

prevention,” only the disenfranchised stand to be silenced.

Election Day is a hindrance because it occurs on a Tuesday. The working class cannot afford lost wages or lost energy from standing in hours-long lines. The result of this awkward timing: low-income Americans cannot afford to vote. According to the Pew Research Center, 63% of the most financially secure Americans voted in the 2014 election, while only 20% of the least financially secure were able to make it to the poll. In effect, the population that bears the greatest burdens possesses the least political power. In actuality, Election Day was established on a Tuesday so that farmers wouldn’t miss church or market day. The government needs to act with a similar intent and align Election Day with the schedule of the working class. It should be a federally mandated holiday and stretch across Saturday and Sunday. For those unable to vote, absentee ballots should be guaranteed and expedited.

Ultimately, eliminating Voter ID laws and reforming Election Day will make voting accessible to all Americans. Voting is at the heart of democracy, and once this is realized, the quality of life for all Americans will be heightened.●

200TH ANNIVERSARY OF ALABAMA AND TUSCALOOSA

• Mr. SHELBY. Madam President, today I wish to call attention to the special significance of the year 2019 in our great State of Alabama. This year we celebrate the 200th anniversary of our State and my hometown, the city of Tuscaloosa.

Tuscaloosa was incorporated on December 13, 1819, which was one day before the State of Alabama was admitted to the Union. Beginning in 1826 and extending for more than two decades, Tuscaloosa was the State capital of Alabama. This period marked the historic opening of the University of Alabama, the construction of a stately capitol building, and the city’s transformation as a center for education, healthcare, and industry. Strategically situated on the banks of the Black Warrior River, Tuscaloosa became a thriving hub for foundries, cotton mills, forestry, and marine commerce.

Founded in Tuscaloosa in 1831, the University of Alabama, which is the beloved alma mater of my family along with countless others, has become one of America’s premier public research universities. The Capstone of education, the University serves the citizens of Alabama as well as students, faculty, and staff who come from throughout the United States and around the globe to pursue a world-class education at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. The university proudly partners with Stillman College and Shelton State Community College, as well as an abundant community of K-12 schools, to hold stature as a major center for educational excellence.

Today Tuscaloosa is recognized as one of the region’s most economically prosperous cities. International corporations join homegrown industries and businesses to provide a robust climate for job creation, industrial expansion, and a quality of life that is envied and admired by one and all. Recreational amenities, cultural gems, and championship athletic teams are legendary.

On December 13, 2018, the Tuscaloosa Bicentennial Commission dedicated Bicentennial Square in Government Plaza, located in the heart of the city’s burgeoning downtown district. Over the next 12 months, citizens will join together in a diverse calendar of events and programs that will educate, celebrate, and feature 2019 as a year to remember.

I share in the RECORD a schedule of events for “Tuscaloosa 200,” together with the names of the bicentennial commission members who, along with dozens of other volunteers, have devoted countless hours to planning and organizing the bicentennial commemoration, as well as the companies whose generosity made possible the extensive, yearlong celebration: dedication of Bicentennial Square at Government Plaza, December 13, 2018; ringing in Tuscaloosa 200 bicentennial fireworks, December 31, 2018, at the Tuscaloosa Amphitheatre; Tuscaloosa 200 bicentennial launch ceremony, January 31, 2019, at the Tuscaloosa RiverMarket; the Bicentennial Bash Family Activities and Music Saturday, March 30, 2019, at the Tuscaloosa Amphitheatre; “Tuscaloosa Through Time” history expo, April 24-27, 2019, at the Bryant Conference Center; “Welcome Back to T-Town Celebration” in conjunction with the Druid City Music Festival, Friday and Saturday, August 23-24, 2019; community book experience, “the History of Tuscaloosa,” by Dr. Guy Hubbs, September 22, 2019, Federal courthouse; and Tuscaloosa 200 birthday party and holiday parade, Friday, December 13, 2019, preceded by “200 Voices for Tuscaloosa,” December 12, 2019, Moody Concert Hall.

Members of the Tuscaloosa Bicentennial Commission: Lyda Black, Robert Ennis, Kari Frederickson, Sarah Elizabeth Heggem, Shelley Jones, Elizabeth McGiffert, Pam Parker, Tim Parker, Cathy Randall, Kellee Reinhart, Don Staley, and Harrison Taylor.

Bicentennial Sponsors and Donors: Presenting Sponsors—Mercedes-Benz USI, Coca Cola, DCH Health System; Capital Donor—city of Tuscaloosa, the University of Alabama; Chief Tuscaloosa Donor—Tuscaloosa Tourism and Sports; Druid Oaks Donor—Harrison Family Foundation, Hunt Refining Company, Nucor Steel, Parker Towing Company, PECO Foods, Inc., Reese Phifer Memorial Foundation, Randall-Reilly, TotalCom; Black Warrior Donor—Bryant Bank, College Station Properties, Harrison Construction Company, Industrial Warehouse Services, Inc., McAbee Family Foundation, McGiffert and Associates, LLC/Price McGiffert Construction Co. Inc., Regions, Synovus, Westervelt; City Champion Donor—Cadence Bank, Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama, BF Goodrich, Jamison Money Farmer, PC, Jun-

ior League of Tuscaloosa, R.L. Zeigler Company, Inc., Tuscaloosa County Parks and Recreation, Tuscaloosa Rotary Memorial Foundation.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:02 a.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, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 56. An act to establish an Independent Financial Technology Task Force to Combat Terrorism and Illicit Financing, to provide rewards for information leading to convictions related to terrorist use of digital currencies, to establish a Fintech Leadership in Innovation and Financial Intelligence Program to encourage the development of tools and programs to combat terrorist and illicit use of digital currencies, and for other purposes.

H.R. 502. An act to require the Comptroller General of the United States to carry out a study on how virtual currencies and online marketplaces are used to buy, sell, or facilitate the financing of goods or services associated with sex trafficking or drug trafficking, and for other purposes.

H.R. 624. An act to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to carry out a study of Rule 10b5-1 trading plans, and for other purposes.

At 5 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 9. Concurrent resolution providing for a joint session of Congress to receive a message from the President.

At 5:24 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, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 424. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to improve the management and administration of the security clearance process throughout the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

H.R. 428. An act to direct the Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Intelligence and Analysis to develop and disseminate a threat assessment regarding terrorist use of virtual currency.

H.R. 449. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002, to direct the Assistant Secretary of State and Local Law Enforcement to produce and disseminate an annual catalog on Department of Homeland Security training, publications, programs, and services for State, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies.

H.R. 495. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require an annual report on the Office for State and Local Law Enforcement.

H.R. 504. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Department of Homeland Security to develop an engagement strategy with fusion centers, and for other purposes.

H.R. 769. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish in the Department of Homeland Security a board to coordinate and integrate departmental intelligence, activities, and policy related to counterterrorism, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276h, and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, the Speaker appoints the following Member on the part of the House of Representatives to the Mexico-United States Interparliamentary Group: Mr. Cuellar of Texas, Chairman.

The message further announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276d, and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, the Speaker appoints the following Member on the part of the House of Representatives to the Canada-United States Interparliamentary Group: Mr. Higgins of New York, Chairman.

The message also announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 1928a, and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, the Speaker appoints the following Member on the part of the House of Representatives to the United States Group of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly: Mr. Connolly of Virginia, Chairman.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 56. An act to establish an Independent Financial Technology Task Force to Combat Terrorism and Illicit Financing, to provide rewards for information leading to convictions related to terrorist use of digital currencies, to establish a Fintech Leadership in Innovation and Financial Intelligence Program to encourage the development of tools and programs to combat terrorist and illicit use of digital currencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 424. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to improve the management and administration of the security clearance processes throughout the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 428. An act to direct the Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Intelligence and Analysis to develop and disseminate a threat assessment regarding terrorist use of virtual currency; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 449. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002, to direct the Assistant Secretary for State and Local Law Enforcement to produce and disseminate an annual catalog on Department of Homeland Security training, publications, programs, and services for State, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 495. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require an annual report on the Office for State and Local Law Enforcement; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

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H.R. 769. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish in the Department of Homeland Security a board to coordinate and integrate departmental intelligence, activities, and policy related to counterterrorism, 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-163. A communication from the Acting Secretary of Defense, transmitting the report of an officer authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777a, for a period not to exceed 14 days before assuming the duties of the position for which the higher grade is authorized, this will not cause the Department to exceed the number of frocked officers authorized; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-164. A communication from the Assistant Director, Senior Executive Management Office, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Secretary of Defense, Department of Defense, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 25, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-165. A communication from the Assistant Director, Senior Executive Management Office, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (A&S), Department of Defense, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 25, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-166. A communication from the Assistant Director, Senior Executive Management Office, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary of Defense (Readiness), Department of Defense, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 25, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-167. A communication from the Assistant Director, Senior Executive Management Office, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs), Department of Defense, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 25, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-168. A communication from the Assistant Director, Senior Executive Management Office, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary of the Army (Manpower & Reserve), Department of Defense, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 25, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-169. A communication from the Assistant Director, Senior Executive Management Office, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a va-

cancy in the position of Assistant Secretary of Defense (International Security Affairs), Department of Defense, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 25, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-170. A communication from the Assistant Director, Senior Executive Management Office, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary of the Army (Energy, Installations & Environment), Department of Defense, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 25, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-171. A communication from the Assistant Director, Senior Executive Management Office, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Chief Management Officer, Department of Defense, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 25, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-172. A communication from the Director, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Disclosure of Loan-Level HMDA Data" (Docket No. CFPB-2017-0025) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 24, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-173. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Safety Evaluations of Technical Specifications Task Force Traveler TSTF-557, Revision 1, 'Spent Fuel Storage Rack Neutron Absorber Monitoring Program'" (NUREG-1430, 1431, 1432, 1433, 1434, and 2194) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 23, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-174. A communication from the Executive Analyst (Political), Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, two (2) reports relative to vacancies in the Department of Health and Human Services, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 25, 2019; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-175. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Paying Benefits" (29 CFR Part 4022) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 25, 2019; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. INHOFE for the Committee on Armed Services.

Air Force nomination of Col. Frank A. Rodman, to be Brigadier General.

Army nomination of Brig. Gen. Robert D. Harter, to be Major General.

Army nomination of Col. Charles M. Schoening, to be Brigadier General.

Army nominations beginning with Brig. Gen. David W. Ling and ending with Col. Rodney J. Fischer, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 15, 2019.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, for the Committee on Armed Services I report