

conduct a hearing on the nomination of David Bernhardt, of Virginia, to be Secretary of the Interior.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 28, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled, “Examining the Federal response to the risks associated with per and ployfluoralkyl substances.”

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 28, 2019, at 10:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: Daniel P. Collins, and Kenneth Kiyul Lee, both of California, both to be a United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, James Wesley Hendrix, and Mark T. Pittman, both to be a United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas, Sean D. Jordan, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas, Wing Chau, to be United States Marshal for the District of Rhode Island, and Ramona L. Dohman, to be United States Marshal for the District of Minnesota.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that Owen Gomory from my office be granted floor privileges for the remainder of today.

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

APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 4355(a), appoints the following Senators to the Board of Visitors of the U.S. Military Academy: the Honorable TAMMY DUCKWORTH of Illinois (At Large) and the Honorable JOE MANCHIN III of West Virginia (Committee on Appropriations).

RECOGNIZING ACHIEVEMENT IN CLASSIFIED SCHOOL EMPLOYEES ACT

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 276 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 276) 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.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. McCONNELL. I further ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The bill (H.R. 276) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

VIETNAM VETERANS DAY

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 69.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 69) designating March 29, 2019, as “Vietnam Veterans Day.”

There being no objection, the committee was discharged and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to; the Burr amendment to the preamble at the desk be agreed to; the preamble, as amended, be agreed to; and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 69) was agreed to.

The amendment (No. 225) was agreed to as follows:

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas the Vietnam War was fought in the Republic of Vietnam from 1955 to 1975 and involved regular forces from the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and Viet Cong guerrilla forces in armed conflict with the Armed Forces of the United States, the armed forces of allies of the United States, and the armed forces of the Republic of Vietnam;

Whereas the Armed Forces of the United States became involved in Vietnam because the United States Government wanted to provide direct support by the Armed Forces to the Government of the Republic of Vietnam to defend against the growing threat of Communism from the Democratic Republic of Vietnam;

Whereas members of the Armed Forces of the United States began serving in an advisory role to the Government of South Vietnam in 1955;

Whereas, as a result of the incidents in the Gulf of Tonkin on August 2 and 4, 1964, Congress approved the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution (Public Law 88-408) by an overwhelming majority on August 7, 1964, which provided to the President of the United States the authority to use armed force to assist the Republic of Vietnam in the defense of its freedom against the Democratic Republic of Vietnam;

Whereas, in 1965, ground combat units of the Armed Forces of the United States arrived in the Republic of Vietnam to join approximately 23,000 personnel of the Armed Forces who were already present there;

Whereas, by December 1965, approximately 184,000 troops of the Armed Forces of the

United States were in Vietnam, and by 1969, the number of such troops reached a peak of approximately 549,500, including members of the Armed Forces who were supporting the combat operations from Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Japan, the Philippines, and aboard Navy vessels;

Whereas, on January 27, 1973, the Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Viet-Nam (commonly known as the “Paris Peace Accords”) was signed, which required the release of all prisoners-of-war of the United States held in North Vietnam and the withdrawal of all Armed Forces of the United States from South Vietnam;

Whereas, on March 29, 1973, the Armed Forces of the United States completed the withdrawal of combat units and combat support units from South Vietnam;

Whereas, on April 30, 1975, North Vietnamese forces captured Saigon, the capital of South Vietnam, effectively placing South Vietnam under Communist control;

Whereas more than 58,000 members of the Armed Forces of the United States lost their lives in the Vietnam War, and more than 300,000 members of the Armed Forces of the United States were wounded in Vietnam;

Whereas, in 1982, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall was dedicated in the District of Columbia to commemorate the members of the Armed Forces of the United States who died or were declared missing-in-action in Vietnam;

Whereas the Vietnam War was an extremely divisive issue among the people of the United States and a conflict that caused a generation of veterans to wait too long for the public of the United States to acknowledge and honor the efforts and services of those veterans;

Whereas members of the Armed Forces who served bravely and faithfully for the United States during the Vietnam War were often wrongly criticized for the decisions of policymakers that were beyond the control of those members; and

Whereas designating March 29, 2019, as “Vietnam Veterans Day” would be an appropriate way to honor the members of the Armed Forces of the United States who served in South Vietnam and throughout Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War; Now, therefore, be it

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

S. RES. 69

Whereas the Vietnam War was fought in the Republic of Vietnam from 1955 to 1975 and involved regular forces from the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and Viet Cong guerrilla forces in armed conflict with the Armed Forces of the United States, the armed forces of allies of the United States, and the armed forces of the Republic of Vietnam;

Whereas the Armed Forces of the United States became involved in Vietnam because the United States Government wanted to provide direct support by the Armed Forces to the Government of the Republic of Vietnam to defend against the growing threat of Communism from the Democratic Republic of Vietnam;

Whereas members of the Armed Forces of the United States began serving in an advisory role to the Government of South Vietnam in 1955;

Whereas, as a result of the incidents in the Gulf of Tonkin on August 2 and 4, 1964, Congress approved the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution (Public Law 88-408) by an overwhelming majority on August 7, 1964, which provided to

the President of the United States the authority to use armed force to assist the Republic of Vietnam in the defense of its freedom against the Democratic Republic of Vietnam;

Whereas, in 1965, ground combat units of the Armed Forces of the United States arrived in the Republic of Vietnam to join approximately 23,000 personnel of the Armed Forces who were already present there;

Whereas, by December 1965, approximately 184,000 troops of the Armed Forces of the United States were in Vietnam, and by 1969, the number of such troops reached a peak of approximately 549,500, including members of the Armed Forces who were supporting the combat operations from Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Japan, the Philippines, and aboard Navy vessels;

Whereas, on January 27, 1973, the Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Viet-Nam (commonly known as the "Paris Peace Accords") was signed, which required the release of all prisoners-of-war of the United States held in North Vietnam and the withdrawal of all Armed Forces of the United States from South Vietnam;

Whereas, on March 29, 1973, the Armed Forces of the United States completed the withdrawal of combat units and combat support units from South Vietnam;

Whereas, on April 30, 1975, North Vietnamese forces captured Saigon, the capital of South Vietnam, effectively placing South Vietnam under Communist control;

Whereas more than 58,000 members of the Armed Forces of the United States lost their lives in the Vietnam War, and more than 300,000 members of the Armed Forces of the United States were wounded in Vietnam;

Whereas, in 1982, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall was dedicated in the District of Columbia to commemorate the members of the Armed Forces of the United States who died or were declared missing-in-action in Vietnam;

Whereas the Vietnam War was an extremely divisive issue among the people of the United States and a conflict that caused a generation of veterans to wait too long for the public of the United States to acknowledge and honor the efforts and services of those veterans;

Whereas members of the Armed Forces who served bravely and faithfully for the United States during the Vietnam War were often wrongly criticized for the decisions of policymakers that were beyond the control of those members; and

Whereas designating March 29, 2019, as "Vietnam Veterans Day" would be an appropriate way to honor the members of the Armed Forces of the United States who served in South Vietnam and throughout Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates March 29, 2019, as "Vietnam Veterans Day";

(2) honors and recognizes the contributions of the veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States who served in Vietnam during war and during peace;

(3) encourages States and local governments to designate March 29, 2019, as "Vietnam Veterans Day"; and

(4) encourages the people of the United States to observe Vietnam Veterans Day with appropriate ceremonies and activities that—

(A) provide the appreciation that veterans of the Vietnam War deserve;

(B) demonstrate the resolve that the people of the United States shall never forget the sacrifices and service of a generation of veterans who served in the Vietnam War;

(C) promote awareness of the faithful service and contributions of the veterans of the Vietnam War—

(i) during service in the Armed Forces of the United States; and

(ii) to the communities of the veterans since returning home;

(D) promote awareness of the importance of entire communities empowering veterans and the families of veterans in helping the veterans readjust to civilian life after service in the Armed Forces; and

(E) promote opportunities for veterans of the Vietnam War—

(i) to assist younger veterans returning from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan in rehabilitation from wounds, both seen and unseen; and

(ii) to support the reintegration of younger veterans into civilian life.

**RECOGNIZING THE HERITAGE, CULTURE, AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF AMERICAN INDIAN, ALASKA NATIVE, AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN WOMEN IN THE UNITED STATES**

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Indian Affairs Committee be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 100.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 100) recognizing the heritage, culture, and contributions of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women in the United States.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize two remarkable female leaders of the Mohegan and Mashantucket Pequot Tribes in honor of National Women's History Month. Both Tribes have reservations in the State of Connecticut and are an integral part of our community. The women I recognize today represent so many other Native American women who were strong in conviction, fearless in leadership, and dedicated to preserving their Tribal identity.

Dr. Gladys Iola Tantaquidgeon was a Mohegan Medicine Woman born in 1899. After learning tribal spirituality and herbalism from her "grandmothers," Dr. Tantaquidgeon studied at the University of Pennsylvania, writing in the field of anthropology and working with noted anthropologist Frank Speck. She researched herbal medicine among related east coast Tribes in order to broaden her Mohegan pharmacopeia. For her impressive academic achievements, Dr. Tantaquidgeon received honorary doctorates from the University of Connecticut and Yale University. She was also inducted into the Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame and received the National Organization for Women's Harriet Tubman Award, the Connecticut Education Association's Friend of Education Award, and numerous Native American honors.

Her contributions extended beyond academia. In 1931, she, her brother Harold and their father, John, founded the Tantaquidgeon Indian Museum in Uncasville, CT, using education to help remedy prejudice. Then in 1934, John Collier, the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, recruited Dr. Tantaquidgeon to serve as a community worker on the Yankton Sioux Reservation in South Dakota. For 9 years, she served as a specialist for the newly formed Federal Indian Arts and Crafts Board to promote Indian art, encouraging the restoration of critically important ancient practices the Federal Government had prohibited at that time.

Dr. Tantaquidgeon used her strong sense of social justice to support women in difficult situations by working as the Niantic Women's Prison librarian in the 1940s. She continued her life of service to others when her personal records of correspondence about Mohegan births, graduations, marriages, and deaths played a pivotal role in gaining Federal Recognition for the Mohegans in 1994.

Throughout her amazing 106 years of life, she led the way for women, especially women of color, to seize new opportunities and for everyone to engage in a greater level of discussion and education about Native American history and culture. Her legacy will leave a positive academic and social impact for years to come.

The other exceptional woman I wish to remember today is Martha Ann "Matt" Langevin, a Mashantucket Pequot Indian. Born in 1901, she spent her entire life in Mashantucket and dedicated her years to researching traditional medicinal uses for indigenous plants and herbs.

Ms. Langevin strongly advocated for the preservation of the Mashantucket Pequot land, culture, and way of life. She stood at the forefront of efforts to defend the Tribe's lands whenever State or local government officials tried to take them away. Her readiness to protect her community demonstrates Ms. Langevin's indomitable determination.

She was also an incredibly thoughtful, loving friend to many. With three siblings and seven half-siblings, Ms. Langevin was considered a beloved aunt by her nieces and nephews, as well as by other Pequot children who stayed with her when their parents left to find work. She took excellent care of the children.

Much of Ms. Langevin's life focused on gardening, preserving food, and watching over her ancestral lands. One of her most important undertakings was her constant work to preserve Pequot traditions and land, a task she took up with great passion and conviction. An inductee into the Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame, Ms. Langevin will be remembered for her compassion and zeal for continuing traditions and looking after the people and the lands she loved.

I applaud both of these women's immense accomplishments, and I hope my