

has passed authorizations for use of military force, AUMFs, that the President is using to fight the war on terror and conduct counterterrorism operations against our enemies. This includes the Islamic State, which the State Department recently reaffirmed is guilty of genocide, and other terrorist groups that continue to pose grave and persistent threats to the United States and our allies.

Paul amendment No. 871 would repeal these critical congressionally passed AUMFs, so I therefore oppose this amendment.●

(At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

#### VOTE EXPLANATION

• Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I was unavoidably absent for rollcall vote No. 195, the motion to table Paul amendment No. 871 to H.R. 2810, the National Defense Authorization Act for 2018. Had I been present, I would have voted nay.●

#### HUMAN PERFORMANCE OPTIMIZATION

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I am honored to represent over half of all U.S. Special Forces. I would like to address the topic of working to close a growing gap in understanding, assessment, and prediction between traditional and nontraditional strategies for human performance optimization as it relates to our military servicemembers and overall readiness.

I support Department of Defense efforts designed to simultaneously improve the overall health and wellness of uniformed personnel and sustain the operational readiness levels of the respective military services. I am encouraged by efforts initiated at both Special Operations Command, SOCOM, and the respective SOCOM component commands and am requesting that these commands consider additional steps to incorporate new ideas for the troops.

I would like to see the Department of Defense examine the impact of recent trends in the health and performance industry to emphasize greater reliance on natural movement, full-range body motion, nontraditional gravity-aided suspension exercises, and nontraditional resistance training for optimizing an individual's state of fitness, long-term durability, resilience, and overall wellness. It is important to note that such approaches can produce significant and measurable improvements in muscular strength, endurance, motor control, and the maximum cognitive and workload performance of individual military operators.

The potential for an improvement in comprehensive readiness and lethality of Special Forces is significant. Efforts to improve muscular strength, endurance, and the workload performance for individuals under more natural and

realistic training scenarios coupled with the establishment and documentation of optimum and minimum physical thresholds can improve overall unit readiness and sustainability among and throughout the ranks of special operations forces.

Therefore, I would encourage the Department of Defense, and especially Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command, MARSOC, to identify and describe common denominators with respect to key performance indicators, KPI, among MARSOC operators, develop algorithmic tools for predicting appropriate individual physical and cognitive loads, and examine the efficacy of potential intervention programs to minimize discriminatory KPI gaps among MARSOC personnel. Let's close the gap in understanding between traditional and emerging strategies for human performance optimization. I strongly believe it could have a positive impact on the readiness of our honorable men and women in uniform to win conflicts.

#### REMEMBERING PETE DOMENICI

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I was deeply saddened to hear about the passing of my friend and former colleague, Senator Pete Domenici, a great American who dedicated his life and career to public service. I had the great privilege of serving alongside Pete for many years and knew him as a gentleman who always behaved in the highest traditions of the Senate. Pete was a knowledgeable and pragmatic leader who knew how to reach across the aisle to advance bipartisan solutions to the Nation's biggest problems. Perhaps the best example of his skill for compromise was when he negotiated the Nation's last balanced budget in 1997. Pete represented the very best ideals of the U.S. Senate and left an indelible mark on this Chamber. Cindy and I extend our deepest condolences to Nancy and the entire Domenici family as they mourn the loss of a great man.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ELGIN FIRE DEPARTMENT

• Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr President, today I wish to recognize the Elgin Fire Department's 150th anniversary and congratulate the brave men and women who protect the 100,000 residents living in Elgin, IL.

For more than 100 years, the Elgin Fire Department has worked to preserve the safety and well-being of Illinoisans. Firefighters are the first responders who often put themselves in danger to rescue citizens from emergency situations involving extensive smoke and fire. The medical treatment responders save numerous lives, which may have been lost without prehospital care.

The Elgin Fire Department continues to serve its community by providing

fire safety education, fire inspection, and domestic preparedness planning, among other community outreach efforts, to increase community readiness. The department's stellar service ensures that the families and friends of Elgin are prepared for any emergency.

I extend my best wishes for a remarkable and memorable anniversary. Thank you for your selfless work to Elgin, IL.●

#### RECOGNIZING THE GUADALUPE CENTERS

• Mrs. McCASKILL. Mr. President, I ask the Senate to join me today in recognizing the work of the Guadalupe Centers in Kansas City, MO. Their mission is to improve the quality of life for individuals in the Latino communities of greater Kansas City, and they excel at their mission. Many Kansas City families view Guadalupe Centers as a pillar in their lives. I am here today to honor the Guadalupe Centers as the standard all community organizations should strive to become.

Founded in 1919, the Guadalupe Centers originally served as a safe haven for Mexican immigrants who experienced discrimination, poverty, and lack of social services following the Mexican revolution. During the subsequent decades, the centers expanded its services to include English classes, boys' and girls' clubs, adult education classes, and home economics. Much of this expansion came under the leadership of Dorothy Gallagher, known as the Godmother of Guadalupe.

While the Guadalupe Centers continue to assist members of the Latino community balance life in the United States while maintaining their cultural heritage to this day, it has also expanded significantly. As Kansas City's Latino population grew and prospered, the centers added employment assistance programs, a credit union, a health center, counseling, youth programs, a preschool program, and the Alta Vista Charter High School. In 2013, the Missouri Public Charter School Association recognized Alta Vista High School as the "Missouri Charter of the Year."

To kick off Hispanic Heritage Month each year, the Guadalupe Centers host the Blanco y Negro Awards gala in Kansas City. While honoring individuals and institutions critical to the growth and development of the organization, the gala also assists with funding the nonprofit. Last year alone, the Guadalupe Centers served over 9,268 individuals and families through its variety of programs and services. It will be my honor to attend the Blanco y Negro Awards gala on September 15 to support the Guadalupe Centers and honor the beginning of Hispanic Heritage Month.

Since 1988, we have celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15. Each year, we take these 30 days to commemorate the significant contributions of Hispanic and

Latino Americans to our country. Our 58 million Latino colleagues, neighbors, and friends teach our children, enhance our economy, and honorably serve in our military. Hispanic Americans have embodied our entrepreneurial spirit and influenced our communities since America's inception.

America's annual tribute to Hispanic heritage reminds us of the extraordinary impact those in the Latino community have made to our Nation. Without vital organizations like the Guadalupe Centers fostering communal development, the American Dream might be out of reach for many.

I ask that the Senate join me in commending the Guadalupe Centers on their 98 years of providing education, youth development, and health and social services to the greater Kansas City Latino community, along with celebrating the beginning of Hispanic Heritage Month.●

#### FORT PIERRE BICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the history, culture, and community of Fort Pierre as we celebrate its bicentennial anniversary.

Located at the confluence of the Missouri River and the Bad River, the current location of Fort Pierre had long been occupied by Native Americans, including the Lakota and Arikara. In 1743, the French explorers Francois and Louis-Joseph Verendrye first encountered this area. Six decades later, Captains Meriwether Lewis and William Clark made their first contact with the Lakota Nation at the Bad River Gathering in present-day Fort Pierre, and it soon became a prominent fur trading center. Its proximity and ease of access to the Missouri River helped Fort Pierre grow from a fur trading settlement into a regional hub and a prosperous community.

Fort Pierre remains the oldest continuous area of European settlement in South Dakota. Today Fort Pierre is still fiercely independent, the place where the East meets the Old West. The rugged cowboy spirit remains strong and cattle still outnumber people. The legacy of self-reliant pioneers and entrepreneurs who founded this community is evident yet today. With its river breaks and wide-open plains, locals enjoy many outdoor adventures, including fishing and boating, a weekend rodeo, or conversations around the campfire. Hunting is a big part of the culture, and Stanley County is home to some of the best hunting land in the State.

As residents of Fort Pierre, Jean and I are happy to call this vibrant community our home. I congratulate the city of Fort Pierre on celebrating its 200th anniversary and wish it all the best in the years to come.●

#### 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ALLIANCE TO SAVE ENERGY

• Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the achievements of the Alliance to Save Energy over its 40-year history of working with Presidents of both political parties and Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle to advance Federal energy efficiency policy.

In 1977, Senators Charles Percy and Hubert Humphrey—a Republican from Illinois and a Democrat from Minnesota—founded the alliance as the leading energy efficiency coalition of businesses, governments, environmental groups, and consumer advocates. The goal of the alliance from the start has been simple: “Use less and do more.” In the wake of the oil embargoes and energy shortages of the 1970s, that message resonated loud and clear, and it still does.

Energy efficiency is America's largest energy resource, contributing more to our Nation's energy needs over the last 40 years than any other fuel source. Without the economy-wide improvements in energy efficiency made since 1973, it is estimated that today's economy would require 60 percent more energy than we consume now. In fact, savings from energy efficiency improvements over the last 40 years have reduced our national energy bill by an estimated \$800 billion, all while growing and expanding our economy. Energy efficiency saves money, improves national security, reduces pollution, encourages innovation, boosts U.S. competitiveness, and creates jobs.

For 40 years, the alliance has taken great care to cultivate and maintain bipartisan support for policies supporting energy efficiency. Maybe the best example—certainly for me the most personal example—is the alliance's steadfast support and continued advocacy for the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act, bipartisan energy efficiency legislation I have introduced along with my friend and partner, Senator ROB PORTMAN. They recognize, as I do, that to accomplish anything in Washington, you must have friends and supporters across the entire political spectrum. The alliance's commitment to bipartisanship is not simply rooted in their history, but is also as a matter of practicality. In a Congress that is divided along partisan lines on so many issues, energy efficiency is one priority that can bring us together on a bipartisan, bicameral basis to get big things done.

The alliance also prides itself on its ability to bring businesses together alongside public and consumer advocates. The business case for energy efficiency is unimpeachable. Energy efficiency is the largest sector within the U.S. clean energy economy, employing nearly 2.2 million Americans nationwide—the majority of whom work for small businesses. American companies are leading the way in innovation and technological advancements in lighting, appliances, and building materials,

to name a few. By working collaboratively with businesses and consumer leaders, the alliance is helping to improve energy efficiency across all sectors of the economy and develop new ways to bring new products and services to market.

Today the alliance is led by President Kateri Callahan, and the fiduciary board is chaired by Gil Quinones, who is president and chief executive officer of the New York Power Authority. It is my privilege to serve as the honorary cochair of the alliance. I am joined by Honorary Vice Chairs Senators ROB PORTMAN and CHRIS COONS, as well as Senators LAMAR ALEXANDER, SUSAN COLLINS, ED MARKEY, LISA MURKOWSKI, MARK WARNER, and RON WYDEN, as well as Representatives MICHAEL BURGESS, ADAM KINZINGER, DAVID MCKINLEY, DAVE REICHERT, PAUL TONKO, and PETER WELCH. The alliance is rightfully proud of their storied bipartisan traditions, and this ideologically diverse and talented roster is a testament to the possibilities to make positive change when we listen to one another and work together.

I would like to close today by recognizing the past contributions of members who previously served on the alliance honorary board: Senators Jeff Bingaman, Larry Craig, Alan Cranston, Byron Dorgan, John Heinz, Jim Jeffords, Bennett Johnston, Richard Lugar, Mark Pryor, Mark Udall, and Timothy Wirth, along with Representatives Ralph Hall, Steve Israel, John Edward Porter, and Zach Wamp. I had the good fortune of working alongside many of these distinguished public servants. I am proud to be part of the shared legacy of this collection of energy-efficiency champions.

I congratulate the alliance on all they have accomplished since it was founded in 1977. Now, the alliance stands at the precipice of the next 40 years, which will undoubtedly usher in unforeseeable challenges and opportunities in the energy sector. I stand with them today, energized by their success so far, and ready for the next set of energy efficiency policies we need to succeed.

Thank you.●

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:26 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following joint resolution, without amendment:

S.J. Res. 49. Joint resolution condemning the violence and domestic terrorist attack that took place during events between August 11 and August 12, 2017, in Charlottesville, Virginia, recognizing the first responders who lost their lives while monitoring the events, offering deepest condolences to the families and friends of those individuals who were killed and deepest sympathies and support to those individuals who were injured by the violence, expressing support for the Charlottesville community, rejecting White nationalists, White supremacists, the Ku