

on less than 5 percent of the leases in Alaska's National Petroleum Reserve. On top of that, oil supplies are currently at historic highs, so high that we lifted a 40-year ban on oil exports last year, and gas prices remained at long-term lows.

Today the United States is the world's largest producer of oil and natural gas. We are importing less oil than we have at any point in almost three decades. In addition to the high oil supplies, industry has shown little interest in drilling in the Arctic Refuge. In September 2015, after spending approximately \$7 billion to drill and explore the region, Shell gave up on drilling in the Arctic region's Chukchi Sea due to the poor results and the high costs. Energy analysts predict very little interest in drilling in the Refuge for the foreseeable future.

So before we move ahead with leasing this area for oil and mineral exploration, we need to take a careful look at what we would be losing. The Arctic Refuge is one of America's last pristine, untouched wilderness places, and I think we should preserve it for future generations.

The Refuge is home to more than 200 wildlife species, including polar bears, musk ox, and caribou. The porcupine caribou herd travels to the coastal plain each summer to give birth to their young. The Refuge is the most important land denning site for a significant population of polar bears. Birds from all 50 States and 6 continents migrate to the Refuge for nesting and staging. Alaskan Native people still rely on the wildlife for basic sustenance and as a basis of their cultures.

In 2003, I had the opportunity to travel to the Arctic Wildlife Refuge and see firsthand the pristine wilderness. While I was there, I also had an opportunity to view areas that had been drilled for oil and gas. As you looked to the west, you could see a stark difference in the State lands that had been drilled for oil and gas and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge that had not been drilled. It was easy to tell the two apart because the scars that were left on that State land that had been drilled were still there many years later. They didn't gingerly step in and drill and leave. They cut scars across that land that will be there forever.

There is no question that the impact drilling would have on the Arctic would be devastating and irreversible, and although oil and gas resources can be developed safely, we all know that leaks and spills happen. The resulting environmental damage can change the landscape forever.

The Arctic Refuge represents our Nation's finest example of intact, naturally functioning Arctic and subarctic ecosystems. Nowhere else in North America do we see such a broad spectrum of diverse habitats occurring within one area. We must protect it for future generations. We have a responsibility to protect this area for our children and grandchildren. Any attempt

to move forward a budget reconciliation containing leases in the Arctic is a move in the wrong direction.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PERDUE). The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following leader remarks on October 19, it be in order to call up the following amendments; that the time until 11:45 a.m. be for debate on the amendments, equally divided between the managers or their designees; that at 11:45 a.m., the Senate vote in relation to the amendments in the order listed, with no second-degree amendments in order prior to the votes: Wyden No. 1302, Capito No. 1393, and Cantwell No. 1141; further, that following the disposition of the Cantwell amendment, Senator WARNER's amendment No. 1138 be called up and the time until 2 p.m. be equally divided between the managers or their designees; and that at 2 p.m., the Senate vote in relation to the Warner amendment, with no second-degree amendments in order prior to the vote.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that 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.

(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 unavailable for rollcall vote No. 220, on Hatch amendment No. 1144. Had I been present, I would have voted yea.

Mr. President, I was unavailable for rollcall vote No. 221, on Sanders amendment No. 1119. Had I been present, I would have voted yea.

Mr. President, I was unavailable for rollcall vote No. 222, on Nelson amendment No. 1150. Had I been present, I would have voted yea.

Mr. President, I was unavailable for rollcall vote No. 223, on Heller amendment No. 1146. Had I been present, I would have voted yea.

Mr. President, I was unavailable for rollcall vote No. 224, on Sanders amendment No. 1120. Had I been present, I would have voted yea. •

TRIBUTE TO HERSHEL "WOODY" WILLIAMS

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to celebrate the christening of the USNS *Hershel "Woody" Williams*, T-ESB 4. This expeditionary sea base ship, the second of its kind, is named in honor of Medal of Honor recipient and West Virginia icon, Chief Warrant Officer Hershel "Woody" Williams, retired.

Woody Williams was born on a dairy farm in 1923 in Quiet Dell, WV. He enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps and served as a demolition sergeant in the Battle of Iwo Jima with the 21st Marines, 3d Marine Division. As a result of Woody's valiant service, he was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor from President Truman on October 5, 1945. Today, at 94 years old, he is the last living Medal of Honor recipient from the Battle of Iwo Jima.

What sets Woody apart from so many others who also honorably served is that his brave service on the battlefield was bookended by compassionate service to members of our Armed Forces and their families. Before entering the Corps, Woody had the painstaking task of delivering Western Union telegrams to Gold Star West Virginia families who lost loved ones early in the war. After he served 20 years in the Marine Corps and Marine Corps Reserves, he spent 33 years as a veterans service representative in the Department of Veterans Affairs and is still serving on the Governor's military advisory board in the State of West Virginia. He is a fierce advocate for all veterans of all eras.

On January 14, 2016, during a ceremony in Charleston, WV, Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus announced that the expeditionary sea base ship 4 (T-ESB 4) would be named the USNS *Hershel "Woody" Williams*. On Saturday, October 21, Woody will be joined by his family, five of his fellow Medal of Honor recipients, fellow World War II veterans, and four of the five living USS Arizona survivors from Pearl Harbor for the joyous occasion of the christening. I look forward to the great honor of joining these heroes at the event in San Diego this weekend.

Perhaps in no other time in our recent history has it been more vital to remember and emulate the heroism, perseverance, and patriotism of those who belong to the Greatest Generation. Woody is the embodiment of the best of his generation. Through the christening of a ship that bears his name, we are both honoring his great service and lifting up a role model to inspire all West Virginians and Americans alike.

I would like to salute Chief Warrant Officer 4 Hershel "Woody" Williams. I also want to thank him for his great service to this great Nation and the great State of West Virginia, for showing us the power of patriotism, freedom, and family.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING DON CARANO

• Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to memorialize Don Carano, one of northern Nevada's most influential figures, a great business leader, and a man I am privileged to have called a friend. Don recently passed away peacefully at the age of 85.

My sincerest condolences go out to his family, friends, and loved ones. All of northern Nevada mourns the loss of Mr. Carano, who helped make Reno a better place to live and work, not only for his employees, but for the entire community.

Throughout his life, Mr. Carano was a caring, giving man who charted his own path as an entrepreneur. Some of his businesses include Eldorado Resorts, Ferrari-Carano Vineyards and Winery, and the McDonald Carano law firm. Mr. Carano was also instrumental in the construction of the National Bowling Stadium and the Reno Events Center in downtown Reno.

Born in Reno, Mr. Carano went to Southside Elementary School, Billinghurst Junior High School, and Reno High School before earning his college degree and serving in the U.S. Army for 2 years as an officer. Thereafter, Mr. Carano completed law school at the University of San Francisco and began his law practice in Reno. In 1973, he opened the Eldorado Hotel Casino, the first major casino to open on Virginia Street north of the railroad tracks, which changed the profile of gaming in northern Nevada.

Mr. Carano's many contributions and honors include the International Gaming and Wagering Business Hall of Fame, Nevada Food and Beverage Directors Association Man of the Year awards, the American Lung Association Distinguished Community Service Award, Hotelier of the Year Award, "Knight in the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic" by the Consul General of Italy, University of San Francisco Law School's Alumnus of the Year, International Restaurant and Hospitality Rating Bureau's Lifetime Achievement Award, the WIBC Gladys M. Banker Friendship Award, and many more. Just this year, Mr. Carano was recognized as a "Distinguished Nevadan" by the University of Nevada, Reno.

As Nevada's senior Senator, I thank Mr. Carano and his family for their decades of work in helping make Reno the thriving, booming, biggest little city that it is today. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in memorializing Mr. Carano and the legacy he leaves behind. Lynne and my family give our deepest sympathies to his wife, Rhonda, his five children Gary, Gene, Glenn, Gregg, and Cindy, 11 grandchildren, and 6 great-grandchildren as they cope with this great loss.●

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN BICENTENNIAL

• Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the University of Michigan, one of the world's premier universities, which is celebrating its bicentennial this year.

Whether it is leading-edge manufacturing, lifesaving advances in medical science, or groundbreaking leaps in technology, the University of Michigan is a world leader in innovation and cre-

ativity. I can tell you that there is no group of students or alumni in America that is more passionate and committed than our Michigan fans.

Founded on August 26, 1817, in Detroit, the University of Michigan was the first public university in the Northwest Territory, moving to Ann Arbor in 1837. With 63,000 students on three campuses and more than 572,000 living graduates, including my son, the university has one of the largest alumni bodies in the world. They include artists, astronauts, athletes, entrepreneurs, humanitarians, business and government leaders, and Nobel Laureates in economics, medicine, and science.

The university is known for many firsts that make it among, as its fight song states, the "leaders and best." Michigan was the Nation's first university to build a chemical laboratory, open and operate its own hospital, and teach science-based medicine. In 1879, the university created the chair of the science and the art of teaching, the first permanent professorial chair at an American college or university devoted to teacher preparation. Michigan offered the Nation's first collegiate aeronautics classes in 1914. In 1949, it established the Institute of Social Research, now one of the oldest and largest academic survey organizations.

Michigan is one of the world's leading research universities, spending \$1.39 billion on research in 2016. It produces, on average, 400 new inventions each year and launches a new startup every 4 weeks. Faculty and graduates have played a leadership role in developing the polio vaccine, identifying the gene for cystic fibrosis, creating the worldwide computing backbone that led to the internet, protecting the Great Lakes, and exploring space. The groundbreaking research continues today as the university works on autonomous vehicles and is home to Mcity, a one-of-a-kind urban test facility for vehicle deployment.

The university is known for the beauty of its natural surroundings and architecture, including some 16,000 trees and such landmarks as Angell Hall, Burton Memorial Tower, and Hill Auditorium, all designed by Albert Kahn. It is home to more than 20 libraries, several museums, art galleries and collections, and performing arts venues, including the Arthur Miller Theatre, named in honor of the playwright and U-M alumnus.

Michigan also is renowned for its athletic tradition, dating back to 1865. It boasts 56 national championships in 12 sports and two Heisman Trophy winners.

I am extremely proud to congratulate the University of Michigan for its 200 years of leadership in higher education and outstanding contributions to the State of Michigan, the Nation, and the world. "Go Blue!"●

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-3116. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fenpicolamid; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9966-73-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 16, 2017; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3117. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Triflumezopyrim; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9966-73-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 16, 2017; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3118. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting the report of an officer authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of major general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3119. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency declared in Executive Order 12978 of October 21, 1995, with respect to significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3120. A communication from the Deputy General Counsel for Operations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Deputy Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 16, 2017; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3121. A communication from the Deputy General Counsel for Operations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 16, 2017; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3122. A communication from the Assistant Director for Legislative Affairs, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Annual Report of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Student Loan Ombudsman; to the Committees on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; and Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3123. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Belt Parkway Bridge Construction, Gerritsen Inlet; Brooklyn, NY" (RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2017-0937) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 16, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3124. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Pacific Ocean, Kilauea Lava Flow Ocean Entry on Southeast Side of Island of Hawaii, HI" (RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2017-0172) received in the Office of