

them are important—there is no doubt—but when you are the only members of the military not getting paid for risking your lives for your country and we can fix it here tonight in the Senate, that is what we should be doing.

I certainly hope this bill isn't being blocked unreasonably. As I mentioned, it is not a complete solution, but it is the start of a solution. For the life of me, I can't understand why this bill would be blocked.

More importantly, the men and women of the Coast Guard will not understand why this bill is being blocked. Communities that support and depend on the Coast Guard—like Kodiak, AK—will not understand why this bill is being blocked. These young men and women, who love their country and have chosen to serve and protect us, are not going to understand why this bill is being blocked tonight.

I don't want to use the word plead, but I am asking my colleagues on the Democratic side to do the right thing and pass this bill tonight. Every single American who is aware of this situation knows that it is inequitable when the other members of the military—who are out there risking their lives just like the men and women of the Coast Guard—are getting paid and the men and women of the Coast Guard aren't.

We are on the verge of a solution. Passing this bill will take care of at least one issue that we are all trying to resolve. Again, I urge my Democratic colleagues—because all of my Republican colleagues have already passed this bill in the hotline. I urge my colleagues to take up this bill, do the right thing, and support the men and women of the Coast Guard, who are not being treated equal to their brothers and sisters in the other branches of the military.

Until then, I am going to continue to fight for this. I am going to continue to raise the issue. We have made a lot of progress, including getting the White House and the President on board and getting all of our Members here on the Republican side of the Senate on board. I am hopeful, with more advocacy and more reasoning with my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, that we will also get there, move this to the House quickly, and get the men and women of the Coast Guard the paychecks they are needing.

I yield the floor.

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 (Mr. SCOTT of Florida). Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COMMANDER ZACHARY CRESS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Lieutenant Commander Zachary Cress of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration—NOAA—Commissioned Officer Corps, who has served as a fellow on the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee for the past year.

I want to thank Lieutenant Commander Cress for his hard work from which the committee greatly benefited. His expertise as a ship driver and manager of our Nation's marine resources has meaningfully informed the committee's efforts. He has worked on several pieces of legislation that have become law, including the National Integrated Drought Information System Reauthorization Act of 2018. His contributions have enabled NOAA to carry out its missions more effectively.

Again, I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Lieutenant Commander Cress for all of the fine work he has done and for his continued service to our nation. I wish him success in the years to come.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 4:03 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 bills and joint resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 190. An act to amend the Small Business Act to eliminate the inclusion of option years in the award price for sole source contracts, and for other purposes.

H.R. 268. An act making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

H.J. Res. 30. Joint resolution disapproving the President's proposal to take an action relating to the application of certain sanctions with respect to the Russian Federation.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the text of the bill (H.R. 251) to extend by two years the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes, and that the House has agreed to the

amendment of the Senate to the title of the aforementioned bill.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 5:25 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 251. An act to extend by 15 months the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 190. An act to amend the Small Business Act to eliminate the inclusion of option years in the award price for sole source contracts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following joint resolution was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.J. Res. 30. Joint resolution disapproving the President's proposal to take an action relating to the application of certain sanctions with respect to the Russian Federation.

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-138. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Anthony R. Ierardi, United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-139. A communication from the Senior Counsel, Legal Division, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Civil Penalty Inflation Adjustments" (RIN3170-AA62) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 15, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-140. A communication from the Program Specialist of the Legislative and Regulatory Activities Division, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "OCC Guidelines Establishing Standards for Recovery Planning by Certain Large Insured National Banks, Insured Federal Savings Associations, and Insured Federal Branches; Technical Amendments" (RIN1557-AE51) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 16, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first

and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 173. A bill to repeal section 3003 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. KING (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. CRAPO):

S. 174. A bill to provide for the establishment of a pilot program to identify security vulnerabilities of certain entities in the energy sector; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. BENNET, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. UDALL, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 175. A bill to improve agricultural job opportunities, benefits, and security for aliens in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. COTTON (for himself, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BLUNT, and Ms. ERNST):

S. 176. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reduce the rate of tax on estates, gifts, and generation-skipping transfers; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ROBERTS (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. CRAPO, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. RISCH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. MORAN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. PETERS, Ms. ERNST, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. REED, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. THUNE, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. TESTER, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. COONS):

S. 177. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Small Business Act to expand the availability of employee stock ownership plans in S corporations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. DAINES, Mr. COONS, Mr. MORAN, Mr. Kaine, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. WARREN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. MARKLEY, and Mr. KING):

S. 178. A bill to condemn gross human rights violations of ethnic Turkic Muslims in Xinjiang, and calling for an end to arbitrary detention, torture, and harassment of these communities inside and outside China; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. 179. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a clinical trial of the effects of cannabis on certain health outcomes of adults with chronic pain and post-traumatic stress disorder, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. HOEVEN (for himself and Mr. LEE):

S. 180. A bill to streamline the oil and gas permitting process and to recognize fee ownership for certain oil and gas drilling or spacing units, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. CARPER):

S. 181. A bill to establish a national mercury monitoring program, and for other pur-

poses; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. CRAMER):

S. 182. A bill to prohibit discrimination against the unborn on the basis of sex, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. RISCH, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. SASSE, Mr. MORAN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. MORAN, Mr. LANKFORD, Mrs. FISCHER, and Mr. ENZI):

BLUNT, Ms. ERNST, Mr. DAINES, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. McCONNELL, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. SASSE, Mr. COTTON, Mr. RISCH, Mr. THUNE, Mr. BARRASSO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. MORAN, Mr. LANKFORD, Mrs. FISCHER, and Mr. ENZI):

S. 190. A bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to prohibit assistance to nonprofits, foreign nongovernmental organizations, and quasi-autonomous nongovernmental organizations that promote or perform abortions; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. SULLIVAN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRUZ, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. Kaine, Mr. KING, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MORAN, Mr. PETERS, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 191. A bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to include in periodic health assessments, separation history and physical examinations, and other assessments an evaluation of whether a member of the Armed Forces has been exposed to open burn pits or toxic airborne chemicals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. Kaine (for himself, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. REED, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. COONS, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. DURBIN):

S.J. Res. 4. A joint resolution requiring the advice and consent of the Senate or an Act of Congress to suspend, terminate, or withdraw the United States from the North Atlantic Treaty and authorizing related litigation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. WICKER, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ROUNDS, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. BLUNT, Ms. ERNST, Mr. DAINES, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. McCONNELL, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. SASSE, Mr. COTTON, Mr. RISCH, Mr. THUNE, Mr. BARRASSO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. MORAN, Mr. LANKFORD, Mrs. FISCHER, and Mr. ENZI):

S. Res. 20. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the Protecting Life in Global Health Assistance policy should be permanently established; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. Res. 21. A resolution to constitute the minority party's membership on certain committees for the One Hundred Sixteenth Congress, or until their successors are chosen; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. YOUNG):

S. Res. 22. A resolution condemning the terrorist attack in Nairobi, Kenya on January 15, 2019, and offering sincere condolences to all of the victims, their families and friends, and the people of Kenya; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. TILLIS (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. McCONNELL, Mrs. MURRAY,