

Aldrin, Neil Armstrong, and Michael Collins—whose bravery and skill made this feat possible. In addition, it commends the work of the brilliant men and women who supported this mission on Earth, including mathematicians like Katherine Johnson and the astronauts who lost their lives in previous spaceflight missions.

To ensure that America remains the leader in human spaceflight, this resolution also supports the continued leadership of the United States. With this in mind, earlier this year, I introduced a bill called Advancing Human Spaceflight Act with Senator PETERS from Michigan to provide greater certainty and stability for our space program.

This legislation will extend the authorization for the International Space Station through 2030 and launch the United States into a new era of space exploration.

Our future astronauts need spacesuits with advanced capabilities beyond what current technology can do, so this bill will also direct NASA to develop the next-generation spacesuit for future exploration to the Moon, to Mars, and beyond.

In order to make this dream a reality, this legislation will allow NASA to partner with private space innovators to ensure we have the best and brightest working to achieve these goals.

In addition, this bill will, for the first time, codify human space settlement as a national goal. I believe this legislation will help set the stage to launch the United States into a new era of space exploration, and there is no better time than this momentous anniversary to recommit ourselves to American leadership in space.

In the year since that first “small step,” we have watched goal after goal being set and then met. From the Viking 1 landing on Mars to the Voyager Program exploring the outer planets, to the International Space Station making human space habitation a reality, I have no doubt that the success of the *Apollo 11* mission made each of these victories possible and paved the way for the future.

For the 50th anniversary of the lunar landing, today we honor the brave and brilliant astronauts, physicists, engineers, mathematicians, and scientists of all kinds who made our Nation the first to touch down on lunar soil. We are grateful for their courage, their sacrifices, and their immeasurable contributions to our Nation’s space program.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

#### REMEMBERING JOHN PAUL STEVENS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, yesterday marked the passing of a giant in American law. Justice John Paul Stevens passed away at the age of 99. I just bought his most recent book. The subtitle of it is “My First 94 Years.”

Justice Stevens was a favorite, born and raised in the city of Chicago. He was a lifelong Cubs fan. He was in the crowd of Wrigley Field as a very young man in 1932, on October 1, during a World Series game, when Babe Ruth made the famous called shot—hitting a home run over the fence.

He attended the University of Chicago and Northwestern School of Law. Naturally, he graduated at the top of his class. In between, he served as lieutenant commander of the U.S. Navy during World War II and was awarded the Bronze Star.

After law school and a clerkship with Supreme Court Justice Wiley Rutledge, John Paul Stevens became an accomplished attorney in Chicago, leading to his nomination to the Seventh Circuit in 1970. In 1975, he was nominated to the Supreme Court by President Gerald Ford and confirmed by the Senate 98 to 0. Judge Stevens served on the Supreme Court for nearly 35 years, bringing to the Court his midwestern blend of brilliance, courtesy, and humility.

He leaves behind an enormous legacy. He was committed to safeguarding the rights and liberties protected by the Constitution, and he cherished the importance of the Judiciary as an “impartial guardian of the rule of law.” Those were his words in his famous *Bush v. Gore* dissent, where he said that judging of the Court as an “impartial guardian of the rule of law” was at stake in that majority opinion.

He was respectful at all times and respected by his colleagues at all times, and by litigants, and by the American people.

When he retired in 2010, at the age of 90, he was the third longest tenured Justice in the history of the Supreme Court. He was the last living Justice to have served in World War II.

I want to extend my sympathy to Justice Stevens’ family, including his surviving daughters, Elizabeth and Susan, his 9 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

Today we bid farewell to a giant, and we thank Justice Stevens for his decades of service to this country and for his profound contribution to American law.

#### OPIOID EPIDEMIC

Mr. President, years ago, there was a Senator from Wisconsin named William Proxmire. He used to come to the floor every month and give what he called his “Golden Fleece Award” for the worst example of Federal Government waste. Earlier this year, I launched a new series dedicated to that tradition with floor speeches that built off the Proxmire work, with a focus on the most extreme cases of the pharmaceutical industry’s greed. It is known as the Pharma Fleece Award.

I have highlighted price-gouging for lifesaving insulin, the patent abuses that extend monopoly control over pricing of drugs, and the billions of dollars’ worth of medications that are thrown away each year deliberately due to the production of oversized, unnecessary drug vials.

This month, I want to focus on the pharmaceutical industry’s role in another national disgrace—the opioid epidemic. We are in the midst of the Nation’s worst drug overdose epidemic in our history. There is no town too small, no suburb too wealthy to be spared the suffering and the deaths that have been wrought by this problem.

Last year, 2,062 people in my home State of Illinois died from opioid overdose. There is culpability with nearly all the stakeholders, including the U.S. Government. There is no denying how this epidemic was ignited. For years, the pharmaceutical industry wildly mischaracterized the risk of opioids, falsely claiming they were less addictive and less harmful; that these painkillers should be prescribed for common aches and pains, even when the industry itself had information proving the dangers of such long-term use.

In 2007, the manufacturer of OxyContin, Purdue Pharma, pleaded guilty to a felony charge of misbranding the drug by misrepresenting OxyContin’s risks. This resulted in a modest fine as the company continued to flood the Nation with their deadly painkillers.

New reporting this morning from the Washington Post found that Big Pharma saturated the country with 76 billion oxycodone and hydrocodone pills between 2006 and 2012. During a 6-year period, 76 billion pills were produced by pharma. One subsidiary company, Mallinckrodt, put 28 billion opioid pills on the market during this time.

Downstate in Illinois is a small rural county, Hardin County. It has fewer than 10 doctors who can prescribe controlled substances. The total population of the county is 4,300 people. It is one of the smallest, least populated counties in my State. In the year 2010, approximately 6 million hydrocodone pills and 1 million oxycodone pills were shipped to Hardin County and its surrounding communities. For 4,300 people, they shipped 7 million pills. All of this data was actually captured and reported to a Federal agency, the Drug Enforcement Administration. They will come up again in my presentation. That means drug manufacturers knew about this obscene volume of pills being produced and sold; that drug distributors knew exactly where and how this was being transported, and law enforcement had its eyes on it all along.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the list of the top opioid distributors and manufacturers from 2006 to 2012.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

## TOP PILL MANUFACTURERS, 2006 THROUGH 2012

Manufacturer	Number of Pills	Percent of Market
SpecRx (Mallinckrodt)	29 billion	37.70
Actavis Pharma	26 billion	34.50
Par Pharmaceutical (Endo)	12 billion	15.70
Purdue Pharma	2.5 billion	3.30
Amneal Pharmaceuticals	2.3 billion	2.90
Teva Pharmaceuticals USA	690 million	0.90
KVK Tech	580 million	0.80
West-Ward Pharmaceuticals (Hikma)	380 million	0.50
Kaiser Foundation Hospitals	370 million	0.50
Endo Pharmaceuticals	300 million	0.40
Ethex Corporation	290 million	0.40
AbbVie Inc.	250 million	0.30
Sun Pharmaceutical Industries, Inc.	240 million	0.30
UCB, Inc.	180 million	0.20
Mylan Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	140 million	0.20
Cardinal Health	120 million	0.20
Dispensing Solutions Inc.	95 million	0.10
Golden State Medical Supply, Inc.	85 million	0.10
Aphena Pharma Solutions—Tennessee, LLC	74 million	0.10
McKesson Corp.	65 million	0.10
Xanodyne Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	55 million	0.10
Forest Laboratories, Inc.	47 million	0.10
Bryant Ranch Prepack	37 million	0.10
Pfizer Laboratories Div Pfizer Inc.	31 million	0.00
A-S Medication Solutions	28 million	0.00

## TOP PILL DISTRIBUTORS, 2006 THROUGH 2012

Distributor	Number of Pills	Percent of Market
McKesson Corp.	14 billion	18.40
Walgreens	13 billion	16.50
Cardinal Health	11 billion	14.00
AmerisourceBergen	9.0 billion	11.70
CVS	5.9 billion	7.70
Walmart	5.3 billion	6.90
Smith Drug Co.	1.3 billion	1.80
Rite Aid	1.3 billion	1.70
Kroger	1.2 billion	1.60
H. D. Smith	1.1 billion	1.50
Anda, Inc.	1.1 billion	1.50
Kaiser Permanente	880 million	1.10
Morris & Dickson Co	880 million	1.10
Thrifty Payless Inc	870 million	1.10
Eckerd Corporation	780 million	1.00
Omnicare Distribution Center LLC	700 million	0.90
Kinray Inc	630 million	0.80
N C Mutual Wholesale Drug Co	550 million	0.70
Smith's Food & Drug Ctr's Inc.	500 million	0.70
The Harvard Drug Group	410 million	0.50
Advantage Logistics	380 million	0.50
Value Drug Co	310 million	0.40
Publix Super Markets, Inc.	280 million	0.40
River City Pharmacy	270 million	0.40
SAJ Distributors	270 million	0.40
HEB Grocery Company, LP	240 million	0.30
Harco	210 million	0.30
Valley Wholesale Drug Co	210 million	0.30
Associated Pharmacies Inc	190 million	0.30
Louisiana Wholesale Drug Co	190 million	0.30
Qualitest Pharmaceuticals	180 million	0.20
Frank W Kerr Inc	170 million	0.20
KeySource Medical	160 million	0.20
Top Rx, Inc.	160 million	0.20
American Drug Stores	150 million	0.20
American Sales Company	140 million	0.20
Longs Drug Store	130 million	0.20
Quest Pharmaceuticals Inc.	120 million	0.20
Miami-Luken	120 million	0.10
Hy-Vee	110 million	0.10
Pharmacy Buying Association	110 million	0.10
Mc Queary Brothers	100 million	0.10
Meijer Distribution Inc #90	100 million	0.10
Rochester Drug Co-Operative Inc	100 million	0.10
HBC Service Company	93 million	0.10
Par Pharmaceutical, Inc.	85 million	0.10
Dakota Drug	79 million	0.10
Dik Drug Co	78 million	0.10
KPH Healthcare Services, Inc.	76 million	0.10
Albertsons LLC	74 million	0.10
Aphena Pharma Solutions	71 million	0.10
Sunrise Wholesale, Inc	66 million	0.10
P J C Distributor Co Inc	65 million	0.10
Wakefern Food Corporation	65 million	0.10
Auburn Pharmaceutical	62 million	0.10
Winn Dixie Logistics	58 million	0.10
Southwood Pharmaceuticals Inc.	57 million	0.10
Discount Drug Mart	54 million	0.10
Dispensing Solutions	52 million	0.10
Prescription Supply Inc	51 million	0.10
Murfreesboro Pharmaceutical	47 million	0.10
Burlington Drug Company	46 million	0.10
NuCare Pharmaceuticals	45 million	0.10
DRX Pharmaceutical Consultants, Inc.	40 million	0.10
Bellico Drug Corp	39 million	0.10
Bryant Ranch Prepack	37 million	0.10
Schnucks Pharmacy Distribution Ctr	37 million	0.10
Drogueria Betances	36 million	0.10
Bloodworth Wholesale Drugs	36 million	0.10
Expert-Med	35 million	0.10

Mr. DURBIN. This opioid epidemic wasn't started by some runaway virus. They were decisions made by real peo-

ple to flood America's towns and streets with "a blizzard of prescriptions," as Richard Sackler of Purdue Pharma put it in his own words. In fact, the pharmaceutical industry in the United States produced 14 billion opioid pills in 2016 alone—enough opioid pills for every adult in America to have a 3-week supply of opioids. Who would approve the production of 14 billion opioid pills in 1 year, 2016? It turned out it was your government. The Drug Enforcement Administration of the United States of America is responsible for determining and basically giving a license for the production of a specific amount of opioid pills allowed to be distributed to the market each year.

It is the Drug Enforcement Administration—of all agencies—that establishes annual production quotas for opioids that are, effectively, the gatekeepers for pharma. Pharma, of course, wants to produce as much as possible in order to sell as much as possible. The Drug Enforcement Administration is supposed to draw the line. Yet, for all of these years, while we have faced this epidemic, our government—the Drug Enforcement Administration—has been increasing the production quotas each year for opioid pills.

Between 1993 and 2015, the Drug Enforcement Administration allowed the production of oxycodone to increase in America 39 times—from 3½ tons of opioids in 1993 to 151 tons of opioids in 2015. It is the same story for hydrocodone, which increased twelvefold, and for fentanyl, which increased twenty-fivefold.

I pressed those in the Drug Enforcement Administration on this issue. I asked them how they could possibly approve of these ever-increasing quotas while America faced this epidemic. How did they reconcile their decision to flood America with these drugs at a time in which they were being abused and when addiction was leading to death all across our country?

Last year, I passed bipartisan legislation. I and Senator JOHN KENNEDY, a Republican from Louisiana, gave those at the Drug Enforcement Administration more authority to set common-sense production levels. It is hard to believe we had to do that—to actually bring to their attention that they were authorizing the production of opioid pills for an America that was facing the worst opioid epidemic in its history.

Previously, those at the Drug Enforcement Administration could only look at what pharma asked for when it determined quotas. In other words, they believed, officially, that they had statutory blinders by which they couldn't even consider the impact of pharma's annual request for production. So Senator KENNEDY and I, on a bipartisan basis, changed the law to require the Drug Enforcement Administration to consider abuse, overdose deaths, and the impact on public health.

Finally, between 2016 and 2019, the Drug Enforcement Administration has lowered opioid quotas by an average of 46 percent. No longer can Big Pharma get away with producing this sheer volume of painkillers. The Drug Enforcement Administration will soon be proposing its 2020 quotas, and I will soon be sending it a letter and will urge it to use its new authority, which we put in this new law that I passed with Senator KENNEDY, to continue reining in Big Pharma's insatiable demand.

Think about that. While we are going through this opioid epidemic, pharma—made up of the people who make the pills—is coming to Washington, to the Drug Enforcement Administration, and is getting permission each year to produce billions of opioid pills to be sold in the United States—enough for every adult American to have a 3-week opioid prescription.

Incidentally, 2 years ago, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention sent out a notice to doctors. It read that only in the most extraordinary cases should one prescribe a drug to last for more than 3 days—only in the most extraordinary cases. Then watch them carefully because, in a short period of time, addiction begins. Three days? Pharma was asking for a production of opioid pills so that each adult American could buy 3 weeks' worth of pills, and the Drug Enforcement Administration was complicit.

To hold all stakeholders accountable, major legal challenges have been brought against the pharmaceutical industry for its role in deceptive promotion and all of the suffering and deaths that have resulted. Over 1,600 lawsuits from States, counties, cities, and victims have been consolidated into one Federal case in Cleveland, OH.

This reminds me of another public health scourge we confronted when Americans suffered the consequences of misleading marketing and false information about the health risks of tobacco. It took the 1998 Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement to finally hold major manufacturers of tobacco responsible for their actions—that of cigarettes that hook adults and youth to lifetimes of addiction and death.

That settlement was estimated to provide States with \$246 billion over 25 years ago. Sadly, only a tiny fraction of that amount—only 8 percent of the settlement—was actually dedicated to tobacco's prevention and cessation. Instead, \$145 billion from the tobacco settlement has gone to fill State budgets and pet projects—roads, bridges, stadiums, even a tobacco museum.

Should today's opioid litigation result in large monetary settlements from the pharmaceutical companies and their distributors, it will be essential that this funding be dedicated to legitimate public health efforts so as to respond to the current epidemic and prevent the next one.

In the city of Chicago, near an area known as Greektown, there is a drug rehab facility that I have visited many

times. It is called Haymarket. It was started many years ago by a Catholic priest who took on a ministry that nobody else wanted. He was the one who prowled every night along skid row and helped those who were addicted to drugs and alcohol turn their lives around. He started this Haymarket House as a refuge for them in an attempt to get them some help in escaping their addictions and being rehabbed.

Can you imagine what it is like today?

Today, sadly, he is gone, but they continue the Haymarket House. Imagine what they face in trying to deal with a combination of addiction to drugs and alcohol and mental illness on top of it. They are dramatically understaffed. They don't have the necessary bed space for people who need a helping hand—for folks who realize they need a helping hand.

Should there be a successful outcome of this Cleveland lawsuit, wouldn't it be best if some of the resources would be dedicated to places just like that all over the United States?

I can tell you, in the city of Chicago, there are many more options than there are in the more sparsely populated downstate areas from which I hail. There are some counties in which people wait 6 months—once they have realized their need for help—for any kind of treatment whatsoever, and then they have to travel great distances for that to happen.

Senator SHERROD BROWN and I recently wrote an opinion piece that was published in the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*. I confess publicly that I hope those who are party to this lawsuit in Cleveland will read it, which is where the consolidated court case is taking place. In it, we outlined what we thought should happen if we were to have any input in a settlement agreement.

We need to make sure that the money is spent for addiction; treatment; medication; residential and community treatment services; mental health counseling, which is a necessary adjunct to this effort; building on a behavioral health workforce and naloxone distribution; and addressing childhood trauma, which is often the root of addiction.

Wouldn't it be great if there were to be a settlement here that would be dedicated to ending this drug epidemic, turning lives around, and saving people from addiction and death?

The diversion of tobacco's settlement money should be a cautionary tale that guides our efforts to heal from the opioid epidemic. If Big Pharma is held to account for fueling this crisis, its restitution should be devoted to helping our Nation heal.

This chart shows the dramatic increase in the production of two of the most popular opioid products. I will never be able to explain how the agency of the U.S. Federal Government, which is dedicated to protecting us from drug crime and drug addiction,

ended up authorizing these enormous quotas of the production of opioid pills. Yet we know what happened. In tiny Hardin County in southern Illinois, as well as on the streets of Chicago, they were flooded with opioid pills. When the opioid pills became too expensive, they turned to a cheaper alternative—heroin. Heroin was then being laced with fentanyl, and we have today this deadly epidemic that is almost out of control.

I can't understand what pharma was thinking except for its just looking at the profits and the bottom line that would justify the production of that level of opioid pills into the United States of America. All I can promise is that a number of us—myself included—will be holding the Drug Enforcement Administration accountable in order to make certain that this is not duplicated again in the years to come.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

#### NOMINATION OF CLIFTON L. CORKER

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, within a few minutes, the Senate will be voting on President Trump's nomination of Cliff Corker to be the U.S. Federal District Judge for the Eastern District of Tennessee. I am here to strongly urge my colleagues to support Cliff Corker.

Cliff Corker has the respect of the people who know him best. He was selected to serve as a magistrate judge by the district court judges of the Eastern District of Tennessee—a very high testament to his qualifications.

When Cliff Corker was appointed magistrate judge, this is what he said:

It's a tougher job to be the decision maker rather than the advocate. There's so much more responsibility in making the decision than advocating for the client because you really want to see justice done.

Prior to his nomination to be magistrate in 2015, Judge Corker had his own law firm in Johnston City, TN. He handled a wide range of cases, from civil litigation to capital murder.

He graduated from James Madison University and received his J.D. from the William & Mary Law School.

The American Bar Association rated Judge Corker as unanimously "well qualified," the highest ranking a nominee can receive. I am sure that is because of his judicial and litigation experience.

Judge Corker has big shoes to fill. He is taking over for Judge Ronnie Greer, a very well respected Tennessean, a friend of mine for many years, who has served as a judge in Tennessee's Eastern District for the last 15 years. Prior to that, he was a State senator in Tennessee.

Cliff Corker demonstrates the qualities that I look for in a judge: good character, good temperament, high intelligence, respect for the law, and respect for those who come before the court.

Tennessee is fortunate that President Trump chose to nominate such a well-qualified candidate.

I urge my colleagues to support Judge Corker's nomination.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 5 minutes.

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

#### NOMINATION OF LYNDA BLANCHARD

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I regret that I come to the floor to announce my opposition to one of President Trump's political nominees, Ms. Lynda Blanchard. To be honest, I cannot even believe that we are considering her nomination on the floor of the Senate.

U.S. Ambassadors are supposed to represent the best of America to nations around the world, and I challenge my colleagues, Republican and Democrat alike, to look at this nominee's record and tell me with a straight face that Lynda Blanchard should represent the United States anywhere.

Look, I have made a good-faith effort to work with this administration to confirm a number of well-qualified individuals to State Department positions that are vital to advancing America's interests around the world. I don't think anyone can deny that.

But there are some nominees who just raise too many red flags, and I raised this to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo in a letter I sent in June of 2018, shortly after his confirmation.

I explained that a number of nominees before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee had demonstrated histories of questionable temperament and judgement, of questionable conduct, of #MeToo issues, just to mention a few, and I expressed my hope that we could work together to find qualified nominees to the U.S. Department of State. I am disappointed that that effort went unheeded.

Ms. Blanchard has a history of using Facebook as a platform to post incendiary, false articles and disturbing statements. For example, she once shared an article titled "The Clinton 'Body Count' EXPANDS—5 Mysterious DEATHS in the Last 6 Weeks," resurrecting the vicious lie and preposterous conspiracy theory that President Bill Clinton and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton have systematically murdered political opponents and associates.

Then, on election day of 2016, she posted on Facebook "Make God our Father paint this country Red with the Blood of Jesus!"—inappropriately using religion as a blunt instrument in a political campaign.

She has also shared articles by the far-right Conservative Tribune, some of