

period involved to subpoena the same without the Ranking Minority Member's concurrence. Regardless of whether a subpoena has been concurred in by the Ranking Minority Member, such subpoena may be authorized by vote of the Members of the Committee. When the Committee or Chairman authorizes a subpoena, the subpoena may be issued upon the signature of the Chairman or of any other Member of the Committee designated by the Chairman.

(F) Except as specified in Committee Rule VII (requiring oaths, under certain circumstances, at hearings to confirm Presidential nominations), witnesses at hearings will be required to give testimony under oath whenever the presiding Member deems such to be advisable.

V. MEDIA COVERAGE

Any Committee meeting or hearing which is open to the public may be covered by television, radio, and print media. Photographers, reporters, and crew members using mechanical recording, filming, or broadcasting devices shall position and use their equipment so as not to interfere with the seating, vision, or hearing of the Committee Members or staff or with the orderly conduct of the meeting or hearing. The presiding Member of the meeting or hearing may for good cause terminate, in whole or in part, the use of such mechanical devices or take such other action as the circumstances and the orderly conduct of the meeting or hearing may warrant.

VI. GENERAL

All applicable requirements of the Standing Rules of the Senate shall govern the Committee.

VII. PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATIONS

(A) Each Presidential nominee whose nomination is subject to Senate confirmation and referred to this Committee shall submit a statement of his or her background and financial interests, including the financial interests of his or her spouse and of children living in the nominee's household, on a form approved by the Committee, which shall be sworn to as to its completeness and accuracy. The Committee form shall be in two parts:

(1) Information concerning employment, education, and background of the nominee, which generally relates to the position to which the individual is nominated and which is to be made public; and

(2) Information concerning the financial and other background of the nominee, to be made public when the Committee determines that such information bears directly on the nominee's qualifications to hold the position to which the individual is nominated.

(B) At any hearing to confirm a Presidential nomination, the testimony of the nominee and, at the request of any Member, any other witness shall be under oath.

(C) Committee action on a nomination, including hearings or a meeting to consider a motion to recommend confirmation, shall not occur until at least five days (not counting Saturdays, Sundays, and federal holidays) after the nominee submits with respect to the currently pending nomination the form required by this rule unless the Chairman, with the concurrence of the Ranking Minority Member, waives this waiting period.

VIII. NAMING OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FACILITIES

It is the policy of the Committee that a Department of Veterans Affairs facility may be named only after a deceased individual and only under the following circumstances:

(A) Such individual was:

(1) A veteran who (i) was instrumental in the construction or the operation of the fa-

cility to be named, or (ii) was a recipient of the Medal of Honor or, as determined by the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member, otherwise performed military service of an extraordinarily distinguished character;

(2) A Member of the United States House of Representatives or Senate who had a direct association with such facility;

(3) An Administrator of Veterans' Affairs, a Secretary of Veterans Affairs, a Secretary of Defense or of a service branch, or a military or other Federal civilian official of comparable or higher rank; or

(4) An individual who, as determined by the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member, performed outstanding service for veterans.

(B) Each Member of the Congressional delegation representing the State in which the designated facility is located must indicate in writing such Member's support of the proposal to name such facility after such individual. It is the policy of the Committee that sponsoring or cosponsoring legislation to name such facility after such individual will not alone satisfy this requirement.

(C) The pertinent State department or chapter of each Congressionally chartered veterans' organization having a national membership of at least 500,000 must indicate in writing its support of such proposal.

IX. AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES

The rules of the Committee may be changed, modified, amended, or suspended at any time provided, however, that no less than a majority of the entire membership so determine at a regular meeting with due notice or at a meeting specifically called for that purpose. The rules governing quorums for reporting legislative matters shall govern rules changes, modification, amendments, or suspension.

NOMINATION OF REX W. TILLERSON

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a letter from Lee Boothby be printed in the RECORD in support of the nomination of Rex Tillerson as Secretary of State of the United States.

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

NEWFIELD EXPLORATION COMPANY,
The Woodlands, Texas, January 11, 2017.

Hon. JAMES M. INHOFE,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JAMES LANKFORD,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATORS INHOFE AND LANKFORD: As leader of Oklahoma's third largest producer of crude oil and natural gas, I write to urge your vote to confirm Rex Tillerson as U.S. Secretary of State.

Mr. Tillerson has been rightly lauded for his effective stewardship of one the world's largest and most successful companies, his deep exposure to and knowledge of both foreign and domestic public policies impacting our nation and his extensive global experience. He is intelligent, highly regarded and has accomplished many achievements in the private sector through vision, hard work and sound judgment. He is extremely qualified to lead U.S. foreign policy.

Over the past several years, I have had the privilege of working with Rex professionally and I've also had the opportunity to get to know him personally. His personal attributes are equally as impressive as his professional characteristics. He is a man of integrity and strong moral character.

We both share a fondness for the outdoors and regularly have found ourselves discussing not the day-to-day happenings in our industry, but rather his love for the United States of America—an affection deepened by his exposure to countries where democracy and human rights do not exist.

I am proud to call Rex Tillerson a friend, and I am confident our nation will benefit from his service and the many attributes he will contribute as U.S. Secretary of State.

Sincerely,

LEE K. BOOTHBY.

CONFIRMATION OF MICHAEL POMPEO

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I oppose Mr. POMPEO's confirmation to be Director of the Central Intelligence Agency because I believe he will take the CIA in a dangerously wrong direction.

America needs a CIA Director who will uphold American values by resolutely condemning torture and mass surveillance. Mr. POMPEO's last-minute attempt to walk back his opposition to torture is very disturbing and suggests the Trump administration is readying to abandon our commitment to international human rights.

Second, Mr. POMPEO's enthusiasm for bringing back programs that sweep up massive amounts of Americans' private information is deeply troubling. I have no confidence that Donald Trump would sufficiently protect the private emails of Americans if he had access to them, and Mr. POMPEO's support for large-scale data collection programs is inconsistent with the bipartisan reforms of the PATRIOT Act that passed in the last Congress.

Third, I am very worried that Mr. POMPEO, as CIA Director, will continue the trend of covert agencies usurping the power of the State Department and the Defense Department. Mr. POMPEO, under questioning, refused to acknowledge the longstanding precedent of diplomatic embassies having primary authority for final signoff on overseas operations. This suggests Mr. POMPEO could lead a rogue agency that will frustrate rather than aid our diplomatic objectives overseas.

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS D. HOMAN

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize Thomas D. Homan, who will step down this month as U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Executive Associate Director for Enforcement and Removal Operations. Mr. Homan has served in law enforcement for 36 years, including 33 years enforcing our Nation's border and immigration laws. He began his career in 1981 as a police officer in New York. In 1984, he became a U.S. Border Patrol agent with his first assignment in the San Diego sector. In 1988, he became a special agent with the former U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service in Phoenix, AZ. There, he climbed through the ranks, first to supervisory special agent, and later to deputy assistant director for investigations.

In 1999, Mr. Homan became the assistant district director for investigations in San Antonio, TX. Upon the creation of ICE in 2003, Mr. Homan was named as the assistant special agent in charge in Dallas, TX. He was later promoted to deputy special agent in charge. In March 2009, Mr. Homan accepted the position of Assistant Director for Enforcement at ICE headquarters in Washington, DC. He was subsequently promoted to Deputy Executive Associate Director in 2010 and was again promoted in May 2013 to lead ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations as its Executive Associate Director.

In December 2015, Mr. Homan was awarded the Presidential Rank Award for Distinguished Service. He has served this country for many years and has had a notable career in helping to protect the homeland.

I ask that my colleagues join me in offering our appreciation for his service and congratulations on his retirement.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING AARON E. BAER

• Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I would like to pay tribute to a dear friend, the Honorable Aaron A. Baer, who died yesterday, just 2 days shy of what would have been his 103rd birthday. He was the oldest living judge in Maryland.

Judge Baer was known to his family as the “centennial cowboy” who had “a great ride,” as his family put it. He was a Baltimore native, the son of a Russian immigrant who worked in a clothing factory and became a tailor. Judge Baer graduated from the University of Baltimore Law School in 1937. He supported himself and paid for law school by repairing and replacing tar roofs.

Judge Baer practiced real estate law for several years before becoming an assistant Baltimore City solicitor, an assistant attorney general, and a State senator for the 5th District in 1959. He was appointed to the Municipal Court of Baltimore City in 1961 by then-Governor J. Millard Tawes. In 1971, he was appointed to the newly created District Court of Maryland by then, Governor Marvin Mandel. He retired as a district court judge in 1981 at the age of 67.

Judge Baer was married to Judy Weinberg for 66 years before her passing in 2007. He and his wife had two daughters. The older daughter is Susan Reichmister, who is married to Dr. Jerome Reichmister. They have two children: Beth, who is married to Bart Casper, and Jodi, who is married to Craig Kessler. The younger daughter is the Honorable Barbara Baer Waxman, who is administrative judge of the District Court of Maryland for Baltimore City. She is married to Dr. Carl Waxman. Judge Baer had four great-grandchildren: Nicole, Sloane, Mitchell, and

Blair, and numerous nieces and nephews.

The Cardin family is friends with many members of the Baer family. Judge Baer and my parents were close friends. It has been a great privilege to know Judge Baer, to receive his counsel, and to count him not just as a close friend of my father's, but as my close friend, too.

Judge Baer lived an exemplary life devoted to public service, the community, and to his family. He started riding Indian motorcycles as a youth and then became an avid horseback rider until he turned 100, which is how he earned the nickname “centennial cowboy.” He did have “a great ride,” and I am grateful for having been along for some of it. My wife, Myrna, and I send our deepest condolences and prayers to his family.●

TRIBUTE TO BELLE WENDELBURG

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week, I have the distinct honor of recognizing Mrs. Belle Wendelburg for her continued work in serving her community all the way to the age of 95. Belle retired from Dahl Memorial Nursing Home in Ekalaka, MT, in July of 2016 after working there for more than 20 years. She loved the residents and enjoyed the opportunity to work and serve others.

Belle was born on May 3, 1921, on a family homestead near Westmore, MT. She was the youngest of three children. Growing up around Westmore, Belle attended Spring Hill Grade School where she had to ride a horse 7 miles to get to school.

Belle enrolled in the “Green Thumb” program, a government work program, and then began working in activities for Dahl Memorial Nursing Home. While her primary job was to work in activities, Belle wasn't afraid to work wherever she was needed. She helped make meals, set up for meals, wash dishes, read to residents, and work with Alzheimer's patients. She continued to work at the nursing home even after she was diagnosed with cancer. Her family reports that she is still as fit as ever and can probably outrun most people much younger than she.

Belle also worked every Christmas at the home, ensuring the residents got the presents they were supposed to get and helping them write thank you letters for the gifts. She was involved with the spiritual health of the residents by reading devotionals to them. Belle worked at the home every Sunday when extra staff were needed to help residents attend chapel services. Through her giving spirit, she provides residents encouragement and inspiration every day. To her coworkers, she is also an inspiration. The nursing home CEO, Nadene Elmore says, “Whenever I see Belle, I tell her I want to be just like her when I grow up.” Belle entertains staff at lunches with stories and endless knowledge of the community's history.

Throughout the past 20 years, Belle has remained faithful in her love for her home and the eastern Montana prairie. I want to express my deep gratitude to Mrs. Belle Wendelburg for her dedication and service to her community, Montana, and our country.●

130TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LONGMONT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

• Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, I ask to have printed in the RECORD a copy of my remarks to the Longmont Chamber of Commerce on its 130th anniversary. The material follows:

REMARKS TO THE LONGMONT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

I rise today to honor the Longmont Chamber of Commerce on its 130th anniversary. For more than 100 years, this chamber of commerce has been an important resource for businesses of all sizes in the Longmont area.

Colorado's Northern front range has experienced significant growth within the past few years, with an influx of residents moving to this region. Longmont, which sits in Weld and Boulder counties, is now home to nearly 100,000 people. The community's strong manufacturing, agriculture, and innovative technology companies have all contributed to Longmont's development.

The Longmont Chamber of Commerce has been an active participant in helping all industries succeed and grow. Annual events, like the “Unity in the Community” event, draw more than 1,000 representatives from business, government, and nonprofit organizations. In addition, Longmont has received multiple recognitions for its ability to problem solve, and make their community a better place to live for all residents. In 2006, Longmont received the All-America City Award from the National Civic League, and in 2008, was named as one of the Top 100 Best Places to Live by Money Magazine.

The Chamber of Commerce will continue to play a critical role in the growth and development of Longmont, as the Front Range sees an increase in population and business endeavors. Longmont is fortunate to have a dedicated organization like the Chamber helping its residents grow their businesses. Congratulations to the Longmont Chamber of Commerce on reaching this significant milestone.●

STATE OF THE UNION ESSAY CONTEST FINALISTS

• Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask to have printed in the RECORD some of the finalist essays written by Vermont high school students as part of the seventh annual State of the Union essay contest conducted by my office.

The material follows:

EMMA CARLSON, ST JOHNSBURY ACADEMY JUNIOR (FINALIST)

America is one of the wealthiest countries in the world. Home to world-leading companies in technology, consumer goods, pharmaceutical, and financial industries, the U.S. has a gross domestic product of 18.56 trillion dollars. And yet, poverty impacts people in both rural and urban areas who are working for minimum wage, elderly people who must live on a fixed income, and those who have lost their jobs. For a country as rich and resourceful as ours, we have the ability to solve the complex situation of poverty if we work together as a nation to find a solution.