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LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2017, the Secretary of the Senate, on December 21, 2018, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 3628. An act to reauthorize the National Flood Insurance Program.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2017, the enrolled bill was signed on December 21, 2018, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. DAINES).

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on December 21, 2018, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 3628. An act to reauthorize the National Flood Insurance Program.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. COONS, Mr. REED, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CARPER, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. Res. 741. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate on the letter of resignation of Secretary of Defense James Mattis and on the decision of President Trump to rapidly withdraw United States forces from Syria; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. JONES (for himself and Mr. PERDUE):

S. Res. 742. A resolution designating the first week of December 2018, and supporting the designation of each first week of December thereafter, as "Cancer Screen Week", identifying the burden of cancer in the United States, and encouraging people to talk with their healthcare providers about appropriate screenings for the prevention and early detection of cancer; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. REED, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. Res. 743. A resolution congratulating the International Association of Fire Fighters on the 100th anniversary of its founding; considered and agreed to.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 741—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE ON THE LETTER OF RESIGNATION OF SECRETARY OF DEFENSE JAMES MATTIS AND ON THE DECISION OF PRESIDENT TRUMP TO RAPIDLY WITHDRAW UNITED STATES FORCES FROM SYRIA

Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. COONS, Mr. REED, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CARPER, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 741

Whereas James Mattis served the United States with distinction over the course of a long career in the United States Marine Corps and as Secretary of Defense;

Whereas the Senate concurs with the following sentiments expressed in letter of resignation submitted by Secretary Mattis to President Trump:

(1) The strength of the United States is inextricably linked to the strength of our system of alliances and partnerships.

(2) The United States cannot protect our interests or serve as the indispensable nation in the free world without those alliances and partnerships.

(3) Maintaining that system of alliances and partnerships requires that the United States demonstrate respect for our allies.

(4) While the Armed Forces of the United States cannot serve as the world's policeman, the United States must use all tools of American power to provide for the common defense, including providing effective leadership to our alliances.

(5) Those alliances and partnerships have assisted the United States in increasing our national security, for example when all North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) nations fought alongside the United States following the attacks of September 11, 2001, and when 74 nations joined the effort to defeat the threat from the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS).

(6) The United States must demonstrate resolve and be unambiguous in our approach to countries whose strategic interests run counter to our own.

(7) The Russian Federation and China wish to shape a world order consistent with their authoritarian model, allowing them to veto other nations' economic, diplomatic, and security decisions, and to promote their own interests at the expense of other nations, the United States, and our allies.

(8) The United States must do everything possible to advance a rules-based international order that is most conducive to our security, prosperity, and values, and our efforts in that regard are strengthened by the solidarity of our alliances.

(9) United States military pressure has demonstrated considerable, but incomplete progress against global terrorist groups, particularly al Qaeda, the group responsible for the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States and the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, who threaten the stability of the Middle East and the safety of the American people and the citizens of many of our closest allies;

Whereas there are a small number of troops on the ground in Syria to train, equip, advise, and assist United States partners in the Syrian Democratic Forces fighting the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria;

Whereas the governments of the Russian Federation and Iran are fighting alongside the Assad regime against United States allies and interests;

Whereas the abrupt decision of the President to remove all United States forces in Syria without consultation enables Iran and the Russian Federation to expand their influence and presence in Syria and beyond and threatens United States partners in Syria and Israel and other allies in the region; and

Whereas the decision of the President to precipitously withdraw United States troops will leave the people of Syria even more vulnerable to violence from terrorist groups and provide time and space for al Qaeda and the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria to reconstitute and launch attacks against the United States and our allies: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses its gratitude to Secretary of Defense James Mattis for his decades of honorable service to the United States in the United States Marine Corps and at the Department of Defense;

(2) expresses strong support for United States alliances and partnerships with allies around the world;

(3) expresses concern with President Trump's decision to rapidly withdraw United States forces from Syria, a decision taken without consultation with Congress or our allies and partners and without apparent concern for our national and collective interests; and

(4) believes that these decisions could further undermine United States leadership in the world, weaken our alliance and partnership structure, and make it harder to achieve a world more conducive to United States interests, including support for democracy.

SENATE RESOLUTION 742—DESIGNATING THE FIRST WEEK OF DECEMBER 2018, AND SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF EACH FIRST WEEK OF DECEMBER THEREAFTER, AS “CANCER SCREEN WEEK”, IDENTIFYING THE BURDEN OF CANCER IN THE UNITED STATES, AND ENCOURAGING PEOPLE TO TALK WITH THEIR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS ABOUT APPROPRIATE SCREENINGS FOR THE PREVENTION AND EARLY DETECTION OF CANCER

Mr. JONES (for himself and Mr. PERDUE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:.

S. RES. 742

Whereas the American Cancer Society estimates that, in 2018, more than 600,000 people in the United States will lose their lives to cancer;

Whereas the National Cancer Institute estimates that approximately 18,000 to 210,000 deaths in United States from cancer could be avoided through prevention and early detection;

Whereas the death rate from cancer dropped 25 percent between 1991 and 2014 because of reductions in smoking and advances in early detection and treatment;

Whereas, according to the American Cancer Society, the 5-year relative survival rate for cancer detected at the local stage is approximately 55 percent for lung cancer, 90 percent for colon and rectum cancers, 91 percent for cervical cancer, 99 percent for breast cancer, and 98 percent for melanoma of the skin;

Whereas many of those cancers are often preventable and early detection and treatment are critical, as cancer does not always cause symptoms and many cancers occur in people with no family history of cancer;

Whereas specific types of cancer disproportionately affect different populations, for example—

- (1) breast cancer is the most common form of cancer among Black women;
- (2) the rate of prostate cancer among Black men is double the rate for other men;
- (3) the likelihood of developing colorectal cancer for Alaska Natives is double that of other people in the United States;
- (4) cervical cancer is more prevalent among Hispanic and Black women;
- (5) 2 out of 3 people diagnosed with lung cancer are 65 years of age or older; and
- (6) melanoma, the deadliest form of skin cancer, is one of the most common types of cancer among young adults;

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the rates of screening for many types of cancer among populations for which screenings are recommended remain substantially below the targets set forth in the Healthy People 2020 report;

Whereas it is critical to reinforce the need for people to discuss their individual risk factors for cancer with their healthcare providers and understand the recommendations for, and benefits of, cancer screening; and

Whereas it is critical that healthcare providers present individuals who are diagnosed with cancer through screening clear and complete options for further diagnostic or molecular testing and treatment: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

- (1) encourages all people in the United States to talk with their healthcare pro-

viders about their risk factors for all types of cancer, including breast, cervical, colon, lung, prostate, and skin cancer, and recommended screening options;

(2) designates the first week of December 2018 as “Cancer Screen Week”; and

(3) supports the designation of the first week of December as “Cancer Screen Week”.

SENATE RESOLUTION 743—CONGRATULATING THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS ON THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS FOUNDING

Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. REED, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 743

Whereas, on February 28, 1918, delegates representing 24 firefighter unions united to form the International Association of Fire Fighters (referred to in this preamble as the “IAFF”) to “organize all fire fighters . . . foster a higher degree of skill and efficiency . . . improve and protect members’ health and welfare . . . establish safety standards . . . cultivate friendship and fellowship . . . provide proper compensation for work performed . . . and improve social and economic conditions”;

Whereas, in 1918, at the first IAFF Convention, the IAFF adopted 20 resolutions to benefit firefighters and the fire service, including resolutions relating to—

- (1) a two-platoon system;
- (2) pension laws;
- (3) automatic sprinkler systems;
- (4) building inspections; and
- (5) the removal of hazards for fire prevention;

Whereas, throughout the history of the IAFF, the IAFF has successfully improved the knowledge, skills and abilities of the domestic defenders of the people of the United States by designing, developing, and deploying high quality standardized training in a multitude of disciplines, including—

- (1) hazardous materials response;
- (2) responding to incidents involving weapons of mass destruction;
- (3) confined space operations;
- (4) responding to incidents involving illicit drug labs; and
- (5) planning and responding to high-consequence incidents;

Whereas the IAFF has been the national leader in every significant firefighter health and safety initiative for nearly a century, including—

- (1) the recognition of and fight against occupational diseases and illnesses, such as cancer and cardiovascular ailments;
- (2) the promotion of physical fitness screening and training; and
- (3) the promotion of mental health and wellness, including awareness and treatment of post-traumatic stress;

Whereas, on March 5, 2017, the IAFF opened the first-of-its-kind Center of Excellence for Behavioral Health Treatment and Recovery to provide science-based treatment to firefighters struggling with post-traumatic stress and co-occurring health issues, such as substance abuse, depression, and anxiety;

Whereas the mission of the Center of Excellence for Behavioral Health Treatment and Recovery reinforces the commitment of the IAFF to prioritizing the safety and well-being of all IAFF members and provides a safe space for firefighters to seek treatment and heal;

Whereas the IAFF actively works to secure the enactment of legislation at all levels of

government that directly impacts the jobs, economic security, and safety of firefighters and emergency medical personnel, including—

(1) the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2201 et seq.);

(2) the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-347; 124 Stat. 3623); and

(3) legislation establishing—

(A) the Public Safety Officers’ Benefits Program (part L of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10281 et seq.));

(B) the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (section 33 of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2229));

(C) the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grant Program (section 34 of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2229a)); and

(D) presumptive illness compensation in a majority of States;

Whereas the IAFF has served as a leader in the widespread integration of fire and emergency medical services, ensuring that nearly all professional firefighters in the United States play a critical role in the delivery of emergency medical services as cross-trained, dual-role firefighters who are trained in both fire suppression and Emergency Medical Services response;

Whereas the IAFF has partnered with the Muscular Dystrophy Association (referred to in this preamble as the “MDA”) to raise funds to support the search for the cause of and cure for muscle diseases, including—

- (1) by declaring the MDA the charity of choice of the IAFF in 1954; and
- (2) by participating in Fill the Boot campaigns to raise more than \$630,000,000 for the MDA;

Whereas, in furtherance of the mission of the IAFF to aid IAFF members and their families in times of need, the IAFF established the IAFF Foundation to provide—

- (1) aid to professional firefighters and emergency medical personnel following natural disasters;
- (2) assistance to IAFF members and their families for the treatment and care of burn injuries;
- (3) scholarships to the children of fallen IAFF members; and
- (4) maintenance of the Fallen Fire Fighter Memorial to honor IAFF members who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty;

Whereas the IAFF memorializes the thousands of firefighters and emergency medical personnel who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service of others, including—

- (1) the 343 firefighters who lost their lives on September 11, 2001;
- (2) the scores of firefighters and emergency medical personnel who have died in the years since September 11, 2001, of injuries and illnesses relating to the events of September 11, 2001; and
- (3) the firefighters and emergency medical personnel who have died of occupational disease;

Whereas each of the firefighters and emergency medical personnel who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service of others is fondly remembered and respected by IAFF members;

Whereas, as of December 2018, the IAFF has headquarters in both Washington, DC, and Ottawa, Ontario, and represents more than 313,000 full-time professional firefighters and paramedics in more than 3,200 affiliates;

Whereas, as of December 2018, greater than 85 percent of the population in communities throughout the United States and Canada is