

Whereas, at this pace, the United States may only admit between 15,000-20,000 refugees this year; and

Whereas, United States structures and funding constrictions have resulted in lowered capacity and loss of institutional memory and experience in the successful United States Refugee Admissions Program: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) reaffirms our country's proud history of refugee resettlement;

(2) recognizes January 27, 2018, as the anniversary of the first refugee and Muslim ban;

(3) reaffirms the strong bipartisan commitment of the United States to promote the safety, health, and well-being of the millions of refugees;

(4) underscores the importance of the United States Refugee Resettlement Program as a critical tool for United States global leadership;

(5) recognizes the profound consequences faced by refugees and their families who have been stranded, separated, and scarred by current United States policies, leaving many mid-process and more with little hope of anticipated United States entry; and

(6) calls upon the United States Government—

(A) to resettle 45,000 refugees in fiscal year 2018;

(B) to resettle at least 75,000 refugees in fiscal year 2019;

(C) to uphold its international leadership role in responding to displacement crises with humanitarian assistance and protection of the most vulnerable populations; and

(D) to recommit to offering freedom from oppression and resettling the most vulnerable refugees regardless of their country of origin or religious beliefs.

SENATE RESOLUTION 389—COMMEMORATING THE COMMISSIONING OF THE USS “OMAHA”

Mrs. FISCHER (for herself and Mr. SASSE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 389

Whereas the great city of Omaha, Nebraska, was founded on July 4, 1854;

Whereas the Lone Tree Ferry bringing pioneers across the Missouri River into Omaha caused Omaha to become known as the “Gateway to the West”; and

Whereas Nebraska is the only triply landlocked State in the Union;

Whereas the first USS *Omaha* was a screw sloop launched in 1869, 2 years after Nebraska became a State on March 1, 1867;

Whereas the second USS *Omaha* (CL-4) was an *Omaha* class light cruiser commissioned on February 24, 1923;

Whereas the USS *Omaha* (CL-4) served in both the Pacific and Atlantic theaters and captured a German blockade runner a month before World War II officially began;

Whereas the Nebraska Admirals Association, formed in 1931, has had thousands of Admirals commissioned in the Nebraska Navy to promote “The Good Life”; and

Whereas the Big Red Sub Club—

(1) was formed to support the crews of the USS *Nebraska* (SSBN-739); and

(2) is the most active State organization supporting the submarine fleet of the United States;

Whereas the Navy League of the United States, Nebraska Council, strongly supports a strong United States Navy for national security;

Whereas on June 11, 2012, Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus announced that an *Inde-*

pendence class littoral combat ship would be named the United States Ship *Omaha*;

Whereas on November 20, 2015, the United States Navy launched the USS *Omaha*;

Whereas on December 19, 2015, the USS *Omaha* was christened in Mobile, Alabama, sponsored by Omaha philanthropist Susie Buffett; and

Whereas on February 3, 2018, the USS *Omaha* will be commissioned: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate commemorates—

(1) the commissioning of the United States Ship *Omaha* (LCS-12); and

(2) the mission of the USS *Omaha* as a networked, agile, stealthy surface combatant capable of defeating antiaccess and asymmetric threats in the littorals.

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I rise this evening to call up and pass a resolution recognizing the commissioning of the USS *Omaha*.

This weekend, the USS *Omaha* is scheduled to be commissioned in the United States Navy as one of our newest *Independence* Class Littoral Combat Ships.

As the only triply landlocked State in the union, you may not think of Nebraska when you think about the world's oceans.

And while we are proud of our heartland heritage, we are equally proud of the ships that have carried the name “USS *Omaha*” to the far corners of the globe.

Just two years after Nebraska became a State, the USS *Omaha*, a screw sloop, was launched in 1869, helping to grow our young Nation's navy.

The second USS *Omaha*, launched in 1923, served with distinction in World War II, capturing a German blockade runner a month before the war officially began.

And now this upcoming weekend, we welcome the newest USS *Omaha*, LCS-12, which carries the distinction of being among our Nation's newest Littoral Combat Ships.

She will enter the navy as an agile surface combatant, and one which I know will prove to be a capable tool in our Nation's naval arsenal.

Though Nebraska may be far from open water that has not stopped countless men and women from our State from answering the call to serve in the United States Navy.

Their service and sacrifice, both in times of war and peace, have helped ensure that the United States continues to enjoy freedom of navigation around the world.

For that reason, I am honored to know that now we will once again have another USS *Omaha* carrying on this proud tradition, and urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing this momentous occasion.

To the crew of the USS *Omaha*, I wish you well in your mission and all the years of distinguished service to come.

May you enjoy fair winds and following seas, and know that you have the best wishes of the State of Nebraska behind you.

Thank you Mr. President. I yield the floor.

SENATE RESOLUTION 390—RAISING AWARENESS AND ENCOURAGING THE PREVENTION OF STALKING BY DESIGNATING JANUARY 2018 AS “NATIONAL STALKING AWARENESS MONTH”

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. CRAPO, and Ms. HIRONO) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 390

Whereas approximately 16 percent of women in the United States, at some point during their lifetimes, have experienced stalking victimization, during which the women felt very fearful or believed that they or someone close to them would be harmed or killed;

Whereas, during a 1-year period, an estimated 7,300,000 individuals in the United States reported that they had been victims of stalking;

Whereas more than 80 percent of victims of stalking reported that they had been stalked by someone they knew;

Whereas nearly 70 percent of stalking victims were threatened with physical harm by stalkers;

Whereas 11 percent of victims of stalking reported having been stalked for more than 5 years;

Whereas two-thirds of stalkers pursue their victims at least once a week;

Whereas many victims of stalking are forced to take drastic measures to protect themselves, including changing their identities, relocating, changing jobs, or obtaining protection orders;

Whereas the prevalence of anxiety, insomnia, social dysfunction, and severe depression is much higher among victims of stalking than the general population;

Whereas many victims of stalking do not report stalking to the police or contact a victim service provider, shelter, or hotline;

Whereas stalking is a crime under Federal law and the laws of all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the territories of the United States;

Whereas stalking affects victims of every race, age, culture, gender, sexual orientation, physical and mental ability, and economic status;

Whereas national organizations, local victim service organizations, campuses, prosecutor's offices, and police departments stand ready to assist victims of stalking and are working diligently to develop effective and innovative responses to stalking;

Whereas there is a need to improve the response of the criminal justice system to stalking through more aggressive investigation and prosecution;

Whereas there is a need for an increase in the availability of victim services across the United States, and the services must include programs tailored to meet the needs of victims of stalking;

Whereas individuals 18 to 24 years old experience the highest rates of stalking victimization, and rates of stalking among college students exceed rates of stalking among the general population;

Whereas up to 75 percent of women in college who experience behavior relating to stalking experience other forms of victimization, including sexual or physical victimization;

Whereas there is a need for an effective response to stalking on each campus; and

Whereas the Senate finds that “National Stalking Awareness Month” provides an opportunity to educate the people of the United States about stalking: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates January 2018 as “National Stalking Awareness Month”;

(2) applauds the efforts of service providers for victims of stalking, police, prosecutors, national and community organizations, campuses, and private sector supporters to promote awareness of stalking;

(3) encourages policymakers, criminal justice officials, victim service and human service agencies, institutions of higher education, and nonprofit organizations to increase awareness of stalking and the availability of services for victims of stalking; and

(4) urges national and community organizations, businesses in the private sector, and the media to promote awareness of the crime of stalking through “National Stalking Awareness Month”.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, I have 11 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, January 30, 2018, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “Korean Peninsula and United States strategy in the Indo-Pacific region.”

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, January 30, 2018, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “The Financial Stability Oversight Council annual report to Congress.”

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, January 30, 2018, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “Growing the Future: Opportunities to Support domestic Seafood Through Aquaculture.”

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, January 30, 2018, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “One Year Later: The American Innovation and Competitiveness Act.”

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, January 30, 2018, at 10 a.m. to conduct a hearing on subcommittee assignments and the following nominations: Melissa F. Burnison, of Ken-

tucky, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs), Susan Combs, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior, Ryan Douglas Nelson, of Idaho, to be Solicitor of the Department of the Interior, and Anne Marie White, of Michigan, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Environmental Management).

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, January 30, 2018, at 10 a.m. to conduct a hearing entitled “The role of the Geological Survey and the Forest Service in preparing for and responding to natural hazard events, as well as the current status of mapping and monitoring systems.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, January 30, 2018, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “Oversight Hearing to Receive Testimony from the Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt.”

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, January 30, 2018, at 2:30 p.m. to conduct a hearing entitled “The Economic Relationship between the United States, Canada, and Mexico.”

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, January 30, 2018, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “Reauthorizing the Higher Education Act: Access and Innovation.”

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, January 30, 2018, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “Roundtable on Small Business Health Plans.”

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, January 30, 2018, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed hearing.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 5 p.m. on Monday, February 5, the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 570. I ask consent that there then be 30 minutes of debate, equally divided in the usual form, and that following the use or

yielding back of time, the Senate vote on the nomination with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements relating to the nomination be printed in the RECORD.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 297.

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

The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Matthew Bassett, of Tennessee, to be an Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nomination with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements relating to the nomination be printed in the RECORD.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Bassett nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Executive Calendar Nos. 649 through 660 and all nominations placed on the Secretary’s desk, and 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 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: