

Forces and in each conflict involving the United States since and including the Revolutionary War;

Whereas war dogs are credited with saving countless lives, while alerting service members to danger on patrol, detecting improvised explosive devices, identifying weapons caches, performing search and rescue, and providing other specialized mission functions;

Whereas in conflicts before and including the Vietnam conflict, some war dogs were left behind in conflict areas, but war dogs are no longer considered merely equipment and are now required to be retired in the United States;

Whereas, in recognition of the unique bond between a war dog and its handler team, handlers are given preference in adopting their war dog teammate after the war dog's retirement;

Whereas the service of war dogs has been recognized by senior military leaders, who have stated that the capability of war dogs in combat cannot be replicated by humans or machines and by any measure of performance, war dogs outperform any other asset in the inventory of the United States Armed Forces; and

Whereas numerous war dogs have given their lives in service to the United States Armed Forces, both in active conflict and in retirement, while providing companionship and comfort to veterans and wounded warriors: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the United States Army military working dog program, the Senate—

(1) recognizes the service that military working dogs and contract working dogs (referred to in this resolution as "war dogs") have provided to the United States Armed Forces;

(2) acknowledges that not all war dogs were given due recognition by being allowed to honorably retire from their service in the United States;

(3) assures the members of the United States Armed Forces that war dogs will continue to be treated with the deference commensurate with their service and rank; and

(4) honors the sacrifices made by war dogs in combat and the services war dogs provide in retirement to members of the United States Armed Forces.

#### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I have two requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to Rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

##### COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 9, 2017, at 9:30 a.m., in open and closed sessions, to receive testimony on United States Cyber Command.

##### COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 9, 2017, at 2:30 p.m., in open session to consider nominations.

##### COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 9, 2017, at 10 a.m.

##### COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 9, 2017, at 10:15 a.m., to hold a hearing entitled "Nominations."

##### COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the 115th Congress of the U.S. Senate on Tuesday, May 9, 2017 at 2:30 p.m., in room SH-219 of the Senate Hart Office Building.

##### SUBCOMMITTEE ON SURFACE TRANSPORTATION AND MERCHANT MARINE INFRASTRUCTURE, SAFETY AND SECURITY

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to hold a meeting during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 9, 2017, at 2:30 p.m. in room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

The Committee will hold Subcommittee Hearing on "Maritime Transportation: Opportunities and Challenges for the Maritime Administration and Federal Maritime Commission."

##### COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 9, 2017, at 2:30 p.m., in Room 406 of the Dirksen Senate office building, to conduct a hearing entitled, "Water Resources: The Role of the Public and Private Sectors."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

##### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 52, Robert Lighthizer to be U.S. Trade Representative.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Robert Lighthizer, of Florida, to be United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary.

##### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

##### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Robert Lighthizer, of Florida, to be United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary.

Mitch McConnell, John Cornyn, Mike Rounds, Orrin G. Hatch, Thom Tillis, Steve Daines, Mike Crapo, Pat Roberts, Thad Cochran, Luther Strange, John Thune, Richard C. Shelby, John Hoeven, John Boozman, Rob Portman, Jerry Moran, David Perdue.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call with respect to the cloture motion be waived.

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

##### ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 2017

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, May 10; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; finally, that following leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

##### PROGRAM

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, we expect to have a rollcall vote on the motion to proceed to H.J. Res. 36, the methane CRA resolution of disapproval, at approximately 10 a.m. tomorrow morning.

##### ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of Senator SULLIVAN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RUBIO). Without objection, it is so ordered.

The assistant Democratic leader.

##### TERMINATION OF JAMES COMEY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, the termination and removal of James Comey as Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation raises a critical question as to whether the FBI investigation of Russian interference in the last Presidential campaign will continue and whether the investigation into any collusion or involvement by the Trump campaign will be investigated by the FBI. Any attempt to stop or undermine this FBI investigation would raise grave constitutional issues.

We await clarification by the White House as soon as possible as to whether this investigation will continue and whether it will have a credible lead so

that we know it will have a just outcome.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

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

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

The Senator from Alaska.

#### TRIBUTE TO SHERRY BESS

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, every week I have been coming to the floor to recognize someone in my State who has made a difference, someone who has devoted time and energy to making my State a better place to live for others. We call these individuals our Alaskan of the Week.

As I have said repeatedly, I believe my State is the most beautiful State in the country. We have visitors. We want to welcome more and more visitors. Come on up. I guarantee it will be the trip of a lifetime.

When you go to Alaska, one town that nobody should miss is Homer, AK. It is surrounded by the glistening waters of Kachemak Bay, jagged mountains, glaciers, and snowcapped volcanoes. Some people call it the Halibut Fishing Capital of the World. Others call it the Cosmic Hamlet by the Sea. Some, like me, call it a slice of Heaven.

I was there a few weeks ago holding a community meeting. I thanked them then, and I want to thank them all today for the very warm welcome I received.

I also wish to thank Homer for the very warm welcome they gave to Navy destroyer USS Hopper, which spent a few days in Homer before participating in a joint naval exercise with the Army in the Gulf of Alaska. The 300-member crew of the USS Hopper was greeted by hundreds of cheering, flag-waving

Homer residents. The commander of the Hopper, J.D. Gainey, wrote that in his 24 years of naval service, "I have never seen as much patriotism as we enjoyed in Homer." Thank you, Homer, from all of us. Alaskans love Homer.

They see it for the landscape but also for the people. It is a tight-knit community. They might not always agree with one another, particularly with regard to politics, but they look out for each other. Like any community with a heart, they look out for their animals.

This week I want to recognize a special person as our Alaskan of the week, Sherry Bess, who spent nearly 30 years—three decades—taking care of Homer's animals as the manager of the Homer Animal Shelter. In 1989, when Sherry began to volunteer at the pet shelter in Homer, there was one building, no phone, and only four cages to hold cats. "It was basically a shack," she said. The snow would come in through the dog door. The drains in the water bowls would freeze. Sherry's hands and feet were always cold, and it was infested with mice. There was no bathroom. Oftentimes, when the shelter was too busy and when the animals needed extra care, Sherry would take them to her home, where she would care for them.

Sherry and a handful of residents cared for over 1,200 animals each year in that little shelter. Along the way, she gathered both happy stories and heartbreaking stories about the animals she found that were abused and the ones she found homes for. In fact, one of the members of my team in Alaska took a puppy that had been abandoned in a crate in the woods near Homer, took him home, fed him, and Mick Fleagle on my staff now has a dog. His dog Sookie, 8 years old, has the full reign of the house. He is loved.

Thanks to Sherry, stories like that abound throughout Homer. For 26 years, she has worked night and day, 7

days a week, for the pets in that community. She recently stepped down from that job. She is taking care of her own pets, lots of them—her family she calls them—but she will always be known to so many people in Homer for what she has done for their pets and their animals.

"Over the years, those animals that came to me," she said, "... unwanted and sad and depressed, and then you help them and you love them and they go to a home and they're loved. That's the most rewarding thing about what I did."

Sherry said over the years she has noticed that the residents of Homer and throughout the country have been kinder to their pets. Part of that is the result of what Sherry and others like her across the country do to educate the public on taking care of animals through vaccinations, neutering. Some of it is more and more because people like Sherry are considering pets as their families.

So I want to thank Sherry, as our Alaskan of the Week, for all she has done and for all she has done for pets in our great State. Great job.

I yield the floor.

#### ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 9:30 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:17 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, May 10, 2017, at 9:30 a.m.

#### CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate May 9, 2017:

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

SCOTT GOTTLIEB, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE COMMISSIONER OF FOOD AND DRUGS, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.