

data bases, nor formulas, nor graphs associated with Factor #11. Since current law permits the Treasury to undertake extraordinary measures, Factor #11 buys no minutes from midnight at this time.

FACTOR #12: IS CONGRESS SCALING BACK PROGRAMMATIC “MANDATORY SPENDING” AND EVENTUALLY PHASING IT OUT?

Mandatory programmatic spending, which sets aside net interest payments, does not require the annual appropriation of money by Congress. Effectively, these spending programs are on autopilot. According to CBO, programmatic mandatory spending was more than \$2.5 trillion in 2017. It projects this spending to grow to more than \$4.5 trillion in 2028.

Congress needs to rein in these programs by moving them back into the appropriated accounts of the budget. By starting to take such steps, Congress should be able to reduce this category of spending dramatically. In fact, it should phase it out altogether. Under the Debt Default Clock, if Congress returns enough of this spending to the appropriated category so that by the end of the ten-year budget period the mandatory category is less than what it was in 2017, it will buy one minute away from midnight. If the mandatory category is projected to be phased out altogether by the end of the budget period, it will buy two minutes from midnight. Therefore, Factor #12 currently buys no minutes from midnight.

The data bases for Factor #12 are found at: the Congressional Budget Office, “The Budget and Economic Outlook: 2018 to 2028,” April 9, 2018, pp. 44 and 148, *here*. The formula for calculating whether mandatory spending is increasing or decreasing during the projected budget period under Factor #12 is: mandatory outlays (less offsetting receipts) — \$2.5 trillion (mandatory spending in 2017) = dollar level increase (decrease) in mandatory spending. If mandatory spending is projected by CBO to be at zero dollars before the end of the budget period, it will be considered to have been phased out.

GRAND CANYON CENTENNIAL

Ms. MCSALLY. Madam President, in January 1908, President Theodore Roosevelt famously declared, “Let this great wonder of nature remain as it is now. You cannot improve on it.” He said these words while designating the Grand Canyon as a national monument. Eleven years later, it became a National Park, and today marks the centennial of that designation.

Known as one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World, the Grand Canyon is more than history to Arizona, it is a part of who we are. Millions of visitors come to see this magnificent national park, from its archeological sites to its one-of-a-kind trails; and for centuries, this vast array of canyons and mountains has served as a home to many different peoples, including many Native American tribes.

It was in 1869 that geologist John Wesley Powell first led an expedition down the hazardous Colorado River, during which he noted the ancient clues he found hidden in the layers of rock that told the story of its creation. His expedition led to future explorations further chartering and mapping the great canyon. By the time it officially became a National Park in 1919, the Grand Canyon attracted some

44,000 visitors. Today, Arizona hosts more than 6 million visitors each year, and with a total economic impact of almost \$1 billion a year, it is the greatest attraction in our State.

All Americans, but especially Arizonans, are truly blessed to have such a natural wonder to visit like the Grand Canyon. I share in Teddy Roosevelt’s amazement, passion, and wonderment of the Grand Canyon, and I will continue to advocate for this park so that it may last for many more generations to come.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE FORT SMITH NOON LIONS CLUB

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam President, today I wish to recognize and congratulate the Fort Smith Noon Lion’s Club on its centennial celebration.

The Fort Smith Noon Lions Club first met on March 8, 1919, only 2 years after the creation of Lions Club International. With 25 charter members, the club’s mission was to encourage fellowship and civic participation by local businessmen. Many prominent business leaders were part of that founding group, including Dr. Charles Holt, founder of Holt Crock Clinic; Fagan Bourland, who served as the city’s mayor for many years; and W.E. Harding, the founder of Harding Glass, one of the city’s largest companies at the time.

The club met for many years at the historic Goldman Hotel in downtown Fort Smith and, later, at the Ward Hotel on Garrison Avenue. Among its earliest projects was supporting the Victory Loan Campaign designed to pay off debt from WWI. In the early days, it held festivals, hosted free concerts, and played an annual baseball game against the local Rotary Club.

In addition to supporting local causes and providing a networking tool for businessmen, the club’s mission came into focus after Helen Keller spoke at the Lions Club International convention in 1925. She concluded her speech by saying, “I appeal to you Lions, you who have your sight, your hearing, you who are strong and brave and kind. Will you not constitute yourselves Knights of the Blind in this crusade against darkness?” Her eloquent plea transformed the Lions and made sight conservation the organization’s primary mission.

Throughout its 100-year history, the Fort Smith Noon Lions Club has contributed greatly to this mission by raising money to provide eye exams and glasses to local students and adults. Lions Club members have also collected thousands of pairs of glasses which are donated to the Southern College of Optometry in Memphis where students take the glasses on international mission trips.

In recent years, the Fort Smith Noon Lions Club has donated more than

\$100,000 to help local residents with sight preservation and provided support to many local children’s organizations including the Fort Smith Boys Club, Good Samaritan Clinic, Clearinghouse Backpack Program, Special Olympics, and the Children’s Emergency Shelter.

In addition, the club has provided all of the equipment and support needed for the Safety Patrol program in the Fort Smith Public Schools since 1946.

As an optometrist whose hometown is Fort Smith, AR, I am proud of the great work done by this club and Lions chapters around the world.

I congratulate the Fort Smith Noon Lions Club on its 100th anniversary and hope that these Knights for the Blind continue to prosper in their mission.●

TRIBUTE TO OLIVER DIEZ

• Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I recognize Oliver Diez, the Miami-Dade County Teacher of the Year from Palmetto Elementary School in Pinecrest, FL.

Oliver received this award in recognition for his dedication to teaching children a passion for music before they leave elementary school. He begins teaching students how to play an introductory instrument, the recorder, at an early age. From there, they can join one of his school’s before and after-school offerings of chorus, concert band, jazz combo, orchestra, and drumline. Once they join a music program, his lessons focus on teaching them not only how to play instruments, but also its history. He believes this builds an appreciation for music in his young students.

Throughout his two-decade long teaching career at Palmetto Elementary School, he has built a successful music program at south Florida’s largest elementary school. His fourth and fifth grade student were invited to play at Carnegie Hall in New York City this March, the only elementary school students to play. While he believes teaching is messy at times, he knows it unites students to work together for the final performance.

Oliver graduated from Florida International University with his bachelor’s degree in 1999 and returned for his master’s degree in 2016, both majoring in music education. He also helped launch a booster club at his school that is a registered nonprofit for travel expenses for performances.

I express my sincere appreciation to Oliver for all of the accomplished work with his students and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO IAN JACKSON

• Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I honor Ian Jackson, the Volusia County Teacher of the Year from T. Dewitt Taylor Middle-High School in Pierson, FL.

Ian is an Advancement Via Individual Determination teacher, working

with students from 8th to 12th grade and considers it his job to change the trajectories of his students for the better. After receiving this award, Ian noted that it was not just him being recognized, but also his students for their success.

Ian urges his students to strive for greatness in their middle school and high school coursework in preparation for the college workload. He focuses on ensuring his classroom feels like a second home to his students when they struggle and are in need of support.

Many of Ian's students come from difficult circumstances, so he works to establish strong relationships and create a positive environment for them. He dedicates his time to listening to the needs of his students and conveying to them that he cares about their well-being. Eighty percent of his students are accepted into 4-year universities and many stay in contact with him through college and beyond.

Ian has taught at T. Dewitt Taylor Middle-High School since 2005. He previously taught English as a second language classes in Georgia. He earned his bachelor's degree from Toccoa Falls College.

I extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to Ian for his dedication to helping his students succeed in life. I look forward to learning of his continued success in the coming years.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:15 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 483. An act to enact into law a bill by reference.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 276. An act to direct the Secretary of Education to establish the Recognizing Inspiring School Employees (RISE) Award Program recognizing excellence exhibited by classified school employees providing services to students in prekindergarten through high school.

H.R. 425. An act to promote veteran involvement in STEM education, computer science, and scientific research, and for other purposes.

H.R. 501. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize and enhance the poison center national toll-free number, national media campaign, and grant program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 525. An act to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a public-private partnership for purposes of identifying health care waste, fraud, and abuse.

H.R. 539. An act to require the Director of the National Science Foundation to develop an I-Corps course to support commercialization-ready innovation companies, and for other purposes.

H.R. 583. An act to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to provide for enhanced pen-

alties for pirate radio, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1235. An act to provide that the term of office of certain members of the Merit Systems Protection Board shall be extended by a period of 1 year, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to H. Res. 143, resolving that Cheryl L. Johnson, of the State of Louisiana, be, and is hereby chosen Clerk of the House of Representatives.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 276. An act to direct the Secretary of Education to establish the Recognizing Inspiring School Employees (RISE) Award Program recognizing excellence exhibited by classified school employees providing services to students in prekindergarten through high school; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 425. An act to promote veteran involvement in STEM education, computer science, and scientific research, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 501. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize and enhance the poison center national toll-free number, national media campaign, and grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 525. An act to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a public-private partnership for purposes of identifying health care waste, fraud, and abuse; to the Committee on Finance.

H.R. 539. An act to require the Director of the National Science Foundation to develop an I-Corps course to support commercialization-ready innovation companies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 1235. An act to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to provide for enhanced penalties for pirate radio, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 1235. An act to provide that the term of office of certain members of the Merit Systems Protection Board shall be extended by a period of 1 year, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

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-346. A communication from the Senior Official performing the duties of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of an officer authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of brigadier general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777, this will not cause the Department to exceed the number of frocked officers authorized; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-347. A communication from the Acting Principal Director, Defense Pricing and Contracting, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Use of Commercial or Non-Government Standards" ((RIN0750-AJ23) (DFARS Case 2017-D014)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 15, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-348. A communication from the Acting Principal Director, Defense Pricing and Contracting, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Use of Commercial or Non-Government Standards" ((RIN0750-AJ23) (DFARS Case 2017-D014)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 15, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-349. A communication from the Acting Principal Director, Defense Pricing and Contracting, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Appendix A, Armed Services Board of Contract Appeals, Part 1 - Charter" ((RIN0750-AK46) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 15, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-350. A communication from the Acting Principal Director, Defense Pricing and Contracting, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Antiterrorism Training Requirements for Contractors" ((RIN0750-AJ45) (DFARS Case 2017-D034)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 15, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-351. A communication from the Acting Principal Director, Defense Pricing and Contracting, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Exemption from Design-Build Selection Procedures" ((RIN0750-AJ75) (DFARS Case 2018-D011)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 15, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-352. A communication from the Acting Principal Director, Defense Pricing and Contracting, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Modification of DFARS Clause 'Transportation of Supplies by Sea'" ((RIN0750-AJ94) (DFARS Case 2018-D028)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 15, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-353. 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 Assistant Secretary, Community Planning and Development, Department of Housing and Urban Development, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 13, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-354. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Suspension of Community Eligibility; Florida: Inglis" (44 CFR Part 64) (Docket No. FEMA-2018-0002) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 12, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-355. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of