



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 115<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 163

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, MAY 1, 2017

No. 74

## Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

God of our fathers and mothers, continue to lead us with the power of Your wisdom and might. Empower our Senators to live this day with honor. Increase their faith, hope, and love that they may receive Your promises and claim them to accomplish Your purposes for our world.

Lord, inspire our Senators today with the music of Your wisdom that through their labors, they may bring hope from despair and joy from sadness. Teach them to celebrate, even in the darkness, because You are the God who gives us strength to accomplish more than we can ask or imagine.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. YOUNG). The majority leader is recognized.

### GOVERNMENT FUNDING LEGISLATION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the funding bill announced last night will allow us to make critical advances to rebuild our military, strengthen our border, and continue providing relief to

communities that have struggled for too long against the opioid epidemic. These are important priorities for Congress and for the President. They reflect a lot of hard work. They promise to positively and meaningfully impact the lives of the men and women we represent. The funding bill also includes another critical priority I have long fought for: protecting healthcare for thousands of retired coal miners.

This legislation would allow us to take the initial step needed to begin rebuilding our military. It contains a downpayment on defense that will support forward-deployed forces in places like the Korean Peninsula and Eastern Europe and operations against adversaries like ISIL and the Taliban as we work to secure the funds that will be necessary to improve readiness and restore munitions and ammunition.

We know that more must be done to meet our global commitments, and by providing some of the resources that will be necessary for a sustained rebuilding campaign—one we can hope will earn bipartisan support—we can take an important step forward.

This legislation will also allow us to substantially strengthen the border. It contains the largest increase in border security resources in a decade, allowing us to address high-priority security needs, crack down on illegal border crossings, and strengthen the border with everything from upgraded physical infrastructure to high-tech biometric and surveillance technology. We know more must be done to secure the border, and by finally delivering more of the resources and tools necessary to secure it, we can take an important step forward.

This legislation will also allow us to fight back against the opioid and heroin crisis while bolstering medical innovation and treatments at the same time. It contains funding for programs Congress authorized last year in the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, continued funding for the 21st

Century Cures Act—also passed last year—to attack opioid abuse, plus additional funds to combat the prescription opioid and heroin crisis that has devastated communities across the Nation.

We know more must be done to heal the communities that are hurting, and by funding the fight against today's epidemic, along with a fight for tomorrow's medical solutions, we can take an important step in the right direction. My home State of Kentucky has been particularly hard-hit by this epidemic, and helping our families and communities overcome this assault remains a top priority for me.

On another priority of mine addressed in the funding bill, I am particularly proud to announce that through this legislation, we have secured a permanent extension of healthcare benefits for thousands of retired coal miners and their families in States like Kentucky. Over the past few years, I have met with numerous Kentucky miners about this important issue, and I have been proud to lead efforts to help these families keep their healthcare. Now I am pleased to report that this spending legislation incorporates language from a bill I introduced earlier this year and will enact a permanent extension of miner healthcare benefits. I am proud to have secured this important provision as we put together the final package, and I will continue to fight to provide relief for coal communities going forward.

Moreover, this funding bill also includes additional assistance for troubled coal-mining communities and dislocated coal workers, and it promotes an "all of the above" energy policy that prioritizes coal, natural gas, and nuclear research.

It is disappointing that our Democratic colleagues blocked last year's efforts to move individual appropriations bills under the regular order, but I am pleased that they have now agreed to a solution that will advance many of the

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

S2641

priorities of the American people, Congress, and the President.

The funding legislation announced last night, which incorporates the 11 regular appropriations bills remaining from last year, is the product of a great deal of work in committee last year and subsequent bipartisan, bicameral discussions this year. I want to thank all of those who put in long hours and continued to negotiate in good faith so that we could arrive at this strong agreement.

In particular, I wish to recognize Chairman COCHRAN, the leadership of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, and their staffs. They worked to ensure that the process was bipartisan and bicameral every step of the way. Because of their efforts, we now have an agreement that both sides should support.

Before we take up the bill later this week, I encourage all Senators to review the full text, which includes more information on the priorities I just mentioned, and then let's keep working together to pass it later this week.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of Calendar Nos. 39 through 51 and all nominations placed on the Secretary's desk in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, and Navy; that the nominations be confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

#### IN THE NAVY

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

##### *To be rear admiral*

Rear Adm. (lh) Richard A. Brown  
Rear Adm. (lh) James S. Bynum  
Rear Adm. (lh) Daryl L. Caudle  
Rear Adm. (lh) Richard A. Correll  
Rear Adm. (lh) Randy B. Crites  
Rear Adm. (lh) Daniel H. Fillion  
Rear Adm. (lh) Collin P. Green  
Rear Adm. (lh) Mary M. Jackson  
Rear Adm. (lh) James W. Kilby  
Rear Adm. (lh) James J. Malloy  
Rear Adm. (lh) John W. Tammen, Jr.

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

##### *To be rear admiral (lower half)*

Capt. Kevin M. Jones  
Capt. Thomas J. Moreau

#### IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Marine Corps Re-

serve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

##### *To be major general*

Brig. Gen. David G. Bellon  
Brig. Gen. Patrick J. Hermesmann

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

##### *To be major general*

Brig. Gen. Edward D. Banta  
Brig. Gen. Robert F. Castellvi  
Brig. Gen. Matthew G. Glavy  
Brig. Gen. Michael S. Groen  
Brig. Gen. Kevin M. Iiams  
Brig. Gen. William F. Mullen, III  
Brig. Gen. Gregg P. Olson  
Brig. Gen. Eric M. Smith

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Marine Corps Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

##### *To be brigadier general*

Col. Michael S. Martin

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

##### *To be brigadier general*

Col. James H. Adams, III  
Col. Eric E. Austin  
Col. Jay M. Bargerion  
Col. Michael J. Borgschulte  
Col. William J. Bowers  
Col. Dimitri Henry  
Col. Keith D. Reventlow  
Col. Roberta L. Shea  
Col. Benjamin T. Watson  
Col. Christian F. Wortman

#### IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

##### *To be lieutenant general*

Maj. Gen. Bryan P. Fenton

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

##### *To be lieutenant general*

Maj. Gen. Darrell K. Williams

#### IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

##### *To be vice admiral*

Rear Adm. David H. Lewis

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

##### *To be vice admiral*

Rear Adm. Mathias W. Winter

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

##### *To be rear admiral*

Rear Adm. (lh) Steven L. Parode

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

##### *To be rear admiral*

Rear Adm. (lh) John P. Polowczyk

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

##### *To be rear admiral*

Rear Adm. (lh) Jon A. Hill  
Rear Adm. (lh) Gordon D. Peters

#### NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

##### IN THE AIR FORCE

PN128 AIR FORCE nomination of Raymond C. Jones, III, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2017.

PN129 AIR FORCE nomination of Christopher E. Austin, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2017.

PN130 AIR FORCE nominations (4) beginning ROBERT D. HOUGHTLING, and ending CARL H. SPEARS, JR., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2017.

PN131 AIR FORCE nominations (9) beginning LISA ANN BANYASZ, and ending JULIE L. WIBLE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2017.

PN132 AIR FORCE nominations (5) beginning LORI J. BETTERS, and ending LISA S. SHEAR, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2017.

PN133 AIR FORCE nomination of James A. Crider, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2017.

PN134 AIR FORCE nominations (15) beginning JOSE E. BARRERA, and ending DAVID H. ZONES, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2017.

PN135 AIR FORCE nominations (12) beginning KRISTIN L. ADER, and ending CHRISTOPHER C. VANNATTA, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2017.

PN136 AIR FORCE nominations (4) beginning GREGG MICHAEL CAGGIANELLI, and ending WILLIAM SCOTT WIECHER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2017.

PN137 AIR FORCE nominations (136) beginning PATRICK W. ALBRECHT, and ending STEPHEN S. YOON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2017.

PN138 AIR FORCE nomination of Stephen N. Luker, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2017.

PN139 AIR FORCE nominations (55) beginning TYLER J. BANACHOWSKI, and ending MARITA N. ZGURI, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2017.

PN140 AIR FORCE nominations (244) beginning JONI A. ABBOTT, and ending DANIELLE C. YUEN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2017.

PN141 AIR FORCE nominations (30) beginning MICHAEL J. ALFARO, and ending SARA M. WILSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2017.

PN142 AIR FORCE nominations (129) beginning JESSICA L. ABBOTT, and ending HEATH D. WRIGHT, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2017.

PN143 AIR FORCE nominations (13) beginning COREY R. ANDERSON, and ending ANDREW J. STOY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2017.