Vitter

The motion was agreed to.

## MAKING A TECHNICAL CORRECTION IN THE ENROLLMENT OF S. 1356

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of H. Con. Res. 90, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 90) directing the Secretary of the Senate to make a technical correction in the enrollment of S. 1356.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

## AMENDMENT NO. 2796

(Purpose: To modify the resolution)

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I call up my amendment No. 2796.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Arizona [Mr. MCCAIN] proposes an amendment numbered 2796.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, amendment No. 2796, offered by the Senator from Arizona, Mr. MCCAIN, is agreed to.

Under the previous order, the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 90, as amended, is agreed to.

Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

## MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016—Continued

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, what is the pending business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. H.R. 2029.

AMENDMENTS NOS. 2774, 2775, 2776, 2779, 2781, 2785, 2786, 2787, 2788, 2789, 2795, 2794, AND 2798 TO AMENDMENT NO. 2763

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the clerk will report the following amendments by number.

The bill clerk read as follows: